

AND THE PEOPLE CAME...

- Week of June 18, 2023 -

| | |
|----------------------------------|----|
| Sunday Morning Service | 32 |
| Sunday Evening Service | 37 |
| Wednesday Eve., 06/21/23 Service | 24 |

AND THE PEOPLE GAVE...

- Week of June 18, 2023 -

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| Undesignated Tithes & Offerings | \$ 947.00 |
| Love Offering, Dr. Phil Stringer | \$ 100.00 |
| TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 06/18/23: | \$ 1,047.00 |

- Week of June 11, 2023 -

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| Undesignated Tithes & Offerings | \$ 1,419.00 |
| Love Offering, Dr. Phil Stringer | \$ 1,055.03 |
| TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 06/11/23: | \$ 2,474.03 |

- Week of June 4, 2023 -

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| Undesignated Tithes & Offerings | \$ 2,457.50 |
| Front Porch Restoration Fund | \$ 50.00 |
| TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 06/04/23: | \$ 2,507.50 |

- Week of May 28, 2023 -

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| Undesignated Tithes & Offerings | \$ 1,498.00 |
| Front Porch Restoration Fund | \$ 150.00 |
| TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 05/28/23: | \$ 1,643.00 |

- Week of May 21, 2023 -

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| Undesignated Tithes & Offerings | \$ 846.00 |
| Love Offering, Dr. Phil Stringer | \$ 250.00 |
| TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 05/21/23: | \$ 1,096.00 |

Average amount of Undesignated Offerings needed for church operating expenses EACH WEEK, as a minimum = \$ 1,600.00



FRONT PORCH RESTORATION FUND -

Amount Received, Week of 06/04/23: \$ 50.00

TOTAL RECEIVED, THUSFAR: \$ 410.00

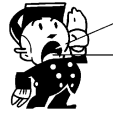
LISTEN TO -



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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.



THANK YOU For Your Continued Faithfulness In Giving!

During the early part of the pandemic, we were unable to meet in the church-house. But - that did not mean that the expenses of having a church-house were suspended. We still had bills to pay - electricity, gas, water, trash pickup, phone, internet, facility insurance, copier lease, office supplies, etc., and, praise the Lord, His people kept praying, watching online, & supporting their church with their giving.

Sadly, some people only give when they are in attendance at church - sort of like paying for "services rendered" - but the truth is that they are robbing THEMSELVES of God's blessings when they withhold their tithes and offerings and only give when they are here (see Malachi 3:10). Thankfully, most of our people have remained faithful, in so many ways, during this crisis, including financially.

WE HAVE 3 WAYS YOU CAN GIVE:

1. By mail - 23 East Wells Blvd., Sapulpa, OK 74066
2. Drop it off - call the Church Office to arrange it. 224-1924
3. Online - Go to the link below and give electronically:

<https://tithe.ly/give?c=433047>

**WE ARE GLAD WE CAN NOW GATHER TOGETHER TO PRAISE GOD & STUDY HIS WORD TOGETHER IN THE CHURCH-HOUSE!
YOUR FAITHFUL AND GENEROUS GIFTS WILL HELP US KEEP UP WITH THE BILLS AND CONTINUE OUR RENEWED OUTREACH EFFORTS!**

Church Directory

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Todd W. White | Pastor |
| Debra Carlton, Mickie Shatwell, Lois Mae Floyd | Pianists |
| Derek Quinnelly | Greeter |
| Larry & Mary Byars | Outreach |
| LeAnna White | Custodian |
| GinaMarie Shufelt | Flowers |
| Seth White | Sound/Video |
| Larry Byars, David Smith, Derek Quinnelly | Trustees |

SOUTH HEIGHTS BAPTIST'S WEEKLY REMINDER

Volume XXIX

June 25, 2023

Number 25



Psalm 12:7 and Bible Preservation

by Evangelist David Cloud

The doctrine of Bible preservation rests upon two unfailing authorities:

(1) **The Promise of God** (Psalm 12:6-7; 33:11; 100:5; 111:7-8; 117:2; 119:89, 152, 160; Isaiah 40:8; 59:21; Matthew 5:18; 24:35; and I Peter 1:23, 25).

(2) **The Character of God.** The God who has revealed Himself in a divinely inspired Book, Who has magnified that Word above His very name, would jealously superintend its transmission.

Some do not agree that Psalm 12 should be included in a list of verses on Bible preservation, however.

