

The Bulletin

Meeks St. Church of Christ

1201 Meeks St. Corinth, Ms. 38834

Phone – (662) 808-7777

Visit Our Website at:
MeeksstreetchurchofChrist.com

May 11, 2025

“Modern Versions And Perversions”

By Joe R. Price

There are over 450 versions of the Bible in English alone. New versions continue to be published, and many do not provide precise translations of the ancient manuscripts. The September 25, 1995 issue of U. S. News & World Report in "Street Talk, Simplicity and PC," reported the aim of many modern-day versions of the Bible is to make the "ancient scriptures more relevant and comprehensible to modern readers than the standard King James Version."

I am all for knowing the Biblical text and using understandable translations that help us comprehend God's word. Current language, rather than archaic words and expressions, can help meet this goal. At the same time, we must recognize there are Bible versions that do not faithfully translate the ancient text.

Rather than producing faithful translations, these versions are "thought" translations, interpreting and often perverting the text instead of translating it. These versions hinder understanding God's word accurately. These versions cannot be confidently relied on as God's word.

Some attempts at modern language Bibles are nothing short of blasphemous. The New Testament and Psalms: An Inclusive Version, published by Oxford University Press, uses gender-neutral language and other departures from the original text. God the Father is now the "Father-Mother," and the Son of Man is "the human one."

So as not to offend left-handed people, God's right hand is now His "mighty hand." To avoid racial overtones, "darkness" is not used to depict evil. Politically correct and woefully corrupt version.

Then there is the BLACK BIBLE CHRONICLES, a paraphrase by P. K. McCary, a Houston educator. She has used slang to "liven up" Biblical narratives for African American teenagers. Here is her treatment of creation from Genesis One: *"Now when the Almighty was first down with his program, He made the heavens and the earth. The earth was a fashion misfit, being so uncool and dark, but the Spirit of the Almighty came down real tough, so that He simply said, 'Lighten up!' And that light was right on time."* McCary also offers a paraphrase of the gospel called RAPPING WITH JESUS.

We can learn at least two things from this. First, when we are not convinced the Bible is the verbally inspired word of God we begin to take more and more license with it. We fail to respect it completely. We begin to shape it and mold it into what we want it to be instead of conforming ourselves to it. The Bible calls such manipulation of the Scriptures sin that leads to destruction (2 Peter 3:16). People often become the standard by which they judge the Bible instead of the other way around.

Second, could it be we have become so lazy in our reading and study of the Bible that we fail to exert the energy and effort required to know and use it accurately (2 Timothy 2:15)? Have we become comfortable with mediocre Bible knowledge? Remember, Israel was destroyed for her lack of knowledge (Hosea 4:6).

God's word is "living and active" and "abides forever" (Hebrews 4:12; 1 Peter 1:23-25). We should use a translation of the Bible that we can read with understanding and that is faithful to the original languages. But we must not alter the text and meaning of God's inspired message with "modern versions" that are perversions of His word (Galatians 1:6-9).

“Not Too Young”

Author Unknown

Recent research has revealed what teenagers truly desire from the adults in their lives. The Search Institute study found that teens want parents and other older influencers to do the following:

1. Look at us. 2. Spend time talking with us. 3. Listen. 4. Be dependable. 5. Show appreciation for what we do. 6. Relax. 7. Show that you're interested. 8. Laugh with us (and at yourself). 9. Ask us to help you. 10. Challenge us.

I believe the apostle Paul did many of those things as he built into the life of a young man named Timothy. And, as number 10 on the list states, he truly did challenge him, writing, “Don’t let anyone think less of you because you are young. Be an example to all believers in what you say, in the way you live, in your love, your faith, and your purity” (1 Timothy 4:12).

What’s impressive is that Timothy was dealing with the difficult challenge of tackling false teaching in the church at Ephesus, along with some bitter persecution. Yet Paul told him to boldly live out his faith- to be an example. And Timothy needed to look no further than the great example provided by Paul himself. *“The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things; and the God of peace shall be with you.”* (Philippians 4:9) *“But you followed my teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, patience, love, perseverance, persecutions, [and] sufferings, such as happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium [and] at Lystra; what persecutions I endured, and out of them all the Lord delivered me!”* (2 Timothy 3:10-11).

