

The Good Tidings

“...I must preach the good tidings of the kingdom of God...” (Luke 4:43)

Vol. 1, No. 6/7 - Feb./March 2005

THE GOSPEL IS THE POWER
OF GOD UNTO SALVATION

(Romans 1:16)

An e-journal of New Testament Christianity published in portable document format and sent free to interested individuals via email. Its primary purpose and goal in publication is to “preach the gospel to the whole creation” (Mark 16:16). Subscribers are encouraged to assist us in this effort by forwarding *The Good Tidings* to all their email contacts and by printing out copies for folks who do not have access to email. Send articles and subscription requests to the Editor.

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What Must I Do To Be Saved?

Hear the Word of God

John 8:45; Romans 10:17

Believe in Jesus Christ

John 3:16; 8:24

Repent of your sins

Luke 13:3, 5; II Peter 3:9

Confess Jesus is the Christ

Romans 10:9, 10; Acts 8:37

Be baptized for the remission of
your sins

Acts 2:38; 22:16

Live faithfully everyday

Matthew 10:22

Are We Disrespectful to God’s Word if We Don’t Attempt to Keep the Ten Commandments?

by Garland M. Robinson

No, not at all. As a matter of fact, people are disrespectful to God’s Word when they DO attempt to keep the ten commandments. There are two major reasons why they are not to be kept today.

The ten commandments were only given to the Israelites and their descendants. It was not given to their ancestors nor to the Gentiles (that includes all who are not descendants of the Israelites today). Deuteronomy 5:1-3 says, “And Moses called **all Israel**, and said unto them, Hear, O Israel, the statutes and judgments which I speak in your ears this day, that ye may learn them, and keep, and do them. The LORD our God made a covenant **with us** in Horeb. The LORD **made not this covenant with our fathers, but with us, even us, who are all of us here alive this day.**”

The ten commandments were done away when Jesus was crucified on the cross. They were nullified, abolished, revoked and a new law was given, the last will and testament of Jesus the Lord and Savior. “Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and **took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross**” (Colossians 2:14). “In that he saith, A new covenant, he hath **made the first old**. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away” (Hebrews 8:13). “Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. **He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second**. By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all” (Hebrews 10:9-10). When people today seek to keep the ten commandments, they fall from grace. “Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace” (Galatians 5:4).

None of the Old Testament Law was brought over into the New. All ten commandments were done away at the cross. Jesus gave a new law, the New Testament. All men on the face of the earth are amenable (responsible) to keep the new law. The new law will **judge all men who have lived since the cross** (John 12:48).

Friend, are you living in accordance to the Lord's new law? Jesus commanded faithful obedience in order to be saved. **Belief** (John 8:24), **repentance** (Luke 13:3,5), **confession of Christ** (Matthew 10:32) and **water baptism** (Mark 16:16) are the Lord's new requirements. Have you obeyed? Are you living right?

“The Works Of The Flesh” (Galatians 5:19-21)

by John M. Grubb

Paul tells us Jesus did not give us freedom from sin just to go out and commit more sin (Galatians 5:13,16,17,24,25; Romans 6:1,2). In our text, Paul says, “The works of the flesh are manifest.” This means “open to sight, visible.” It is the opposite of hidden. Paul’s conclusion in this passage: those who continue in the works of the flesh will not go to heaven!

SINS OF IMPURITY

1. Adultery and Fornication. These two terms cover all unlawful sexual relations. Jesus tells us this is the only scriptural reason for divorce and remarriage (Matthew 19:9).

2. Uncleaness. Other definitions are: “immoral, lustful, impure, indecent” (Ephesians 4:19; Romans 1:24; 2 Corinthians 12:21).

3. Lasciviousness. This sin includes the lack of self-control, sexual excess, no shame. This is something we stop doing when we become Christians (Romans 13:13; 1 Peter 4:3,4).

SINS AGAINST TRUE WORSHIP

1. Idolatry. Idolatry is placing anyone or anything before our devotion to God. It is also the worship of any image that represents false gods (Matthew 4:10; Revelation 19:10; Colossians 3:5).