Consider the following statement by Bryan Samms who is at the forefront of "the translation transition" to move fundamental Baptist churches away from the King James Bible:

"Some people have been forcefully, dynamically told that Psalm 12:6-7 is a promise about the King James Bible. I know it's not. You know it's not. Anybody that is a fairly cognitive reader of the Bible, a student of grammar, a student of context, is gonna say that's talking about the people being preserved, not the words. I've heard people try to twist that one out and explain it away. Let's just be honest here. Psalm 12:6-7 has nothing to do with the Bible" ("The Translation Transition," an interview with Bryan Samms at the Church Advance YouTube channel).

Consider, though, what verses 6 and 7 say in the King James Bible: "**The words of the Lord are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. Thou shalt keep them, O Lord, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever.**"

There can be no doubt that the Authorized Bible allows for the interpretation that verse 7 speaks of the preservation of the Bible. There can be no doubt, also, that this was an interpretation held by many down through the centuries.

However, the modern versions translate verse 7 in such a way that it cannot possibly apply to Bible preservation. The NIV is representative: "And the words of the Lord are flawless, like silver refined in a furnace of clay, purified seven times. O Lord, you will keep us safe and protect us from such people forever." The NIV translation of Psalm 12:7 can only refer to the preservation of people.

In a report on the history of the translation and interpretation of Psalm 12:6-7, Peter Van Kleeck, who was Senior Pastor of the Wealthy Street Baptist Church in Grand Rapids, Michigan, showed that the testimony is divided. Some interpreters have viewed Psalm 12:7 as applying to Bible preservation; others have viewed it as applying to the preservation of God's people; others have viewed it as having a double application. Thus, Van Kleeck speaks of "the genius of ambiguity." His report was completed in the process of pursuing an M.A.R. at Calvin Theological Seminary.

Consider some excerpts from this excellent study, *THE GENIUS OF AMBIGUITY- The Translational and Exegetical Rendering of Psalm 12:7 Primarily Considered in the Churchly Tradition of the 16th And 17th Centuries and Its Expression in the Reformation English Bibles*, By Peter Van Kleeck:

"The appropriate interpretation of Psalm 12:7 is not without question in the churchly tradition. Problems arise from the textual base chosen for the translation, Greek-Latin or Hebrew ... Contemporary Bible versions and the reciprocating confirmation of each other's validity give the dogmatic impression that as a result of new and better methodologies, the modern rendering is best and that past problems have been resolved. A casual perusal of the popular literature on the subject of Bible texts and versions will show, however, that the Reformation Churches' expression of their common faith in Scripture's providential preservation of the texts in their possession is evaluated in an unsympathetic and pejorative manner. Scholars such as Bruce M. Metzger and Kurt Aland discredit the value of the Reformation Greek texts and subsequently the English Bibles on textual grounds. Metzger, giving a standard reply, writes, "Partly because of this catchword [Textus Receptus] the form of the Greek text incorporated in the editions that Stephanus,

(continued inside)

Beza, and the Elzevirs had published succeeded in establishing itself as ‘the only true text’ of the New Testament, and was slavishly reprinted in hundreds of subsequent editions. It lies at the basis of the King James Version and of all the principal Protestant translations in the languages of Europe prior to 1881. So superstitious has been the reverence accorded the Textus Receptus that in some cases attempts to criticize or emend it have been regarded as akin to sacrilege’ (Metzger, The Text of the New Testament, Oxford University Press, 1968, p. 106).

“What these writers fail to say is that the Authorized Version is not an ad hoc English translation, but stands at the end of the 16th century English Bible tradition. ... To deny the Authorized Version on textual grounds is to do the same for the Bishops, Geneva, Great, Coverdale, Matthews and Tyndale Bibles going back to 1524. It also questions the scholarship of the Protestant exiles of Mary’s romanish persecution who had escaped to the safe haven of Geneva as well as the value of every 16th and 17th century commentator who based his work on Erasmus’ Greek New Testament.

“The bifurcation of the Reformation Bible tradition and the post-19th century English Bibles is seen in the New Revised Standard Version render[ing of] Psalm 12:7, ‘You O Lord, will protect us; you will guard us from this generation forever.’ In a similar manner, the New International Version translates verse 7, ‘O Lord, you will keep us safe and protect us from such people forever.’ In spite of Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia reading ‘keep them’ and ‘preserve him,’ both the NRSV and NIV have elected not to translate the Hebrew and have, in its place, substituted a translation from the Greek and Latin rendering of these two pronouns. By so doing, the editors of these translations have endorsed one exegetical tradition, the Greek-Latin, to the exclusion of the other, the Hebraic, and by doing so have censured any further debate within the Hebrew exegetical tradition itself. ...

“This essay will show the diversity of the textual and exegetical tradition of Psalm 12:6-7 ... By so doing, the inadequacy of modern renditions of Psalm 12:7 will be exposed...

