

The “5 Truths” of the Gospel

Truth #1: Already Forgiven – all of your sins were forgiven on the Cross of Christ, except the sin of unbelief. Mark 3:28; Romans 5:10a; John 16:8-9

Truth #2: Made Clean – when you trust in Jesus Christ as your Savior, God takes out your old sinful spirit (heart) and gives you a brand, new clean heart. Romans 6:6; Romans 6:17-18; John 3:3,7

Truth #3: Made Righteous – as a Christian, you are now righteous in your spirit because Jesus, in the form of the Holy Spirit, lives in you. 2 Peter 1:4

Truth #4: In Union – you are “in Christ” because Jesus joins as one with you in your spirit. John 14:20; 1 Corinthians 6:17; Colossians 1:27

Truth #5: By Faith – you are righteous on the inside but your body is still dead to sin. Follow by faith the inner life of Christ so that you can live a righteous life. Romans 8:10; Galatians 2:20; Philippians 3:3b

The “5 Keys” to Understanding the New Testament

Key #1: Teaching of the Holy Spirit - only the Holy Spirit can make the Bible come alive since your human mind is incapable of understanding God’s spiritual truths. 1 Corinthians 2:1-16

Key #2: Proper Context - the New Testament must be understood in its proper Jewish context. Otherwise, the message gets misinterpreted and is dramatically changed. Romans 9:4; John 4:22b

Key #3: Spiritual Beings - all people have an inner spirit and an outer mortal body. Christians have a “born again” spirit that is righteous, but they still live in their not-yet-redeemed mortal bodies. 2 Corinthians 4:16, 5:1-6; Ephesians 4:24

Key #4: Jesus Emptied Himself - Jesus lived by the power of the Holy Spirit that He received at His baptism. Jesus lived by faith and not by His own power. Therefore, He is your model for a life of faith. John 14:10b; Matthew 12:28; Matthew 12:18

Key #5: Hebrew Law - God gave the Law only to the Jews; the Gentiles have never been under the Law. Romans 2:14; Hebrews 7:18, 28; Hebrews 8:13

Romans 6:6 knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, that our body of sin {“old sin nature”} might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin;

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Romans 8:10 If Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness.

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1 Corinthians 3:16-17 Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? [17] If any man destroys the temple of God, God will destroy him, for the temple of God is holy, and that is what you are.

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True Tracts

KJV: Is This the Only True Translation?

Many people are passionate in their belief that the King James Version of the Bible is the only translation that God wants you to read. Is this belief correct?

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John 1:14 And the Word {Jesus} became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

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1 Peter 1:23 for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and enduring word of God {Jesus}.

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2 Corinthians 4:2a but we have renounced the things hidden because of shame, not walking in craftiness or adulterating the word of God, ...

Why Was the KJV Written?

Regarding the King James Version of the Bible, the joke is, "If it was good enough for the Apostle Paul, it is good enough for me!"

Passions run deep when discussing whether the KJV is the only version authorized by God.

The KJV was certainly not the first English language Bible. John Wycliffe's version was published over 200 years before the KJV; Wycliffe was executed for writing it. William Tyndale translated the New Testament in 1526. Other translations followed including Matthews Bible and the Geneva Bible.

One of the primary issues at the time was the claim by English monarchs that they had a "divine right" to rule over the Church. The Geneva Bible, among others, refuted those claims.

When James I came to power following the death of Elizabeth I in 1603, his desire was to seek reconciliation between the throne and the Anglican Church, and to please the Puritans who were at odds with the Conformists. The king called a conference to meet in the Hampton Court Palace "for hearing and for the determining things pretended to be amiss in the Church." The Puritans had a number of demands, none of which were met by James I except for the request "that there might be a new translation of the Bible, because those which were allowed in the reigns of Henry the eighth, and Edward the sixth, were corrupt and not answerable to the truth of the Original."

What is the Controversy?

There are at least five different reasons why proponents believe that the KJV version is the only one that should be used by Christians:

1. Tradition and Majesty of the Language

This is the version that many people grew up with and it just seems right. "I will make you fishers of men" sounds so much better than "I will make you fish men."

2. Textual Argument

The KJV is based on better Hebrew and Greek manuscripts.

3. Supernaturally Preserved

Hebrew and Greek texts have been supernaturally preserved, and the KJV is the "gold standard" of all translations.

4. Divine Inspiration

The translators of the KJV were divinely appointed and inspired by God Himself.

5. Advanced Revelation

The KJV corrects the Greek and Hebrew texts and, therefore, should be the standard from which any other translation is based.

The KJV translators could not have been divinely inspired because they included alternative renderings of the original manuscripts. If divinely inspired, there could only be one possible understanding of the original. Also, between 1611 and 1769, the KJV was revised four times.

You can argue the KJV on the basis of which manuscripts were used. But most people claim KJV only because of tradition. Pressuring people for this reason is harmful because most people just cannot understand the antiquated language of the KJV.

Which Translation is the Best?

The Bible is the most important book ever written. Its purpose is to communicate the written revelation of the living God. The earliest manuscripts were written in Koine Greek, the common language of the people. The key when selecting a translation is to find one that helps you understand what God is really saying.

Selecting a Bible translation is a serious and very important decision. It is made difficult by the fact that all translations, including the KJV, have numerous errors. Many of these errors are based on theological bias; passages are translated based on traditional "wisdom of men" understanding. One of the most serious examples is the NIV's translation of the word "flesh" ("sarx" in the Greek) as "sinful nature."

Galatians 5:13a You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature, ... (NIV)

Christians no longer have a sinful nature (Romans 6:6). Upon faith in Christ, God removes your sinful nature and replaces it with a clean heart indwelt by the Holy Spirit. Your mortal body is still dead because of sin (Romans 8:10) but your spirit is holy (1 Corinthians 3:16-17) - see back panel. Errors based on human reasoning lead Christians away from the truth.

Bible translations are: [1] word for word, [2] thought-for-thought and [3] paraphrase. All have pro's and con's. But, all understanding of God's truth comes from the teaching of the Holy Spirit, not from which translation you use. (See 1 Corinthians 2:1-16.)