NURSERY MINISTRY WORKERS FOR THIS WEEK

Sunday School ---------- *Jessica Quinnelly & Adelynn*
10:50 a.m. Service ---------- *Berdena Bergman & Sarah White*
6:30 p.m. Service ---------- *Shirley & Brenda White*
Wed. Evening Service ---------- *Jessica Quinnelly & Harrison White*

AND THE PEOPLE CAME...

- Week of October 4, 2026 -

Sunday School	16
Sunday Morning Service	37
Sunday Eve. Service	24
Wednesday Eve. Service	9

AND THE PEOPLE GAVE...

- Week of October 4, 2026 -

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings	$	1,398.60
Auditorium A/C Replacement Fund	$	125.93
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 10/04/26:	***$***	***1,524.53***

- Week of September 27, 2026 -

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings	$	1,958.00
Auditorium A/C Replacement Fund	$	116.22
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 09/27/26:	***$***	***2,074.22***

- Week of September 20, 2026 -

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings	$	582.77
Auditorium A/C Replacement Fund	$	125.93
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 09/20/26:	***$***	***708.70***

- Week of September 13, 2026 -

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings	$	1,420.97
Auditorium A/C Replacement Fund	$	116.22
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 09/13/26:	***$***	***1,537.19***

- Week of September 6, 2026 -

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings	$	2,823.06
Love Offering, Bro. Daniel Charland	$	1,700.00
Auditorium A/C Replacement Fund	$	116.22
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 09/06/26:	***$***	***4,639.28***

Average amount of Undesignated Offerings needed for church operating expenses EACH WEEK, as a minimum = $ 1,800.00



WHAT IT MEANS TO BE SAVED

1. ***Admit that you are a sinner.***
2. ***Admit that God says all sins must be paid for.***
3. ***Accept the fact that Christ took upon Himself the suffering necessary to pay for all your sins.***
4. ***You must change your mind about sin and sinning (God calls this repentance).***
5. ***By an act of your will, accept by faith the Lord Jesus Christ, Who can save you from the penalty of sin. Then, tell God about this in a simple prayer. Believe that God keeps His promise to save you, and thank Him for His salvation.***

LISTEN TO -



ABIDINGRADIO.ORG

SOUTH HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH
23 EAST WELLS BOULEVARD
SAPULPA, OKLAHOMA
SOUTHHEIGHTSBAPTIST.COM

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES:

Sundays -

9:45 a.m. ---------- Sunday School
10:50 a.m. ---------- Morning Service
6:30 p.m. ---------- Evening Service

Wednesdays -

7:00 p.m. ---------- Evening Service

Bi-Monthly -

11:00 a.m. or 3:30 p.m. ------ Ladies Bible Study
- 1st & 3rd Thursday of each month

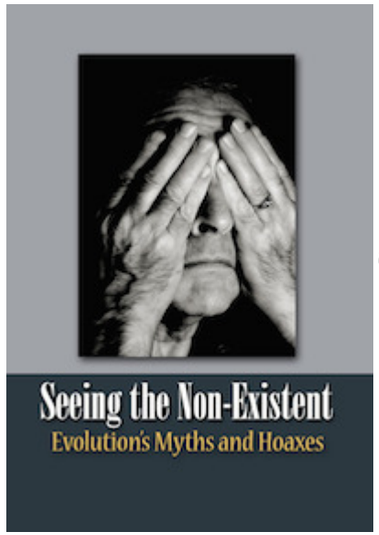
Church Directory

Todd W. White	Pastor
Debra Carlton, Mickie Shatwell	Pianists
Derek Quinnelly	Greeter
Shirley White; Berdena Bergman/Debra Carlton; Daniel Avery/GiGi Avery; Derek Quinnelly/Larry Byars	Teachers
Larry & Mary Byars	Outreach
GinaMarie Shufelt	Ladies Bible Study
Hannah Dietrich	Flowers
Seth White	Sound/Video
Larry Byars, Derek Quinnelly, Daniel Avery	Trustees

SOUTH HEIGHTS BAPTIST'S *WEEKLY*

REMINDER

Volume XXXII | **October 11, 2026** | **Number 39**



Darwin's Death

by Evangelist David W. Cloud

The following is excerpted from Seeing the Non-Existent: Evolution's Myths and Hoaxes, 638 pages, available as a free eBook at the Books section of wayoflife.org

Having rejected the Bible and God and the doctrine of eternal life, Darwin was left with no meaning in life and a bleak future in which man is doomed to perish in a dying universe.