If we want those who are younger to walk confidently in their faith, we must provide for them a living model. We need to show them the “living God, who is the Savior of all people” and “keep a close watch on how [we] live” (1 Timothy 4:10,16). As they witness Jesus alive in us, it will help them take their own bold faith steps.

Let younger believers know that they can be an example to all believers. And, as you do, “stay true to what is right for the sake of [your] own salvation and the salvation” of these precious younger ones (v.16). -Tom Felten.

“But have nothing to do with worldly fables fit only for old women. On the other hand, discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness; for bodily discipline is only of little profit, but godliness is profitable for all things, since it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come. It is a trustworthy statement deserving full acceptance. For it is for this we labor and strive, because we have fixed our hope on the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of believers. Prescribe and teach these things. Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but rather in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity, show yourself an example of those who believe. Until I come, give attention to the public reading [of Scripture,] to exhortation and teaching. Do not neglect the spiritual gift within you, which was bestowed upon you through prophetic utterance with the laying on of hands by the presbytery. Take pains with these things; be [absorbed] in them, so that your progress may be evident to all. Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching; persevere in these things; for as you do this you will insure salvation both for yourself and for those who hear you.” (1 Timothy 4:7-10)

Don’t let anyone think less of you because you are young. Be an example to all believers in what you say, in the way you live, in your love, your faith, and your purity (v.12).

Read what Paul wrote to a friend in Titus 2:7 and consider how you can be an example to other believers- particularly younger ones.

Today, how will you encourage some younger believers you know? What example have you been setting for other believers in Jesus?



Visit our YouTube Channel:

Meeks Street Church of Christ https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgiXJxZC1oraOugO9qlfBtw?view_as=subscriber

And Our Facebook Page.

For sermon videos, articles, and announcements.

Those Who Need Our Prayers & Encouragement:

Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Daniel Holloway, Debbie Keplinger, Robbie, Sheila, Sherry Doles, Sandi Poole, Chad Harris, Jamie Jones, Mary Ann Holley, LuAnne Parrish, Billy Grisham, Burt Ward, Wesley Trimble, George Hutto, Angela Warren (Lisa Busby's friend who has cancer), B.J. Graves, Chandler McCain (Cancer), Michelle Hopper (Dan Cottrell's sister) has been diagnosed with cancer, Lowell Gann, and Stacy & Annette Meeks, Mike Timbes (Paul Johnson's neighbor who was diagnosed with lung cancer), Anita Harris' mother, Hillard Switcher, Dianne Johnson (Fred's wife), Kiefer Norman (Robbie Doles' relative), Evelyn Trimble, Martha Cottrell (Dan's Mom) is home now and doing better, Danny Briggs (cancer).

Fred Johnson had knee surgery last Wednesday and is home recovering.

Sherry Fuqua Doles is in Magnolia Hospital for dehydration and other health issues.

Those Who Serve:

Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:

Opening Prayer:	Dan Cottrell
Preaching:	Brian Meade
Sermon #1:	<i>"The Battle Of Mount Carmel"</i>

Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am:

Workbook:	Brian Meade
Author:	1st & 2nd Peter & Jude
Starting Page & Question:	Paul Blake
	<i>Page #42, Question #7</i>

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:

Announcements:	Dan Cottrell
Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading:	Danny Sheffield
Scripture Reading:	<i>Proverbs 31:28-31</i>
Song Leader:	Paul Busby
Lord's Supper:	Paul Busby
Assisting:	—
Preaching:	Brian Meade
Sermon #2:	<i>"Good And Bad Mothers In The Bible"</i>
Closing Prayer:	Nathan Meade

Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.

May 14, 2023

Auditorium Bible Class:	Russell Briggs
Workbook:	Great Bible Characters: Paul
Author:	By Bobby L. Graham
Starting Page & Question:	<i>Page #67, Question #13</i>
Invitation:	Brian Meade
Song Leader:	Paul Busby
Closing Prayer:	Nathan Meade

“The Battle Of Mount Carmel”

Lesson Text: I Kings 18:16-40.