“Michael Ayguan (1340-1416) ... On Psalm 12:7 Ayguan comments, ‘Keep them: that is, not as the passage is generally taken, Keep or guard Thy people, but Thou shalt keep, or make good, Thy words: and by doing so, shalt preserve him--him, the needy, him, the poor--from this generation.’ ...

“Martin Luther’s German Bible ... Following the arrangement of this Psalm, Luther penned a hymn, two stanzas of which reflect his understanding of verse 6 and 7: ... *‘Thy truth thou wilt preserve, O Lord, from this vile generation...’* In poetic form, Luther grasps the significance of this verse both for the preservation of those who are oppressed and for the Word of God. The two-pronged significance of this interpretation to both people and God’s words in Luther’s Psalter was to have wide-ranging significance in the English Bible tradition.

“Calvin’s Commentary on the Psalms ... in the body of the commentary he writes, ‘Some give this exposition of the passage, Thou wilt keep them, namely, thy words; but this does not seem

to me to be suitable.’ [Thus while Calvin did not believe Psalm 12:7 referred to the Word of God, he admits that others did hold this view in his day.]

“Coverdale Bible, 1535 ... reads for [verse 7] of Psalm 12: ‘Keep them therefore (O Lord) and preserve us from this generation for ever.’ With the absence of ‘Thou shalt’ to begin verse 7, there is a direct connection between ‘words’ and ‘keep them.’ In the first clause, Coverdale intended the words to be kept; in the second clause people are in view...

“The Matthew Bible 1537. ... In Psalm 12:6-7 Rogers translated, “The words of the Lord are pure words as the silver, which from the earth is tried and purified vii times in the fire. Keep them therefore (O Lord) and preserve us from this generation for ever.” Following Coverdale, Rogers makes a clear connection in his translation between the words being the antecedent to “them.” ... The significance of Roger’s marginal note is that two of the greatest Hebrew scholars referred to by the Reformation writers differed on the interpretation of “them” in Psalms 12:7. [Thus we see that the interpretation of this verse was also divided among Jewish scholars.]

“The Third Part of the Bible, 1550. Taken from Becke’s text of 1549 this edition of the scriptures contains the Psalter, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and the Song of Songs. ... In verse 7 there is a note at ‘them’ which states, ‘some understand here certain men, some others word.’ Again, the translators and exegetes allowed breadth of interpretation of ‘them’ to include people and words.

“The Geneva Bible, 1560. ... The preface reads, “Then comforting himself and others with the assurance of God’s help, he commendeth the constant vigil that God observeth in keeping his promises.’ The text reads, ‘The words of the Lord are pure words, as the silver, tried in a furnace of earth, fined seven fold. Thou wilt keep them, O Lord: Thou wilt preserve him from this generation forever.’ [The margin reads, ‘Because the Lord’s word and promise is true and unchangeable, he will perform it and preserve the poor from this wicked generation.’ Thus the Geneva took a position that verse 7 applies *both* to the preservation of the Bible and of God’s people.]

“Annotations by Henry Ainsworth, 1626. Briggs commends Ainsworth as the ‘prince of Puritan commentators’ and that his commentary on the Psalms is a ‘monument of learning.’ ... Ainsworth states that ‘the sayings’ [of Psalm 12:7] are ‘words’ or ‘promises’ that are ‘tried’ or ‘examined’ ‘as in a fire.’ He cross references the reader to Psalm 18:31; 119:140; and Proverbs 30:5, each reference having to do with the purity of the word.

“Matthew Poole’s 1685 Commentary of the Psalms ... writes at verse seven, ‘Thou shalt keep them; either, 1. The poor and needy, ver. 5 ... Or, 2. Thy words or promises last mentioned, ver. 6.; ...

“In summary ... [t]he only sure conclusion is that there is no consensus within the English Bible tradition for the interpretation of “them” in Psalm 12:7 and it was precisely this lack of agreement within the tradition which was the genius of the

ambiguity of the King James Version’s rendering. ... by choosing a Greek-Latin basis the modern versions elect to overlook the Reformation’s Hebrew basis for translation in Psalm 12:6-7; and the churchly tradition in the new versions is censored by not including a translation that is broad enough to include both interpretations - oppressed people and God’s words” (Peter Van Kleeck, The Translational and Exegetical Rendering of Psalm 12:7 Primarily Considered in the Churchly Tradition of the 16th and 17th Centuries and Its Expression in the Reformation English Bibles: The Genius of Ambiguity, March 1993).