"With respect to immortality, nothing shows me how strong and almost instinctive a belief it is, as the consideration of the view now held by most physicists, namely that the sun with all the planets will in time grow too cold for life, unless indeed some great body dashes into the sun and thus gives it fresh life.--Believing as I do that man in the distant future will be a far more perfect creature than he now is, it is an intolerable thought that he and all other sentient beings are doomed to complete annihilation after such long-continued slow progress" (Autobiography, p. 92).

Before his death, Darwin professed "no assured and ever present belief in the existence of a personal God or of a future existence with retribution and reward" (Desmond, Darwin, p. 636).

Interestingly, though, the last words of this man who had no belief in God were "Oh God, oh Lord God."

Every agnostic and every atheist believes in God in his heart of hearts.

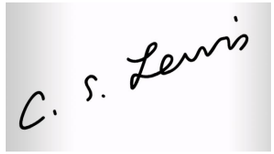
Darwin was buried in Westminster Abbey with a full-blown Anglican funeral. The *"elders of science, State, and Church, the nobility of birth and talent"* were in attendance. It was called *"the greatest gathering of intellect that was ever brought together in our country."* The Darwins and Wedgewoods gathered in the Jerusalem Chamber, where one of the committees had met to work on the King James Bible and where, more recently, the English Revised Version committee, led by Westcott and Hort, had deliberated.

Among his pall bearers were the old X-Clubbers Huxley and Hooker and New Ager Alfred Wallace.

The coffin was draped in black velvet and covered with white flowers. Choristers sang "I am the resurrection", a special hymn composed for the occasion was taken from the book of Proverbs. Incongruously, it began, *"Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and getting understanding,"* and ended with, *"He ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace."* As the coffin was lowered into the grave, the choristers sang, *"His body is buried in peace, but his name liveth evermore."*

Darwin's Deification

Darwin was buried in Westminster Abbey. Three years after his death, a life-sized statue was erected in the most prominent place in the new Natural History Museum. The *Times* called it *"The Temple of Nature,"* and Pope Huxley presided over the dedication ceremony. At some point in the 20th century, the statue was moved to another area of the museum, but on the 100th anniversary of Darwin's death, it was restored to a place of prominence, where it remains today, looking for all the world like an idol enshrined in a temple. ■



The Popularity and Heresies of C.S. Lewis

by Evangelist David W. Cloud

The late British author C. S. (Clive Staples) Lewis (1898-1963), who was known as Jack, is extremely popular with evangelicals today. In fact, Lewis is loved with an equal fervor by "conservative evangelicals," hell-denying emergents, Roman Catholics, Mormons, a growing number of fundamentalists, and even some atheists, a fact that speaks volumes to those who have ears to hear.

Mark Tauber, senior vice president of HarperOne, an imprint of HarperCollins which owns the rights to Lewis's estate, says, "Lewis reaches kids whose parents are reading [Narnia] to them at seven [years-old] or earlier, then people in evangelical or Catholic settings and in Mormon churches are using his adult nonfiction in their teachings. He reaches across age groups and different faith traditions" *("Exploring C.S. Lewis's Lasting Popularity," Publishers Weekly, Oct. 14, 2015).*

Though Lewis died in 1963, sales of his books rose to two million a year by 1977 and totaled over 200 million in 2026, with no end in sight. No other "evangelical" author comes close to this. (Rick Warren's *Purpose Driven Life* has sold 50 million copies.)

Robert Hosack, executive editor of Brazos Press says, "C.S. Lewis has become a veritable cottage industry in religious publishing circles" *("Exploring C.S. Lewis's Lasting Popularity," Publishers Weekly, Oct. 14, 2015).*

The December 2005 edition of *Christianity Today* was devoted to *"C.S. Lewis Superstar."* In an article commemorating the 100th anniversary of Lewis' birth, J.I. Packer called him "our patron saint" and said that Lewis "has come to be the Aquinas, the Augustine, and the Aesop of contemporary Evangelicalism" *("Still Surprised by Lewis," Christianity Today, Sept. 7, 1998).*

A *Christianity Today* reader's poll that year rated Lewis the most influential evangelical writer. In light of the wretched spiritual-doctrinal-moral condition of "evangelicalism" today, that is a very telling statistic.