I. What Caused This Battle?

- God’s People Had Left Faithfulness, As Moses Predicted.
 - **Deuteronomy 11:8-17; 26-28.**
- King Ahab Caused The People To Sin By Going Into Idolatry- **1 Kings 16:29-33.**
 - The Israelites Introduced To Baal By King Ahab, But Still Worshipping God Too.
 - As The Leaders Go, So Often The People With Them.
 - King Ahab Made Many Bad Decisions To Go Into Sin That Deeply.
- God’s Response To Israel’s Unfaithfulness- **1 Kings 17:1.**

II. The Meeting Of The Two Sides.

- This Was An Inevitable Meeting Because Of God’s Judgment.
- **1 Kings 18:1-14.** God Sends Elijah To Meet With King Ahab.
- **1 Kings 18:15-19.** Who Was The Real Troubler Of Israel?

III. The Place Of This Battle— Mt. Carmel.

- **1 Kings 18:19.**

IV. The Challenge.

- How The Battle Was Fought- **1 Kings 18:20-24.**
- The Prophets Of Baal’s Turn- **1 Kings 18:25-29.**
- Elijah’s Turn- **1 Kings 18:30-38.**

V. The Victory.

- The People’s Reaction- **1 Kings 18:39-40.**

VI. Lessons We Learn For Us Today.

- **You Cannot Serve Two Masters.**
 - **1 Kings 18:21; Exodus 34:14.**
 - Application For Us Today: **Matthew 6:24.**
- **When Sin & Error Abound, We Must Confront It.**
 - It Is Not A Time To Be Silent, Peaceable To Error, Or Ignore It. **Jude 3.**
 - We Must Expose Error, For The Sake Of Others. **Isaiah 58:1; Ephesians 5:11;**
 - Why? To Save Souls For Destruction! **Matthew 15:14.**
- **Error Can Never Stand, Truth Will Always Win!**
 - **1 Kings 18:29; Acts 5:39.**
- **With God, One Can Stand Against Many!**
 - **1 Kings 18:19; Romans 8:31.**
- **Elijah Teaches Us The Power Of Prayer.**
 - **1 Kings 18:41-46; James 5:16-18.**

“Good And Bad Mothers In The Bible”

I. Examples Of Bad Mothers.

- Unnamed Mother In **1 Kings 3:16-28**.
- Michal. **1 Samuel 18:20; 25:44; 2 Samuel 6:16-23**.
- Jeroboam's Wife. **1 Kings 14:1-10**.
- Maacah. **1 Kings 15:9-13**.
- Jezebel. **1 Kings 16:31; 1 Kings 19:1-2; 21:7-11**.
- Athaliah. **2 Kings 8:26; 11:1-3; vs. 13-18**.
- Herodias. **Mark 6:17-29**.

II. Examples Of Good Mothers.

- Unnamed Mother In **1 Kings 3:16-28**.
- Sarah. **Genesis 18:1-15; 21:1-7; Hebrews 11:11**.
- Jochebed. **Exodus 2:1-10**; Why Moses Chose What He Did! **Hebrews 11:24-26**.
- Hannah. **1 Samuel 1—2 (1:21; 2:18-20)**.
- Mary. **Luke 1:26-38; 2:1-52 (2:19; vs. 51 ESV)**.
- Lois And Eunice. **2 Timothy 1:3-5**.

III. What We Should Learn From This.

- **That An Immoral Lifestyle Does Not Make A Good Mother.**
 - Sin Disqualifies Us From Being Good - **2 Timothy 3:1-5**.
 - To Be A Good Mother—You Have To Have Good Character.
 - Sin Always Leads Us Away From God's Order For Our Life!
- **We Should Appreciate A Good Mother So Much More!**
 - **Proverbs 31:28-31**.
 - If You Still Have A Good Mother, Show Her The Honor She Deserves!
 - If You Had A Good Mother, Keep Her In Your Heart!
- **Young Ladies, Aspire To Be A Good Mother.**
 - Now Might Not Be Your Time To Be A Mother, But In the Future....
 - Make It Your Highest Goal In Life.
 - Learn From Good Examples Of Mothers Today.
 - Determine To:
 - Be A Good Christian Who Seeks To Go To Heaven- **Colossians 3:1-3**.
 - To Be Morally Pure And Of Good Character- **2 Corinthians 7:1**.
 - Teach Your Children The Bible- **2 Timothy 1:5**.
 - Follow The Leadership Of Your Husband With Respect- **1 Peter 3:5-6**.