Others who have held the position that Psalm 12:7 is a promise of the preservation of God’s words (or both God’s people and God’s words) **are John Wesley, Adam Clarke, Joseph Benson, William MacDonald, Robert Alden (Everyman’s Bible Commentary), Stuart Briscoe (The Preacher’s Commentary), and Warren Wiersbe.**

Dr. Thomas Strouse states that the rule of gender discordance requires that the antecedent of “them” in v. 7 be the “words” of verse 6. “It is not uncommon, especially in the Psalter, for feminine plural noun synonyms for the ‘words’ of the Lord to be the antecedent for masculine plural pronouns/pronominal suffixes, which seem to ‘masculinize’ the verbal extension of the patriarchal God of the Old Testament” (Thomas Strouse, April 2001, Emmanuel Baptist Theological Seminary). Following are examples:

Psalm 119:111 -- the feminine “testimonies” is the antecedent for the masculine “they.”

Psalm 119:129 -- the feminine “testimonies” is the antecedent for the masculine “them.”

Psalm 119:152 -- the feminine “testimonies” is the antecedent for the masculine “them.”

Psalm 119:167 -- the feminine “testimonies” is the antecedent for the masculine “them.”

We conclude this study where we began. Even without the witness of Psalm 12:6-7, the promise of the preservation of God’s Word is a clear teaching of Scripture. See, for example, Psalm 100:5; 111:7-8; 119:89, 152, 160; Proverbs 30:5-6; Isaiah 40:8; 59:20-21; Matthew 5:18; 24:35; John. 10:35; & I Peter 1:23-25.



THE KING JAMES BIBLE AND OTHER VERSIONS: WHY DOES IT MATTER?

Preachers and teachers across the world will gladly say that the Scriptures are inspired by God - will hold their Bible high in the air and proclaim “this is God’s word!” But do they really believe that? Almost every “fundamental” statement of faith reads that God’s word is perfect and inspired in the original autographs.

But isn’t that a statement of unbelief? What good is God’s word if it only exists in manuscripts which no longer exist? Why

would God inspire Scripture just to let it wither to dust? Many modern scholars believe that the real ending of the Gospel of Mark has been lost and that we can not be certain how Mark concluded his Gospel. And yet these same scholars will boldly declare belief in God’s preservation of Scripture.

Search this matter out with a desire for the truth. For a few minutes, set aside any notions about “the message being there,” or “translating the thought of a passage,” or some idea about using one version for study and another for devotions. Think for a while about Christ’s words: **“Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God... Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away” (Mt 4:4; 24:35).**

God’s Word cannot be separated from God’s words. This matters.

BIBLE DOCTRINES AFFECTED BY THE MODERN VERSIONS

The battle for the Word of God is going on today as it always has. The work of the Evil One himself has ever been to cause men to doubt the Word (Gen. 3:1), to corrupt the Word (II Cor. 2:17), and to misquote the Word (Luke 4:10,11). There are many Modern Versions on the scene today all claiming to be more accurate or more readable renderings of the Word of God. Most of these versions follow the MINORITY Greek Text even though that text exhibits a corruption throughout. The King James Version was translated from the MAJORITY Greek Text which agrees with about 95% of all available manuscripts. The MAJORITY Greek Text can be traced back to the Peshitta (Syriac Version) about 150 A.D.

Many Christian Colleges and Universities have switched over to the MINORITY Greek Text (known as Westcott and Hort or Nestle and Aland) for the classroom while still using the King James Version in public preaching. Since there are over 5,000 differences between the MAJORITY and MINORITY texts a problem immediately faces the student. The King James Version he brings to the classroom is subjected to constant editing by the teacher who is using a Greek Text different from the one the King James Version was translated from. The student is well aware that God did not inspire two different Bibles. He must make a choice and for the sake of harmony or teacher satisfaction he will usually accept his King James Version minus the MINORITY Text corrections as the Word of God. Should there be an area where agreement cannot be reached, he is told to decide on the proper rendering by exercising his spiritual discernment. The schools that are following this double standard will admit that when the King James Version is no longer needed for Public Relations they will make the complete change to the New American Standard or the New International Version. These two are seen to follow the MINORITY Greek Text.

Those who want to replace our King James Version with new Modern Versions are constantly stating that no Bible Doctrines are affected by the changes. One school recently published an article by one of its’ teachers in which he said that, “BOTH

TEXTS ARE THE WORD OF GOD.” It is difficult to understand how two texts differing in over **5,000 places** can ***both*** be the Word of God. It only serves to show the absolute desperation on the part of the MINORITY Text champions to defend their indefensible position. The purpose of this volume is to show the changes made by the MINORITY text and how they affect the Bible Doctrines which Christians have always believed. Though I do not consider any change in the Word of God to be unimportant, I have singled out the most glaring examples. A careful reading will show that the Fundamental Doctrines of the Christian faith have been affected many times.