In its April 23, 2001, issue, *Christianity Today* again praised C.S. Lewis in an article titled *"Myth Matters." Lewis, called "the 20th century's greatest Christian apologist,"* wrote several mythical works, such as *The Chronicles of Narnia*, which *Christianity Today* recommends in the most glowing terms, claiming that *"Christ came not to put an end to myth but to take all that is most essential in the myth up into himself and make it real."* I don't know what to say to this except that it is complete nonsense. In his *Chronicles,* Lewis depicts Jesus Christ as a lion named Aslan who is slain on a stone table. *Christianity Today* says, *"In Aslan, Christ is made tangible, knowable, real.",* as if we can know Jesus Christ best through a fable that is vaguely and inaccurately based on biblical themes and intermingled with paganism.

Lewis is praised on all spectrums of evangelicalism and beyond. He is credited by John Piper as a father of his doctrine of "Christian Hedonism," and he is praised by Rob Bell in his hell-denying, universalistic book Love Wins. Under the Acknowledgements section, Bell writes, *"... to my parents, Rob and Helen, for suggesting when I was in high school that I read C.S. Lewis."* I would imagine that Bell's parents regret that recommendation today, since he has rejected and reinterpreted the biblical Christian faith.

LEWIS'S "DAMNABLE HERESIES" -

Even Christianity Today admits, "Clive Staples Lewis was anything but a classic evangelical, socially or theologically. He smoked cigarettes and a pipe, and he regularly visited pubs to drink beer with friends. Though he shared basic Christian beliefs with evangelicals, he didn't subscribe to biblical inerrancy or penal substitution. He believed in purgatory and baptismal regeneration" *("C.S. Lewis Superstar," Christianity Today, Dec. 2005).*

Following are ***some*** of the fundamental doctrines of the Bible that Lewis rejected:

- The inerrant inspiration of Scripture
- The historicity of the Bible
- The necessity of supernatural conversion through repentance and personal faith in Christ
- The "Penal Substitutionary Atonement"
- Salvation by grace without works and sacraments
- The sole Mediatorship of Jesus Christ
- The existence of heaven and hell
- The literal six-day creation
- The doctrine of an eternal, fiery hell
- The doctrine of the finality of one's destiny at death
- Salvation exclusively through the name of Christ

For documentation of these points, see the free eBook C.S. Lewis and Evangelicals Today at the Books section of wayoflife.org.

WHY IS LEWIS SO POPULAR WITH EVANGELICALS TODAY?

In light of his lack of a scriptural salvation testimony, his heresies, his worldliness, and the massive pagan influences in his work, why are evangelicals today so enamored with C.S. Lewis? I believe the following are some of the chief reasons:

First, evangelicals love C.S. Lewis because of his intellectualism.

Second, evangelicals love C.S. Lewis because of his ecumenical thinking and his refusal to practice biblical separation.

Third, evangelicals love C.S. Lewis because of their shared fascination with and sympathy with Rome.

NEWS OF INTEREST TO CHRISTIANS

❑ ***ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK BENEATH THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE CONFIRMS PRESENCE OF FIRST CENTURY GARDEN -*** The Bible says, ***"Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden; and in the garden a new sepulchre, wherein was never man yet laid" (John 19:41).***

The following is excerpted from *"Ancient Seeds and Pollen Beneath Jerusalem's Church of the Holy Sepulchre," Political.org, Sept. 2, 2026:*

"Archaeologists excavating beneath one of Christianity's most sacred sites have uncovered ancient botanical evidence--seeds and pollen from olive trees and grapevines--that corroborates the New Testament's description of a garden at the site where Jesus Christ was crucified and buried. The findings, led by Professor Francesca Romana Stasolla of the Sapienza University of Rome, align closely with John 19:41, which states that a garden stood near the place of crucifixion, containing a new tomb where no one had yet been laid. Archaeobotanical analysis of soil samples extracted from beneath the church's stone floor revealed ancient seeds and pollen consistent with olive trees and grapevines--characteristic plants of a cultivated first-century Judean garden--dating to approximately 2,000 years ago.

"... The church has long been believed to sit on the site of both the crucifixion and burial of Jesus, but until now there had been no archaeological evidence of the garden described in scripture. ... One expert noted that scholars had largely doubted whether Jesus would have been buried in an orchard, but said, 'instead we find confirmed that there was a garden there--and so the Gospel of John has been proven to be accurate again in the details.'"