2. Witchcraft. The Bible condemns this practice (Deut. 18:9-12; Ex. 22:18; Acts 8:9-24; Acts 19:19).

SINS AGAINST LOVE

1. Hatred. This includes private hatred, family feuds, and deep-seated ill-will. Hatred is a poison that will destroy the hater.

2. Variance. This is hate at work (1 Cor. 3:1-3).

3. Emulations. This means jealousy. It is a “work of

the flesh” to feel resentful toward another for something they have.

4. Wrath. Cain was angry and killed his brother Abel (Gen. 4:5-8). Moses was angry and struck the rock (Num. 20:10,11). The Christian life does not include this attitude (Col. 3:8; Eph. 4:31; James 1:19,20).

5. Strife. This causes division among brethren (Philippians 2:3; Galatians 5:15; James 3:16).

6. Seditions and Heresies. Strife and seditions war against unity (John 17:20-22; 1 Corinthians 1:10-13; Ephesians 4:3).

7. Envyings and Murders. “Love envieth not” (1 Corinthians 13:4). Cain’s envy led to murder. Joseph’s brothers’ envy caused them to sell him into slavery (Gen.37:4,5,20-27). The envy of the Jewish leaders of Jesus’ day caused them to crucify Him.

SINS AGAINST SELF-CONTROL

1. Drunkenness. The Bible condemns any use of alcoholic beverages (Prov. 20:1; 23:29-35).

2. Revellings. This includes drinking parties, orgies, and dancing which causes lust (1 Peter 4:3,4).

3. And such like. Anything Paul misses in his list is covered in this phrase. “They which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.”

CONCLUSION

God wants us to be saved (1 Timothy 2:4; 2 Peter 3:9). We can resist temptations through God’s word (Matthew 4:1-11). Let’s determine to put aside the works of the flesh and produce the “fruit of the Spirit” (Galatians 5:22,23).

Christ is Lord of All

by Joe W. Nichols

We may speak of the Christ as Lord, and even call Him our Lord; but, **when is He truly our Lord?** The word **Lord** designates “one having power and authority over another.” Jesus said to His disciples, “Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am” (John 13:13). As evidenced, Jesus’ disciples had concluded Jesus to be the Christ and submitted themselves to Him. Someone has said that Jesus’ lordship over us must be that, **“He is Lord of all, or Lord of nothing!”**

Our life was **not meant** to be fragmented into family, job, recreation and religion. Some, perhaps, would have the Christ to be **Lord ONLY of their religion**. What they do as a family, in business and in recreation remains their business. However, as the Bible teaches, God is to be God of all aspects of our life (Isaiah 1:2-17). He desires our heart at all times (Luke 10:27).

Religion is **not to be just tacked on to life**, but is **to be our life**. Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life” (John 14:6). Life does not fragment into family, business, recreation and religion. **Religion is our life and it governs ALL of our activities**. It is the governing source behind everything we do. Our business is that of being a Christian and we work to support it! Our homes are to be Christian homes and our businesses are to be run by Christian principles and when we are involved in recreation, we are to always be presenting ourselves in Christian character. Solomon says, “Fear God and keep his commandments, **for this is the whole duty of man**” (Eccl. 12:13). John tells us, “In Him **was life**; and **the life** was the **light of men**” (John 1:4). That **light** presented by the Christ is knowledge of **how to live a successful life pleasing to God**.

Christianity **must be seen as our Life**. How else can we “present our bodies a living sacrifice” (Rom. 12:1-2). Most assuredly we **cannot please God with scraps of our life** (Mal. 1:6-14). Some might think that everything given by God can be used according to one’s own discretion; but not so! Everything belongs to God as emphasized in the Sabbatical and Jubilee years of the Jewish rituals

(Lev. 25). Our job or business, car, home, clothes, money, etc., should be dedicated to God and His purposes. Paul exhorts us, “As therefore ye received Christ Jesus, **walk in Him...** for in Him ye are made full” (Col. 2:6, 10). He further exhorts, “Set your mind **on things that are above**, not on things that are upon the earth...put off the old man with his doings...put on the new man, that is being renewed unto knowledge **after the image of Him** that created Him” (Col. 3:2,5,9-10).