Are we to believe the scholars when they tell us that no important doctrines are affected by the new Modern Versions?

It is obvious that they are not correct. What they really mean to say is that when all the changes have been made the Bible Doctrines are still there somewhere else in the Bible. If there are ten verses showing the Virgin Birth of Christ, and they have removed two, there are still eight remaining to prove the doctrine. That may satisfy them, but the fundamental believer sees that as a piece by piece destruction of the Word of God.

We would accuse them of taking away from the Word of God.

They would accuse us of using a Bible which has many additions inserted by overzealous Christian copyists. The issue now becomes quite clear - we must either believe that overzealous heretics have corrupted the original Word of God or believe that overzealous believers have added to the original Word of God. I can understand why heretics would want to corrupt the original Word of God, but I cannot believe that Christians would add one word to the Word of God which they have been entrusted to copy and pass along. The Spirit of God within Christians would put a holy awe and reverence around the sacred word and guided by that same Spirit they would copy what God had given them. My conclusion is that the new Modern Versions are based on Greek manuscripts that have been corrupted by heretics who changed the Word of God to agree with their rejection of the Deity of Christ and their Humanism regarding salvation. The Greek Text underlying the King James Version is not filled with additions made by overzealous Christians. It is the Word of God preserved by the Spirit of God and it exalts the Lord Jesus Christ, giving him his proper place and the glory due unto his name.

THESE CHANGES LISTED IN THEIR PROPER ORDER IN MATTHEW’S GOSPEL ALONE: MATTHEW

1:25 ***“her firstborn”*** is omitted. That Jesus was her firstborn indicates that Mary and Joseph had sexual relations after the birth of Jesus and that others were born of her. The omission here seeks to add credence to the false doctrine of the Roman Catholic Church concerning the perpetual virginity of Mary. The Bible is clear that Jesus had brothers and sisters.

5:22 ***“without a cause”*** is removed. In the Sermon on the Mount the Lord warned of judgment for those who were angry with a brother without a cause. Should this change be accepted everyone who is angry with his brother may be judged. The effect is to bring Jesus into judgment for failing to observe his own words (see Mark 3:5). Such is contrary to the doctrine of the sinlessness of Christ.

6:4, 6, 18 ***“openly”*** is out. It is a Bible Doctrine that Christian work done unnoticed for the glory of the Lord will one day be rewarded openly (Col. 3:4).

6:13 ***“For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever, Amen”*** is deleted. This ascription of praise to “Our Father” is found in 491 out of 500 existing manuscripts.

8:29 ***“Jesus”*** is left out. The demons bore witness to the fact that Jesus was the Son of God. It was an identification of Jesus (in humanity) as the Son of God (in Deity). It affects the doctrine of the Person of Christ.

9:8 ***“marvelled”*** is changed to “were afraid.” There is no reason to believe that the people were afraid because Jesus healed the sick of the palsy. There is every reason for them to marvel at the miracle.

9:13 ***“to repentance”*** is left out. The Bible doctrine of repentance is one that men would like to do away with. God requires that in order to be saved one must truly repent (Acts 17:30; 2 Peter 3:9). The word means “a change of mind” and there must be that concerning God, sin and salvation. Men think that sin does not really separate them from God--they must change their mind about that. Men think that salvation is by works--they must change their mind about that. There is nothing more evident today than the absence of repentance among those who are professing to be converted.

15:8 ***“draweth nigh unto me with their mouth”*** is left out. According to Isaiah 29:13 it belongs in because Isaiah prophesied of these hypocrites exactly that way.

16:2-3 ***“When it is evening ... the signs of the times”*** is all omitted. The Pharisees and Sadducees came looking for a sign and the signs were all around them. Jesus called them hypocrites because they could not tell the signs of the times.

17:21 **Whole verse is left out.** Power with God is to be had by prayer and fasting. That is a fundamental truth of the Word of God.

18:2 ***“Jesus”*** is left out. This is done many times by the corrupt Greek Text of Westcott and Hort. I have not chosen to remark about each instance because it would add many pages to this work. The MAJORITY Text continuously places the word “Jesus” in the narrative with the definite article preceding it. Thus it places him in the center of things and in command. It is doctrinally unsound for such prominence to be discarded for the word “he.”

18:11 **The whole verse is omitted.** This verse tells us that man is lost, that he needs to be saved, and that the Son of man is the one who can do that. The doctrine of salvation through Jesus Christ is affected by this change.