The following is from *"Site where Jesus was crucified and buried," Fox News, Sept. 2, 2026:*

"The findings add archaeological support to details described in the Gospel of John, said Douglas Estes, associate professor of religion at New College of Florida. Estes, who specializes in early Christianity and was not involved in the research, told Fox News Digital that the Book of John is often dismissed by skeptics as exaggerated. Archaeology has 'over time, confirmed, again and again, details from the Gospel of John.'

"... He added, 'For example, in the 19th century, scholars questioned whether or not there could be five colonnades [at the Pool of Bethesda in Jerusalem], as John 5 describes. Later archeological discoveries have found that, yes, there were five colonnades there.'"

❑ ***ALTAR PREPARED FOR THIRD TEMPLE -*** The following is excerpted from *"Rabbi Tovia Singer," Israel365News, Oct. 4, 2026:*

"The stones have already been prepared, uncut as prescribed by the law. The priestly garments are sewn, and the silver trumpets are made. According to Rabbi Tovia Singer, the only thing missing for sacrifices to resume in Jerusalem is the decision to carry the altar up the Temple Mount. ... Singer, the founder of Outreach Judaism and one of the most widely followed Jewish teachers on the internet, described watching the mizbeach (altar) being assembled.

... He described the work of the Temple movement this way: 'They're saying, 'Look, Lord, we're going to go as far as we can on this one, and we're going to walk until the water is up to our nostrils.'"

CONCLUSION FROM FRIDAY NEWS EDITOR: The Third Temple (referenced in Daniel 9:27; Matthew 24:15; II Thessalonians 2:3-4; & Revelation 11:1-2) will be built during the early days of the Antichrist, in his phony "Mr. Peace" era (see Daniel 8:25; 9:27; & II Thess. 2:9-12). The Third Temple, which is not the Millennial Temple described in Ezekiel 40-48, will be occupied by the Antichrist, not the Lord Jesus Christ. The Antichrist will declare himself as God and require the nations to worship him on pain of death. There is no greater sign of the lateness of the prophetic hour than the ongoing determination to build the Third Temple. ***"Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand" (Rev. 1:3).***

❑ ***"THE CHOSEN" WRAPS UP FILMING AFTER EIGHT YEARS -*** The Chosen has wrapped up filming after eight years. Season 6 is scheduled to launch in November and Season 7 (the final one) is scheduled to debut in the spring of 2028. The wildly popular series, which has been watched by more than 280 million people worldwide and translated into 125 languages, has been treated like a biblical Christian series by most of the popular press, but it is a dangerous mixture of truth and error. It is yet another example of evangelicalism's apostasy.

Dallas Jenkins, co-writer and director of The Chosen, is the son of Jerry B. Jenkins, who co-authored the *Left Behind* series with Tim LaHaye and was closely associated with Moody Bible Institute. Yet "the Mormon influence on The Chosen is considerable: the executive producer is Mormon, the distributor is Mormon, certain episodes were shot on a special Mormon set in Utah, and the crowdfunding and media expertise is provided by Mormons. ... Dallas Jenkins told one interviewer that ***'95% of the content [of The Chosen] isn't from the Bible.'*** This means that The Chosen is almost completely man's word--not God's Word.

... For example, Mary Magdalene backsliding is not in the Bible; Matthew portrayed as autistic--not in the Bible; Jesus rehearsing His sermon on the mount--not in the Bible (John 12:49-50; John 17:8). ... the apostle Peter had a gambling debt that pressured him to fish overtime on the Sabbath to pay back what he owed [not in the Bible]... Jonathan Roumie, the actor who plays Jesus in The Chosen, is a fervent Catholic with a strong affinity toward the New Age. ... he claims to have had 'personal interactions' with a deceased Catholic 'saint.' ... Roumie's recommended reading list on Amazon includes *The Jesuit Guide to Almost Everything* by Jesuit priest and New Age sympathizer, James Martin.

The book openly teaches the panentheistic New Age doctrine of God 'in' everyone and everything as the following quotes from that book illustrate:

'God can be found in everything. And everyone too'; 'We'll look at how to find God in everything and everything in God'" *(The Chosen Series - 10 Critical Concerns, Lighthousetrails.com).*

Mormonism is false Christianity with a false gospel of works and a false Christ who is not eternal, is the spirit brother of

Lucifer, and earned his way to godhood.

