TODAY'S ORDER OF WORSHIP

Welcome by: Daniel Balch / Opening Prayer by: Don Taylor
Morning Assembly Song Leader: Bobby Rader

#959 Just a Little Talk with Jesus
#989 Soon and Very Soon

Scripture Reading by: Parker Balch
#332 Lead Me to Calvary

Communion Devotional by:
Lord's Supper and Contribution

#144 O Worship the King
Sermon by: River Lucy "The Yoke"
Matthew 13:44-46

#934 Softly and Tenderly
#957 This World Is Not My Home
Closing Prayer by: Don Lynn

Our Small Groups meet tonight.
Ken Coleman's small group will meet
at the building at 5:00 p.m.

Other Opportunities For Spiritual Growth

Sunday: 9:00am — Bible Study Classes, 10:00am — Worship, 5:00pm — Worship
Wednesday: 6:30pm — Bible Study Classes

June 2, 2024

"Stand Firm in…Liberty"

Galatians 5:1

No, The New Versions Aren't Removing Verses from the Bible

I have noticed the very meme talked about below making the rounds on social media over the last week or so; multiple friends have shared it and I have responded to them to try to correct any misunderstandings. I had contemplated writing about it in this space when, lo and behold, I found Friday morning before the bulletin was printed that Jack Wilkie decided to write about the very same thing that day. Rather than trying to reinvent the wheel, I thought I would just share his excellent article here. Hopefully, if you have seen this for yourself and had questions, this will help put your mind at ease. BP

From time to time I see posts go around social media claiming that the newer versions are altering the Bible.

Some of the posts even assign ulterior motives, implying the committees of the newer translations have been infiltrated by people who have an anti-Christian agenda. One such post makes these claims:

VERY CRITICAL ALERT!!!
I'm sure you know that New international version (NIV) was published by Zondervan but is now OWNED by Harper Collins, who also publishes the Satanic Bible and The Joy of Gay Sex. The NIV and English Standard Version (ESV) has now removed 64,575 words from the Bible including Jehovah, Calvary, Holy Ghost and omnipotent to name but a few…

The NIV and ESV has also now removed 45 complete verses. Most of us have the Bible on our devices and phones. THE SOLUTION: If you must use the NIV and ESV, BUY and KEEP AN EARLIER VERSION OF the BIBLE. A Hard Copy cannot be updated. All these changes occur when they ask you to update the app.

There is a crusade geared towards altering the Bible as we know it; NIV, ESV and many more versions are affected.

What I want to do here is weigh these claims and hopefully put your mind at ease regarding the supposed deficiencies of the newer translations.

The claims about words being removed are easily debunked—some are just translated differently. However, the question of missing verses is a bit more complicated. You may have looked at some of the verses listed in the King James Version and then flipped to them in an NIV or ESV only to be shocked to actually find them missing. (The New American Standard Bible includes the verses but puts them in brackets.)

What this does not mean is that the new versions are operating under some anti-God agenda to start taking verses out of the Bible.

Family News & Notes

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH YOUR CHURCH FAMILY

Our Sick

Jo Ella McKewen is home after being in the hospital and rehab.

David Warren is at home after being in the hospital.

Continued Prayers
(Need cards, phone calls & visits)

Steve Ward, Caitlin Smith, Virginia Cole, Ken Coleman, Joe Edd Stifflemire, Donna Wilson, Jo Ella McKewen, Wayne Noonkester, Oscar Cantu, Jennifer Stelly, Cathy Stifflemire, Ken Coleman, Dr. Hugo Thomas

Shut Ins
(Need cards, phone calls & visits)

Jim Smith, Winona Angelle, Catherine Parker, Peggy McIntosh, Lois Watts, Willo Dean Ellis, Debbie Merritt

Our Missionaries

Aaron & Marisa Bailey in Montepuez, Mozambique , Rod Kyle in the South Pacific, Mani Pagidopali in India

Upcoming Activities

Elders, Deacons, Minister meeting Monday, June 3rd at 6:30 p.m.

We are working a new Friends and Family directory. A copy of the old one has been placed on the bulletin board. Please check your name, address, phone number and email to make sure it is correct.

We will have a Houston Food Bank truck on Tuesday, June 4th 16th at 8:00 a.m.

VBS informational meeting after services on Sunday, June 9th.

VBS is Saturday, June 29th from 9-2 p.m.

Elders	Deacons	Minister
Ken Coleman	Zach Arthur	Bryant Perkins
Bobby Rader	Daniel Balch	
Don Taylor	Danny Balch	
Robert Ward	Walden David	
	Gus Tristan	

"Stand Firm in…Liberty"
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Without getting too technical, here's the rationale behind the methods of the newer versions:
The New Testament in the King James Version and New King James Version is based on a Greek text called the Textus Receptus ("received text"). There are two primary differences between it and the Greek texts used by modern translations.

First, this text was compiled long before many of the modern manuscript discoveries were made. The manuscripts available to those who put together the Textus Receptus were generally much younger than the ones we have available to us now. Whereas the Textus Receptus used Greek manuscripts from, say, 1,000 years after Paul, we now have manuscripts from 300-400 years after Paul.

Second, the Textus Receptus' compilers were not as critical as those who have worked on the newer texts.

The best way I can think of to explain it is like a game of 'Telephone,' that kids' game where one person whispers a phrase to the first person in line, who turns and whispers it to the next, and so on.
Once the last person in line gets their turn, they are to shout out what was whispered to them. The resulting phrase usually has a change or two and commonly has had extra details added from the original message whispered by the first person in line.

So, let's say you have 10 kids lined up. The phrase gets passed down the line. Now let's say what the first 2-3 kids heard differs from what the kids at the end of the line heard. Wouldn't you tend to assume that the first few kids are likely to be closer to the original message? Generally speaking, the further you get from the original phrase, the more changes are introduced.

That's the reasoning behind why some of the newer versions have questioned some of these "removed" Bible verses.

The Greek manuscripts behind the newer versions were determined by ranking the manuscripts by their reliability (age, consistency with others, among other factors). Essentially, when what the 3rd and 4th manuscript in line say differs with what the 8th manuscript in line says, they typically are going to favor the earlier versions and assume that the changes and additions were made by the later manuscripts.

Where the memes will tell you that modern translators are removing verses from the Bible, it's far more likely the KJV's translators were working off of manuscripts that added verses to the Bible. Therefore, even though those verses have been printed in the Bible for hundreds of years, we're likely better off without having them.

To give the other side of the story, the pro Textus Receptus folks argue that the older manuscripts were not used because they were deficient, and what survived the centuries was what both God and the church intended to survive. I tend to disagree with them, but I can see how they come to that conclusion.

All of this doesn't mean the King James Version is unreliable, but it does mean we should compare multiple versions and realize that some additions are there that might not have been penned by the New Testament authors.

Most of the verses are true statements, and some of them are even quotes from other parts of the New Testament. They just don't fit where they have been placed in the text. Now that we know better, the new versions have done better. It's as simple as that.

Bryant Perkins