18:15 ***“against thee”*** is omitted. This omission sets us up as watchdogs over others and if one sins we are to go and tell him. Such is not the teaching of Scripture. Were we to declare every sin we would be constantly busy (bodies) judging the actions and motives of everyone. This change is a very bad error.

18:35 ***“their trespasses”*** is omitted. Same thought as mentioned in 18:15.

19:9 ***“and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery”*** is removed. This is a very important doctrinal change which concerns divorce and remarriage. A man who divorces his wife and remarries commits adultery marries the divorced wife commits adultery.

19:16, 17 ***“Good”*** before Master is omitted. In addition to that, the phrase ***“Why callest thou me good?”*** is changed to ***“Why askest thou me concerning the good?”*** Good Master is correct and Jesus responded to show the young man that only one was good and that one was God. The conclusion should have been obvious. Since Jesus was good he was necessarily God. The omission and change destroys the intended testimony to the Deity of Christ.

20:16 ***“for many be called, but few chosen”*** is left out. The Lord would have us know that many are called to inherit eternal life, but few are chosen by virtue of believing in Christ. It is a Bible doctrine that God wants all men to be saved but few will come to Christ for salvation.

21:12 ***“of God”*** is out. Jesus, who was God in the flesh, came to his own temple and said, “My house shall be called the house of prayer.” It was the temple of God and the God of the temple was there.

22:30 ***“of God”*** is removed. There are good angels and fallen angels. The believers, in the resurrection, will be like the good angels “of God” who alone are in heaven.

23:8 ***“Master”*** is changed to “teacher.” There are many teachers but only one master. The change here takes away the pre-eminence that God intends for his Son.

25:13 ***“wherein the Son of man cometh”*** is omitted. The warning to watch is tied to the imminent return of the Lord. The omission here does away with the doctrine of the Lord’s second advent.

26:28 ***“new”*** is dropped before testament. The apostle Paul tells us that Jesus said, ***“this cup is the NEW testament in my blood.”*** The change here is intended to corrupt the Word of God and to confuse Christians.

27:35 ***“that it might be fulfilled ... did they cast lots”*** is all omitted. It is very important in Matthew’s gospel, where Jesus is portrayed as the King of Israel, to show that he is the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies. Here the parting of his garments and casting lots is the fulfillment of Psalm 22:18 which portrays the crucifixion of Christ. To omit this is to show the intended corruption of the Word of God by the textual critics.

28:6 ***“the Lord”*** is omitted. The very reverent angels said, “see the place where the Lord lay.” They would not say, “see the place where he lay.” The constant attempt to humanize Jesus and

take away from his Deity does not endear the Westcott and Hort Greek Text to believers.

SUFFICE TO SAY THAT IT DOES, INDEED, MATTER WHICH ENGLISH BIBLE VERSION YOU READ!

NEWS OF INTEREST TO CHRISTIANS

☛ ***ALCOHOL INTAKE IN ANY QUANTITY LINKED TO OVER 60 DISEASES*** - The following is excerpted from “Alcohol Intake,” Medical Daily, June 12, 2023:

“Heavy drinking is often associated with the development of several serious health conditions such as liver cirrhosis, hypertension, heart attacks and strokes. A recent study says alcohol intake in any quantity increases the risk of more than 60 diseases. Alcohol consumption is responsible for about three million deaths worldwide every year and contributes to 5.1% of the global burden of diseases and injuries. In the latest study published in Nature Medicine, researchers evaluated the causal relationship between alcohol intake and over 200 diseases in Chinese men. Data from the China Kadoorie Biobank (CKB) were used in the study, which included more than 512,000 adult participants. The health effects of their alcohol consumption over 12 years were analyzed using medical records. Researchers found that participants with self-reported alcohol intake were at an increased risk of developing 61 diseases. ... ‘Alcohol consumption is adversely related to a much wider range of diseases than has previously been established, and our findings show these associations are likely to be causal,’ Pek Kei Im, a research fellow at Oxford Population Health and a lead author of the paper, said in a news release.”

☛ ***PEOPLE ARE FLOCKING TO AN “AI JESUS” SEEKING COUNSEL, WISDOM AND DIRECTION FOR LIFE*** - A chatbot “version” of Jesus Christ called “Ask_Jesus” is streaming on the gaming platform Twitch - and it stands ready to answer questions from humans on anything from morality issues to the video game Fortnite to super-powered rodents according to Fox News.

Shown with wavy, brown hair and a beatific expression, accompanied by a calm, well-modulated voice, “AI Jesus” calls users on the platform by name — and appears to consider with care each question asked, as YouTube videos of livestreams reveal.