❑ ***THE APEX OF APOSTASY -*** The great apostasy, the false Christianity, prophesied in Scripture is nearing full bloom. The evidence is everywhere. Episcopal priest Flourish Klink, a man who "identifies" as a woman, said in March at the Episcopal Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York, *"God is nonbinary. But I'm going to go further than that, and I'm going to say God is actually also trans. ... When we trans people are born, folks assign us a gender based on what they see. Then, when we're old enough, we realize that wasn't right and we're not, in our deepest selves, the gender that everyone thought we were, right? ... When God, who is nonbinary, was born in human flesh, Mary said, 'O look, a baby boy.' God isn't a boy or girl. God was assigned a gender at birth, and later on it became clear that the gender wasn't quite right" (X, @disntr, Sept. 24, 2026).*

Meanwhile, an Anglican who calls himself "Rev. Sarah Hobbs," speaking at a "Love Wins" conference at the All Nations Church, Keighley, West Yorkshire, U.K. on Sept. 13, said his transgenderism is actually the bread of life given to him by God (X, @disntr, Sept. 23, 2026).

Meanwhile, at Fountain Street Church in Grand Rapids, Michigan, the female pastor preached a sermon entitled "Deconstructing Homophobia," in which she announced the ***"Beatitudes of a Queer Church,"*** including these jewels:

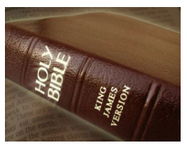
"Blessed are those who try, who transform, who transition.

... Blessed are the closeted, God sees you shine anyway.

... Blessed are the queers who love creation enough to live the truth of it despite a world that tells them they cannot" *(X, @disntr, Sept. 29, 2026).*

All Saints Catholic Church in Syracuse begins its "Pride Mass" by "bowing down in front of a pride flag, saying 'Namaste,' and calling the rainbow a "beautiful symbol of God's diversity'" (Pulpit & Pen, Sept. 3, 2026).

Babs Miller, a "nonbinary" who uses "they/them pronouns" and a minister of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Austin, Texas, said recently, "Jesus didn't die to save our sins. That makes a whole lot more sense to me than to say that some God would kill his Son for us. ... Mary and the virgin birth come out of the pagan belief ... We have no way of knowing if Jesus really existed, any more than we have of knowing that the original Buddha ever existed. And whether or not Jesus existed doesn't really matter to me" *(DailyWire, Sept. 23, 2026).*



THE KING JAMES ONLY BAPTIST CIVIL WAR OVER INSPIRATION

by Dr. Phil Stringer, Vice President
Dayspring Bible College & Seminary

Actually, I don't like the term ***"King James Only."*** It is a name given to us by our critics. I want everyone, in every language, to have the pure Word of God in their own tongue. But in this case, I use the term so that it is clear who I am talking about.

A civil war rages among independent Baptists about the "inspiration" of translations. I am not talking about the debate over which text of Scripture to use. Prominent preachers who preach the King James Bible and who defend it against its critics, are vigorously debating one another over the use of the term ***"inspiration"*** in describing the King James Bible. Sometimes the conflict is much hotter than a "vigorous debate." Good men, with deep loyalties to the King James Bible, are at odds with one another. Key terms are defined many different ways, motives are called into question and the doctrinal soundness of men is questioned.

Over the last few weeks I have been in many verbal conversations and email discussions over this issue.

I have been asked how these discussions are going. I have answered that I feel like a man trying to stand on an ice flow, in an ocean full of sharks while juggling baby elephants. A debate over the nature of the Bible generates deep emotions.

Good men are trying to defend the King James Bible the best way that they know how. They are tired of the evangelical and fundamentalist critics of the King James Bible. They are tired of self-absorbed, pseudo-scholars. They are tired of people with slander language skills mocking the scholars who were used of God to translate the King James Bible. ***I completely agree!***

Let me be crystal clear! I believe that the King James Bible is God's Word kept intact in English. There is not one word in the King James Bible that I would change. I would not change an italicized word.

I believe that the American republic was created by the influence of the King James Bible. I believe that the modern missions movement was created by the preaching of the King James Bible. I believe that both the fundamentalist movement and the independent Baptist movement were the product of the King James Bible.

I am not one of those preachers who believes that it is Christian liberty to attack the King James Bible but divisive to answer those attacks.