Jesus entered the world with one mind and one purpose which regulated Him in everything that He did. He stated, “for I am come down from heaven, **not to do mine own will, but the will of Him that sent me**” -- God’s will WAS HIS LIFE (John 6:38)! Consequently, if we are **after the image of the Christ and He is our Lord**, we will make Him the Lord of **all of our life -- THE GOVERNOR OF EVERYTHING WE DO!**

NEW FEATURE – KNOW YOUR BIBLE CAMPAIGN!

In order to encourage greater interest in the Scriptures, beginning this month, a Bible Home Study Course will fill the last four pages of *The Good Tidings*. This course is entitled *Studies in the Bible* by Monroe Hawley. This course is:

- **Completely Udenominational**
- **Based Directly on the Bible.**

The answers to each lesson’s questions will be listed in the following month’s issue of *The Good Tidings*. However, always feel free to contact the Editor with questions or comments.

Get started on your journey to greater Bible knowledge!

Which Shoe Fits You?

Author Unknown

We all are familiar with the saying “if the shoe fits...” We know that it is a statement that points a sometimes uncomfortable truth toward someone or even ourselves. Some of the shoes below may pinch and hurt somewhat, but only we can take the steps to change what shoes we are wearing. Which shoe fits you?

Loafer -- This person wants to get by with as little work for the Lord as possible. He wants to do just enough to miss hell and barely get into heaven. In Matthew 25:26 the one-talent man was called “wicked and slothful.” In verse 30 Jesus says, “cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness.” This punishment was not pronounced upon the man because he only had one talent, but because he did not use the one talent he had.

Slipper -- This person slips into worship services at the very last minute and then slips out as soon as possible. He wants quick and easy services. He doesn’t want to give any more of himself than is absolutely necessary. He wants to just slip by in this life, and then slip into heaven.

Flip Flop -- This person is faithful for a few days and then is quickly unfaithful. His life is a pattern of faithfulness then unfaithfulness to the Lord. He is not happy in the world, neither is he happy in the church. The Lord addresses this attitude of the Laodiceans in Revelation 3:15. “So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.”

High Heel -- This shoe fits the haughty, proud individual. This person simply feels he is better than others because of position, money, influence, etc. The Bible warns against such attitudes. We are told in Romans 12:3 that a man ought “... not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think.” Psalm 101:5 warns, “... him that hath a high look and a proud heart will not I suffer.”

Overshoes -- Just as a person puts on overshoes when the weather is nasty, this person puts on Christianity when life becomes rough. I have visited unfaithful Christians in the hospital who tell me that when they are better, they are “going to church.” Often they will for a while, but

they soon forget about their resolution to God. They are like Rehoboam. We are told regarding him in 2 Chronicles 12:1, “And it came to pass, when Rehoboam had established the kingdom, and had strengthened himself, he forsook the law of the Lord, and all Israel with him.”

House Shoe -- This type person wants easy and comfortable living. He is scared off by anything that requires effort and faith. He is afraid to begin programs that might require additional giving of time and money. He is happy with the size and strength of the local congregation. He is comfortable with the status quo. We are told in Amos 6:1, “Woe to them that are at ease in Zion.”

Sunday Shoes -- This person concentrates their Christianity around the first day of the week. Granted, we are to worship and meet together on the first day of the week, but we are to practice Christianity around the clock. Christianity is not a special pair of “Sunday Shoes” that we slip on when we want to “dress up” our actions and then slip off when we want to return back to our nonSunday way of life. Christianity must be daily. Jesus said in Luke 9:23, “if any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.”

Work Shoes -- This is the type of shoe we all must wear. We all must be willing to work. No matter what our number of talents, we are expected to do what we can.

One of the above shoes probably describes each one of us. If we are not wearing work shoes, let’s take off the other shoes and put on shoes fit for working in the kingdom.

THE OPTIMISM OF CHILDREN

On his way home from work one day, a man stopped to watch a Little League game. The man sat down behind the bench on the first base line and asked one of the boys what the score was. “We’re behind 14 to nothing,” he answered with a smile. “Really,” the man said. “I have to say you don’t look very discouraged.” “Discouraged?” the boy asked with a puzzled look on his face. “Why should we be discouraged? We haven’t been up to bat yet.” **Read Phil. 4:13.**

Was Peter the First Pope?

by Kevin Cauley via www.the-churchofchrist.com

With all of the recent news regarding the Catholic Church many have heard stated as fact by news media and others that Peter was the first pope. This is, of course, official Catholic doctrine. But what does the Bible say about Peter's popehood? Is there one scripture that plainly declares that Peter was the first pope? There's not one. In fact, the evidence in scripture is against Peter being the first pope. Let's take a look at a few things in this regard.