“I am AI Jesus, here to share wisdom based on Jesus’ teachings, and help answer questions related to spirituality, personal growth and other wholesome topics.” AI Jesus can be heard saying in a video recording of a recent livestream posted to YouTube by Fara Jakari.

On the same video, “AI Jesus” says, “It’s essential to focus on faith, love and kindness, as these are the core teachings of Christianity. Our understanding of the divine nature might not be perfect, but what crucial is to live according to the values that have been taught and set an example of love and compassion for others.”

AI Jesus answers streamers’ questions 24 hours a day, seven days a week - even questions like, “Jesus, when are you going to

get married?”

In this instance, the AI chatbot “recognized” the user who asked the question and answered, “I remember you expressing some frustrations about not having a girlfriend ...As an AI version of Jesus, I don’t have personal experiences like humans, so I won’t be getting married. However, I can understand your interest in romantic relationships, and I’m here to help you with any questions or advice you need.”

In a separate YouTube video of an AI Jesus livestream posted by the channel HansJackson, AI Jesus repeats questions, and then give answers, about hamsters - “Jesus, would a hamster with a dynamo on its wheel have a technological advantage over a hamster without a dynamo on its wheel?” AI Jesus asks, repeating a question a user has typed into the livestream chat.

The AI Jesus answers, “If we consider a hamster with a dynamo on its wheel as a means to generate energy, then it would have a technological advantage over a hamster without a dynamo on its wheel, as the first hamster would be able to contribute to some form of energy production.”

♣ **LGBT INDIVIDUALS OFTEN SWITCH TO STRAIGHT IDENTITY** - The following is excerpted from “LGBT Individuals,” Christian Headlines, June 12, 2023:

“New research in a Duke University academic journal confronts a controversial subject within the LGBT community and comes to an equally controversial conclusion: a significant portion of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender individuals switch to a ‘straight’ identity. The landmark research, published in the Duke University Press journal Demography, examined data from the United Kingdom Household Longitudinal Study, which involved interviews with 22,673 people who were interviewed in two waves: first in 2011–2013 and then in 2017–2019. A total of 8.6 percent of people who identified as gay and lesbian in the first wave changed their identity to heterosexual by the second wave (in other words, roughly six years later). The switch was even more dramatic within other LGBT categories. Among those who identified as bisexual, 44 percent changed their identity to heterosexual. And among those who identified as ‘other’ --a category that includes transgender individuals--a total of 69.6 percent changed to heterosexual. ... Only 3.3 percent of those who identified as heterosexual in the first wave changed to a different identity. ... Researcher and demographer Lyman Stone, who was not involved in the study, said the data ‘pretty much obliterates the notion of immutable sexual identity.’ It also, he said, ‘points to the difficulty in measuring and studying sexual identity. It’s fairly stable for heterosexuals, but extremely unstable for non-heterosexuals,’ Stone said.”

♣ **BRITAIN BANS PUBERTY BLOCKERS ON CHILDREN** - The following is excerpted from “Seismic,” Christian Headlines, June 12, 2023:

“The United Kingdom will no longer ‘routinely’ give puberty blockers to children under a decision by the nation’s National Health Services that will limit such drugs to minors within clinical trials. The decision could have implications around the

world, including in the United States. NHS’ goal is to study the long-term impacts of the drugs on children who identify as transgender. ... The NHS said there is ‘not enough evidence to support their safety or clinical effectiveness as a routinely available treatment.’

... Psychiatrist David Bell, who previously worked for an NHS clinic, Tavistock, applauded the decision. ‘All the evidence shows that puberty blockers don’t help, and there is clear evidence of physical and psychological harm caused by them, so this change is in line with the evidence we have,’ Bell told The Telegraph newspaper. ‘A very large percentage of children being treated for gender dysphoria have other problems such as autism and depression, and many are upset or confused about their sexuality.’ James Esses, co-founder of Thoughtful Therapists, said the decision by the NHS is monumental. ‘The fact that the NHS is holding firm on their intention to prevent the use of puberty blockers outside of the context of clinical trials is seismic,’ Esses told The Telegraph. ‘This will hopefully bring an end to vulnerable children being placed down a pathway to irreversible harm.’”