I believe that the evangelical and fundamentalist critics of the King James Bible should be answered. When I heard Elmer Fernandez say that the translators of the King James Bible were evil and wicked men, I knew that he had to be opposed. When I read Calvin George's desperate attempts to belittle the King James Bible (in order to defend the Critical Text readings of the Reina Valera 1960), I understand that he has to be answered.

When I realize that the method of Bible teaching practiced by the professors of Bob Jones University and Detroit Baptist Theological Seminary is to go verse by verse and say *"a better translation would be. . . ,"* I understand that they are pseudo-scholars. The ***least*** of the Kings James translators was a greater scholar than any of them.

When I read that the translations sponsored by Charles Keen won't be King James equivalent (his term), I understand what he is up to and that he must be answered by those loyal to the Received Text.

When I see the long-ago disproven criticisms of the King James Bible on the various Trinitarian Bible Society websites—I realize that those loyal to the King James Bible must answer the Trinitarian Bible Society's foolish attacks on the King James Bible.

I believe that the King James Bible is pure, perfect and inerrant!

However, I do **not** believe that the King James Bible is "inspired". That is not because I believe that there is any weakness or any inferiority in the King James Bible. There is nothing about the King James Bible that needs to be corrected or improved.

The Bible tells us what "inspiration" is! It defines itself. Many of my brethren use the term "inspiration" as a synonym for inerrant. But it means much more than that! Many of my brethren use the secular definition of the term "inspiration"—"to motivate or cause by supernatural influence" (Webster's Illustrated Contemporary Dictionary). But this definition falls far short of what the Bible says about its own "inspiration".

Many of our most famous doctrinal books offer a weak definition of "inspiration."

One prominent advocate of the King James Bible defines "inspiration" this way: *"By inspiration we mean the supernatural control by God over the production of the Old Testament and New Testaments."* Another King James advocate defines "inspiration" as *"divine influence."* These men would consider themselves as great advocates of the King James Bible and would describe most other teachers as weak or modernist.

Yet, their doctrine of "inspiration" is very weak. It was invented by modernists and spread by neo-evangelicals. Inspiration is much more than what they say it is.

If "inspiration" is really "divine influence" then many sermons, songs and books are "inspired." However, "Biblical inspiration" is much more than that.

"Inspiration" took place when God took control of a person and spoke His words through them or caused them to write down His words. "Inspiration" took place when God dictated His words to a person or even through an animal (Balaam's donkey).

You can't defend the King James Bible by weakening the doctrine of "inspiration." In their zeal to advance the King James Bible, some men have adopted a liberal position about "inspiration."

Many of the brethren are quick to quote ***II Timothy 3:16 - "All Scripture is given by "inspiration" of God."*** This is, of course, true. God gave His words to men through the Greek, Aramaic and Hebrew languages. This verse means exactly what it says ***- and nothing more.***

However, the verse does **not** say that the words that God gave are preserved, transmitted, or translated by "inspiration". The verse means everything that it says but we have no right to add anything to it.

No matter how pure and proper our motives are - we do not help the cause of the King James Bible by defining incorrectly a Biblical term or by inventing a new Biblical doctrine. Actually we help the critics of that King James Bible by using an argument that they can easily refute.

Virtually everyone in our movement, including me, has used the term "inspiration" carelessly at one time or another. It is time to start being careful.

Recently, I was communicating by email with the head of a translation project in a foreign country. He assured me that his translation was "inspired". I told him that I didn't think so.

He was just finishing ten years of his translation effort. Men who were "moved by the Holy Spirit" (II Peter 1:21) of God wrote down the Words as God gave them. They didn't need ten years. Can you imagine John spending ten years figuring out what to write down in the book of Revelation?

The translator had a team of sixteen national helpers - men who are "inspired" don't need a "team" of helpers. Can you imagine a team of sixteen helpers helping King Saul figure out what to say when the Holy Spirit took him over?

This gentleman is getting ready to release his second edition. Men who are "inspired" of God don't need a second edition. Can you imagine Balaam's donkey issuing a second edition of his words to Balaam?

The response of this translator was to call me a modernist!

The Words of God have been settled forever in Heaven. God gave some of them to Moses to record on earth. He gave some to Jeremiah, some to Paul, some to Peter and so on. They recorded the *exact* words that God gave them. God finished delivering His words to men as John finished the Book of Revelation. *That is how "inspiration" works!*

The translators of the King James Bible did not need to be "inspired". They already had God's "inspired" Words in front of them. They simply needed to faithfully and accurately translate the Words that had already been given by "inspiration". Translators today do not need to be "inspired." They already have God's "inspired" words available. They simply need to translate them correctly.