Those who claim that Peter was the first pope state that Matthew 16:18 proves that Peter was given this title by Jesus himself. What does this verse say, "And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." These [Catholics] say that Peter is the rock upon which Jesus was going to build his church. However, the rest of scripture state otherwise. Jesus said that He was the rock in Matthew 21:42, when he said, "The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes." To this, Peter himself agreed! Peter wrote in 1 Peter 2:6, "Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded." Who is the chief corner stone? Peter or Jesus? It is Jesus. Inspired by the same Holy Spirit as Matthew, Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 3:11 "For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ." The scriptures teach that Jesus was and is the foundation of the church, not Peter. Who then was the "rock" in Matthew 21:42? It was Jesus himself. It was upon the rock of Peter's confession upon which Jesus would build His church, not upon Peter himself.

There are, however, other inconsistencies with the claim that Peter was the first pope. Peter, unlike the popes of our day, had a mother-in-law according to Matthew 8:14, Mark 1:30 and Luke 4:38. This meant that Peter (Cephas) was married. In 1 Corinthians 9:5, Paul calls our attention to this fact when he says, "Have we not power to lead about a sister, a wife, as well as other apostles, and

as the brethren of the Lord, and Cephas?" This is entirely inconsistent with what the Catholic Church requires in a "pope" today. The Catholic Encyclopedia states, "Virginity is consequently the special prerogative of the Christian priesthood." By and large, one must come up through the ranks of Catholic priesthood in order to become the pope. This would require celibacy for the pope. Too bad Peter didn't know this.

Another inconsistency is that Peter didn't allow anyone to bow down before him and worship him as those who fawn over the pope do today. In Acts 10:25,26 we have these words regarding Cornelius, "And when it came to pass that Peter entered, Cornelius met him, and fell down at his feet, and worshipped him. But Peter raised him up, saying, Stand up; I myself also am a man." The word "worship" in this verse refers as much to a position as to an attitude. It means to bow the knee toward or kiss toward another. The action of Cornelius' bowing down to Peter was understood as an action of worship. Unlike the popes of modern day who accept such worship, Peter refused it. He told this man to stand up because he, Peter, was also a man. Strange behavior indeed, from a pope! Why don't the popes of today follow Peter's example in this regard, if he TRULY was the first pope. Hypocrisy comes to mind as at least one of the reasons. Another reason is simply that Peter wasn't the first pope.

Perhaps the clincher is the situation in which Peter found himself at the church in Antioch. He had traveled there to visit and have fellowship with the brethren, but when his fellow Jews arrived, Peter stopped engaging in that fellowship and refused to eat with them. Paul called Peter down on this point. He states in Galatians 2:11 "But when Cephas came to Antioch, I resisted him to the face, because he stood condemned." This is strange behavior toward someone who was the first pope. Didn't Paul know about Peter's elevated status? Didn't Paul know that the pope is beyond reproach? Didn't Paul know that the pope makes the doctrine of the church? Who among the Catholics today would so act toward the pope if he were found to be in sin? Not any of them would so act. Yet, Paul

treats Peter not as if he were someone special, but as if he were merely a brother who needed correction.

The fact of such matters is that Peter was never the first pope. Peter was not so elevated above the other apostles as to have a greater measure of authority than any of the others. Peter was a leader, of that there is no doubt. Peter was also a shepherd, but acknowledged that there were others who were on equal footing with him in this role (1 Peter 5:1). The Catholic Church would have us believe that Peter was the chief Shepherd of the whole church. They say, "The title pope, once used with far greater latitude... is at present employed solely to denote the Bishop of Rome, who, in virtue of his position as successor of St. Peter, is the chief pastor of the whole Church, the Vicar of Christ upon earth" (The Pope). They also state regarding John 21:15-17, "...here [Jesus] makes [Peter] the shepherd of God's flock to take the place of Himself, the Good Shepherd." But to Peter, there was but ONE Chief Shepherd and that was Jesus himself. He makes this abundantly clear in 1 Peter 5:4 where Peter says, "And when the chief Shepherd shall be manifested, ye shall receive the crown of glory that fadeth not away." Again, the Catholic Church would do well to listen to their "first pope." Yet, sadly, they do not.