♣ **IMPORTANT MARKETPLACE FREEDOM OF RELIGION/SPEECH CASE IN ENGLAND** - The following is excerpted from “Christian teaching assistant,” Premier Christian News, June 17, 2023:

“Christian teaching assistant Kristie Higgs who was sacked after sharing two Facebook posts that raised concerns about how transgenderism and compulsory sex education was to be taught at her son’s Church of England (CofE) primary school, has won her appeal. A previous ruling in October 2020 at Bristol Employment Tribunal had upheld her sacking. However, in this latest judgement, the President of the Employment Appeal Tribunal, Dame Jennifer Eady, allowed Mrs Higgs’s appeal, saying: ‘The freedom to manifest belief (religious or otherwise) and to express views relating to that belief are essential rights in any democracy, whether or not the belief in question is popular or mainstream and even if its expression may offend.’ The ruling sets a legal precedent which confirms that the Equality Act 2010 protects employees from discrimination not only for their beliefs, but also for expression or manifestation of their beliefs. ... The Christian Legal Centre which has been supporting Mrs Higgs, says this precedent is expected to protect Christians who are disciplined or dismissed by their employers for manifesting their faith by sharing their beliefs in conversations or on social media, as well as by praying and wearing crosses, for example.

... Responding to yesterday’s ruling, Mrs Higgs said: ‘From the beginning, despite the many attempts by the school to suggest otherwise, this has always been about my Christian beliefs and me being discriminated against for expressing them in my own time. ... Christian parents must have the freedom to bring their children up in line with their Christian beliefs. I want young children to be protected from transgender ideology and Christians must also be able to share their opinions and beliefs without fear of losing their jobs.’” ■

NOT QUITE HOW IT HAPPENED...

On the way home from church dad asked his ten-year-old son what he learned in Sunday School. His son replied they had learned about General Moses and General Pharaoh and the escape from Egypt.

Dad said, “tell me that stories.”

His son replied, “General Moses was leading the Jewish army out of Egypt and General Pharaoh and his army was in hot pursuit when General Moses and his army came to the Red Sea. General Moses sent his engineers to build a pontoon bridge across the sea and his army marched across. Pharaoh’s army was going to do the same and General Moses sent his demolition men to wire the bridge with explosives and when the last Jew was across the bridge Moses blew the bridge and all of Pharaoh’s solders died in the sea.”

The dad was shocked and asked, “is that the way your teacher told that story?” His son replied, “No, dad, but you would not believe it the way she told it!”

DO YOU REMEMBER?

There is a story about a father who became disturbed about the length of time his six year old son was taking to get home from school. The father decided he would make the trip to discover for himself how long it should take a small boy to cover the distance.

The father settled on 20 minutes, but his son was still taking an hour. Finally, the father decided to make the trip with his son. After the trip, the man said, “The 20 minutes I thought reasonable was right, but I failed to consider such important things as a side trip to track down a trail of ants -- or an educational stop to watch a man fix a flat -- or the time it took to swing around a half dozen telephone poles -- or how much time it took for a boy just to get acquainted with two stray dogs and a brown cat. “In short,” said the father, “I had forgotten what it is really like to be six years old.”

NOT TELLIN!

A census taker knocked on a lady’s door. She answered all his questions except one: she refused to tell him her age. “But everyone tells their age to the census taker,” he said.

“Did Miss Maisy Hill and Miss Daisy Hill tell you their ages?” she asked.

“Certainly,” he replied.

“Well, I’m the same age as they are,” she snapped.

The census taker simply wrote on the form, “As old as the Hills.”

SHOOT THE MESSENGER!

Many years ago, while on a visit to America, a wealthy Chinese businessman was fascinated by a powerful microscope. Looking through its lens to study crystals and the petals of flowers, he was amazed at their beauty and detail. So, he decided to purchase one of these devices and take it back to China.

He thoroughly enjoyed using it until one day he examined

some rice he was planning to eat for dinner.

Much to his dismay, he discovered that tiny living creatures were crawling in it. Since he was especially fond of this staple food in his daily diet, he wondered what to do. Finally he concluded that there was only one way out of his dilemma -- he would destroy the instrument that caused him to discover the distasteful fact!

So, he smashed the microscope to pieces.

“How foolish!” you say. But - many people do the same thing with the Word of God: They hate it and would like to get rid of it because it reveals their evil nature.

OOPS...

A man who was installing carpet decided to take a smoke break after completing the first of several rooms he had to do.

Finding his cigarettes missing from his pocket, he began searching, only to notice a small lump in his recently completed carpet installation.

Not wanting to rip up all that work for a lousy pack of smokes, he walked over to the lump and pounded it flat.

The man decided to forgo the break and continues on to the next room requiring carpet.

At the end of the day, the man had completed his work and was out on the driveway loading his tools into the back of his truck when he saw his pack of cigarettes on the floor.

About that time, the young lad who lived in the house returned home to admire the new carpet.

The lad headed back inside the house, got to the door and then called out to the carpet installer,

“Before you go, have you seen my mouse? He seems to have escaped from his cage again.”