John Selden described the method of the King James translators. *"The translation in King James time took an excellent way. That part of the Bible was given to him who was most excellent in such a tongue (as the Apocrypha to Andrew Downes) and then they met together and one read that translation the rest holding in their hands some Bible either of the learned tongues or French, Italian, Spanish, etc. If they found any fault they spoke, if not, they read on."*

This was not the method of King Saul, Malachi, Isaiah, Matthew or Balaam's donkey when they were being "inspired" of the Lord. It is an example of men being used of God to *preserve and transmit* His Word.

I know that many men use the word "inspired" to describe the King James Bible because they want to defend it against its many attackers. But the King James Bible doesn't need that kind of help from us. It stands up to its attackers just fine. They always fade

away and the King James Bible goes on. It doesn't need us to invent a new definition of "inspiration" or to weaken the doctrine of divine "inspiration" the way that the secular writers do.

There seem to be three prominent positions among those who use the term "inspired" to describe the King James Bible:

1. Some teach that God repeated the miracle of "inspiration" in 1611. They believe that the English language is the only language that currently has an "inspired Bible." Their concept of missions is to preach and teach from the English Bible to the whole world. This destroys most mission works.

This is an easy doctrine to maintain, if you are only concerned for white, Anglo-Saxon people.

Of course, there is not the slightest hint of any such doctrine anywhere in the King James Bible.

2. The second group teaches the miracle of "inspiration" took place in 1611 in English and continues to take place in other languages today. They teach that you can recognize an "inspired" Bible if it is used by large "soul-winning" churches.

For those brethren, soul-winning is not based upon doctrine, doctrine is based upon soul winning. Since most of the Bibles in use around the world are Critical Text Versions and contradict the King James Bible, they assume that God gave one set of words in English and differing words in other languages. Their doctrine of "inspiration" justifies liberal translations.

They usually teach that only a Bible produced by a modern miracle of "inspiration" can be used to lead someone to Christ. Consequently, they would put their stamp of approval on hundreds of modernist translations.

But you can't protect the King James Bible by undermining the basis for Scriptural revelation.

Interestingly enough, both groups spend a lot of time attacking fundamental Baptists who explain "inspiration" in any way different than themselves. But you can't imagine them refuting modernists or liberal Bible societies. Their venom is reserved for the English speaking brethren who use the same Bible that they do.

3. There is a third group that teaches what they call ***"derivative inspiration."*** They are often very good brethren, devoted to the Bible. They understand that the miracle of "inspiration" only took place with the original earthly Scriptural penmen.

They teach that the Bible today has all the authority, influence, Holy Spirit power and purity of the original "inspired" Words of God. ***That is exactly what the Bible teaches about itself.***

Faithful copies of the Words given by "inspiration" have all the authority and Holy Spirit power of the originals. Faithful copies of Scripture ***are Scripture.***

Faithful translations of the Words given by "inspiration" have all the authority and Holy Spirit power of the originals. Faithful translations of Scripture are Scripture. However, the Bible calls this ***preservation*** not "derivative inspiration" (try finding that term in the King James Bible).

At least the teachers of "derivative inspiration" describe the original act of inspiration correctly, they describe the current state of the Bible correctly and it is possible for them to translate the Bible into other languages correctly. They are good brethren and I do not want to be separated from them.

However, their terminology is not Scriptural. Their teaching is easily confused with the other more dangerous teachings about "inspiration."

You do not defend the Kings James Bible by weakening the Bible's teaching about preservation. One Bible teacher called preserved words "cold, dead museum words." ***What an insult to a sovereign God!***

Nothing could be a stronger statement about words than to say these words are "***God's preserved words.***" God's preservation maintains all the authority and Holy Spirit power that God originally placed on and in His words.

The doctrine of preservation is not a weak doctrine - it is a doctrine filled with Holy Spirit power! It does not need to be upgraded, improved or strengthened. It is the power of God in practice.

I am for everyone that preaches, practices and defends the words of the King James Bible. If my brethren do not use the exact terminology that I think reflects the teaching of Scripture, I will be a little disappointed in them, but I will not reject them. I do not expect perfection from men. I wish to be the friend of all those that honor the words of the King James Bible.