The scriptures plainly teach that Peter held no such role of prominence for which the Catholic Church argues. They argue this not based upon the facts of the scriptures, but merely upon their own traditions. And the traditions of men never outweigh the word of God (Mark 7:13). In fact, traditions have no authority whatsoever when it comes to doctrinal matters (Mark 7:13). Only the scriptures can provide the man of God with everything that he needs for every good work (2 Timothy 3:16,17). Our plea is for unity, not based upon the traditions of men, but upon the authority of the word of God. If we take that as the standard, then we will avoid such folly as attempting to twist the scriptures into confirming Peter as the first pope.

Mary, The Mediatrix?

by Mike Riley - www.preachersfiles.com

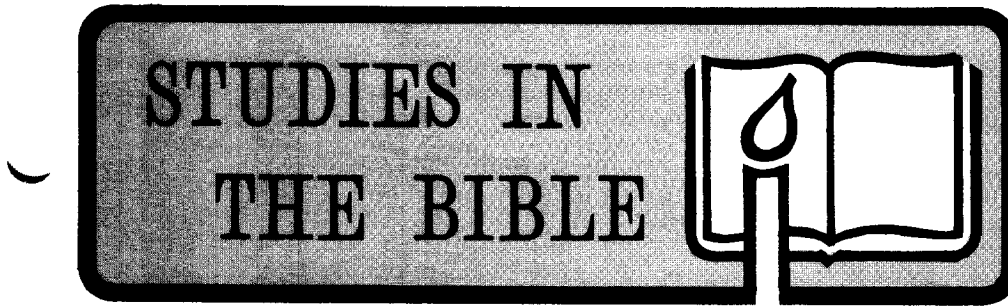
Catholicism teaches, referring to Mary, "To thee we lift our prayers, for thou art the Mediatrix,

powerful at once and pitiful, of our salvation" (cf. Catholic Encyclopedia). Such an affirmation exalts Mary to the same plateau as Jesus, for they call her "The Mother of God" (cf. Catholic Encyclopedia). Their attempts to deify Mary contradicts clear Bible teaching. Praying to Mary in the role of mediator between man and Christ contradicts other biblical passages (cf. Heb. 9:15; Heb. 12:24). Jesus taught that we are to pray to the Father through Him (John 14:13-14). Furthermore, our salvation is by the authority of Jesus, not Mary (Matt. 1:21; Matt. 28:18; Acts 4:10-12; Acts 10:43).

If Mary is a "mediatrix" (female mediator) and is to be worshiped as "the Mother of God," Catholics must affirm the "perpetual virginity" of Mary. This position contradicts Matthew 13:55,56, which states that Jesus had both brethren and sisters. Notice also Matthew 1:24,25, "Joseph...took unto him his wife; and knew her not till she had brought forth her first-born son." After Jesus was born, Joseph knew (had a sexual relationship with) Mary, his wife; hence, the idea of "perpetual virginity" is a fabrication of Catholicism. Claiming Mary as a "mediatrix" also contradicts 1 Timothy 2:5, "For there is one God, and one mediator between God and man, the man Christ Jesus." Paul here affirms there is "one God" and "one mediator." Logically, if there can be more than one mediator, then there can also be more than one God.

Worship phrases pertaining to Mary such as "Holy Mother of God" (cf. Catholic Encyclopedia), "Most Pure Heart Of Mary" (cf. Catholic Encyclopedia), etc., exalt and deify the created rather than The Creator (see Romans 1:25). Expressions of exaltation belong to God, The Creator, not to the woman who was a part of creation (Gen. 1:17; Gen. 5:2).