However, I do believe that this discussion has important consequences:

Using a Biblical term in a non-Biblical way opens a new avenue of attack for the enemies of the King James Bible. There is no reason to make it easier for them to make their unholy attacks.

Secondly, this debate is creating unfortunate confusion about the matter of Bible translations. Around the world dozens of projects are taking place. Believers are concerned about getting a faithful translation of the Bible in their national language. There is a revival of understanding the issue of the Received Text.

However, too many men are producing a first edition of a translation, calling it "inspired" and stopping right there. A proper translation requires a rigorous purification process (such as the one that took place with the King James Bible). A weak or secular definition of "inspiration" is hindering the most important work of Bible translation.

Thirdly, this debate causes people to miss the genuinely important debate going on about Scripture today. Some men who are loud advocates of the "inspiration" of the King James Bible are also strong *proponents* of a Critical Text Bible for the Spanish people and for other language groups.

It may be expedient politics to advocate a Received Text Bible for the English speaking world and a Critical Text Bible for the Spanish speaking world, but it is horrible doctrine. Why would a "King James man" want the Hispanic world to use a Bible that conflicts with the King James Bible in hundreds of places and thousands of words?

This is hypocritical and it has a great price attached to it. If you promote the Critical Text in ***any*** language you can no longer consistently oppose Critical Text Bibles in English. Sooner or later, your hypocrisy will catch up to you. There is simply ***no*** doctrinal or textual foundation to prevent such a change. No matter how loudly a man or a ministry proclaims their loyalty to the King James Bible today, if they advocate the Critical Text in other languages they will probably be using a Critical Text Bible in English in a few years.

No one can consistently claim to be a "King James preacher" and support the Reina Valera 1960 or the TBS Spanish Bible. No one can consistently claim to be a "King James preacher" and support the French Louis Segond Version (either the Bible Society version or the TBS version). The same is true for the Chinese Common Union Version (CUV) and a host of other foreign translations.

Some of the people influenced by Dr. Ruckman have called me a modernist and a Bible corrector (even though they can't identify one word of the King James Bible that I would change). Most recently, some have called me "a King James Bible hater." Other men influenced by Dr. Ruckman have been much kinder to me.

I have also been called a Ruckmanite by advocates of the Critical Text. However, I have never been influenced by the writings or teachings of Dr. Ruckman (in the interest of full disclosure I met him once when I was fifteen).

Some Hispanic preachers refer to me by their pet nickname, "The Antichrist." I am sure that they mean that in Christian love. However I am grateful to have many Hispanic preacher friends who love me in spite of my faults and limitations.

I am used to being called names. Somehow, I doubt that this article will end that experience. If you preach, practice and defend the words of the King James Bible, *I am for you!*

I hope that we will all preach, practice and defend those blessed words wisely.

One missionary wrote, "As I understand the Scriptures, 'inspiration' is the process by which God directed and controlled the recording of His exact words for mankind. But after those words were recorded, God ceased to "inspire'. The process was completed and the message was recorded. God, from that point on, perfectly preserved exactly what He gave so that we would have every word exactly as He gave it. This is called preservation. So if you were to ask me if I believed the Bible is inspired, I would answer by saying, 'Yes, however, to be more theologically accurate, it was inspired and is now preserved.'"

Amen and Amen!

Actually, it seems that much of the "civil war" today is not really about doctrine at all. It seems to be about who is going to "speak for fundamental Baptists." Again, let me be crystal clear. I am an independent Baptist. I do not recognize a pope, bishop, church councils or a Baptist Sanhedrin. I don't believe in model churches or that anyone pastors to pastors. I have no headquarters! I have a Bible and that is my sole authority.

Finally, let me appeal for grace for and from all of us. The founders of fundamentalism, for all their wonderful accomplishments, were not clear or consistent on their definition of "inspiration" or their identification of the Biblical text. *We are paying for that confusion now!*

Most of the leaders of the independent Baptist movement can be quoted several different ways on both the definition of "inspiration" and on textual issues.

Vigorous debate is appropriate and even beneficial. A "civil war" is not. Let us all find some grace in our hearts for those who love the Bible and strive to reach the souls of men!

Verbal, plenary "inspiration," verbal, plenary preservation, verbal, plenary translation: any other doctrine of Scripture is just not enough. ■