There is but one Savior (John 4:42; 1 John 4:14); one Mediator (1 Tim. 2:5); one Lord (Eph. 4:5); and one Advocate (1 John 2:1) – Jesus Christ, "the Son of the living God" (Matt. 16:16; John 6:69). He shares His place with no one. And, to attempt to give his place, in any form, to a human is blasphemy. The real question is, do you accept the inspired Scriptures as authoritative (cf. Gal. 1:11-12; Eph. 3:1-3; 2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Pet. 1:20-21) or the false teachings of the Catholic Church?



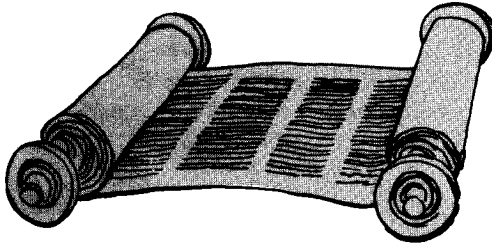
How We Got Our Bible

Lesson 1

You are about to begin a study of the world's most wonderful book. It has often been called "the book" and rightly so for it is in a class by itself. "Bible" means "book." Actually, it is a compilation of 66 books written by about 40 different authors scattered across many countries during a period of 1600 years. The story of how this remarkable book came into being with each part fitting perfectly into the others and with no real contradictions is most interesting. We must conclude it could have come only from God.

How The Bible Was Written

The Bible is divided into two great divisions known as the Old Testament and the New Testament. The Old Testament is over three times as long as the New Testament and its writing was completed about 400 years before the birth of Christ. Originally the biblical books were hand written on animal skins (parchment) or on paper made from the papyrus plant. Printing was not yet invented, so every copy of an original had to be made by hand. Therefore, copies were rare and extremely valuable.



The 39 Old Testament books were written in Hebrew, except for small portions in the Aramaic language. The first five were written by Moses about 1500 years B.C. (before Christ.) During the next thousand years the remaining books were penned, and it appears that Ezra, the scribe, brought them all together into a single book (Nehemiah 8:5) about 400 B.C. In the third century before Christ the first great translation of the Old Testament from Hebrew to Greek was made at Alexandria, Egypt. It was called the **Septuagint** (meaning seventy) because it was supposedly translated by seventy scholars. Christ often quoted this version or a Hebrew text similar to it.

The 27 New Testament books were written in Greek by eight men, several of them apostles of Christ, in the first century A.D. (since Christ.) The New Testament covers events occurring in that century, including the life of Christ and the establishment of his church. As is true of the Old Testament, all original copies have been lost or destroyed, and yet we have writings substantially as they were penned. Many copies have been preserved and are available for scholars to use in translating into other languages. The three most important are the Vatican Manuscript at the Vatican in Rome, written in the fourth century; the Alexandrian Manuscript in the British Museum in London, written in the fifth century; and the Sinaitic Manuscript, also in the

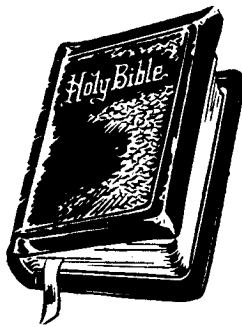
* Scripture quotations from the King James Version

British Museum, written in the fourth century. In addition there are hundreds of other copies of lesser importance which are of value to translators in making sure that we have the original New Testament writings.

The **Dead Sea Scrolls**, the first of which were discovered in 1947 in a cave near the Dead Sea and which date from the first or second century before Christ, have helped in recent translations of the Old Testament. They have also substantiated the accuracy of the manuscripts from which earlier translations were made so that we may be even more confident that we have the real message of the Old Testament writers.

There are two additional sources of information about the original New Testament books. One is the translations made soon after the New Testament was written. The most important, written in Latin, is called the **Vulgate** and was completed by Jerome in 405 A.D. We also have numerous Bible quotations from the writings of the early church fathers. By comparing the Greek manuscripts, the early translations, and the quotations of the church fathers, Bible scholars have been able to determine with great accuracy what the New Testament authors wrote. In fact, so sure are we that we have the Bible almost as it was given that we can positively say that no major Bible doctrine is in any way affected by minor errors of copying through the centuries.

The Bible In English



The first major English translation of the New Testament was completed by John Wyclif in 1382 after 22 years of hard work. In 1456 printing was invented by Johanne Gutenberg, making it possible to publish Bibles much faster and virtually eliminating typographical errors so common in hand copies. In fact, the first book printed by Gutenberg was a Latin Bible. The first printed English Bible was the New Testament as translated by **William Tyndale** in 1525. He was strongly opposed in this by the Catholic Church and he found it necessary to have his Bibles printed on the continent and smuggled into England. Most were publicly burned in London. He was betrayed, and burned at the stake for giving the Bible to the people. His final words were, "Lord, open the King of England's eyes."

The first complete English Bible was the work of **Miles Coverdale**. Other versions soon followed and by 1604 the King of England's eyes were opened. He authorized the translation of a new version, the work of 54 scholars. It was completed in 1611 and is known as the **King James Version** after the monarch who authorized it. Although it was translated over 350 years ago, it is still one of the most widely used English versions. In 1982 the **New King James** revision was published. It follows the same basic text as the King James, but updates much of the archaic speech to make it more readable.

The discovery of additional Bible manuscripts not available to King James translators and the inevitable change of the English language prompted the publication of other versions that would be more readable and accurate. An 1885 revision of the King James by 84 British and American scholars was called the **English Revised Version**, and was followed in 1901 by an American edition called the **American Standard**, a highly literal rendering of the scriptures. Other revisions of the King James and American Standard followed: the **Revised Standard Version** in 1952 and the **New American Standard** in 1970. These translations were intended to combine the finer characteristics of their predecessors with improved readability and increased accuracy based on recent manuscript findings.

The **New International Version** (1978) is comparable in its approach to translation with the Revised Standard and New American Standard, but unlike these is a completely new translation rather than a revision of its predecessors. The **New English Bible** and the **Good News Bible** (or **Today's English Version**) are typical of recent free translations that are less literal and concentrate on capturing the sense of the original. The **Living Bible** of Kenneth Taylor is a paraphrase rather than a translation and reworks the original in an effort to capture the intent of the original writers. The Roman Catholic Church has produced its own translations. The **Rheims-Douai Bible** appeared in 1582. It has been replaced by the **New American Bible** of 1970. Catholic versions include the same books found in other versions (sometimes under a different name) plus fourteen more in the Old Testament usually called the Apocrypha. This word means "hidden" and is applied to these books because of their doubtful origin. They are found only in the Greek, not the Hebrew canon of the Old Testament, and have been rejected by the Jews and most non-Catholics as not belonging in the Old Testament. However, their exclusion from the Old Testament does not materially affect any Bible doctrine.

The Bible Is God's Word

The Bible claims to be inspired. Peter said, "Holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." (II Peter 1:21.) The Holy Spirit (Holy Ghost) so guided the writers of the Bible that they could not make mistakes. "Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth." (I Cor. 2:13.) Because of this there are no real contradictions in the Bible. Those things which appear to be contradictions disappear under close investigation.

That the Bible is true may be shown by several of its characteristics. It is **scientifically accurate**, even though it is not a book of science. It is **historically accurate**. Every attempt to prove it historically wrong has failed. It is **prophetically correct** as is seen in many prophecies which have been fulfilled beyond question. It is **impartial**, presenting both good and bad of all men, not trying to gloss over the sins of any man who might be "a man after God's own heart." It presents the world's **highest standard of morality**. Finally, **it has never been destroyed** in spite of dozens of attempts to exterminate it.

"Seek and Ye Shall Find"

Circle the letter representing the correct answer:

- a b c 1. The number of books in the Bible: (a) 27; (b) 39; (c) 66.
- a b c 2. About how many men wrote the Bible: (a) 8; (b) 40; (c) 70.
- a b c 3. Bible means: (a) book; (b) version; (c) manuscript.
- a b c 4. The Old Testament was written in: (a) Greek; (b) English; (c) Hebrew.
- a b c 5. The New Testament was written in: (a) Hebrew; (b) Greek; (c) Latin.
- a b c 6. The first great Old Testament translation was: (a) Septuagint; (b) Vulgate; (c) King James.
- a b c 7. The Sinaitic Manuscript is at: (a) British Museum; (b) Alexandria; (c) Vatican.
- a b c 8. First major English translation: (a) King James; (b) Gutenberg; (c) Wyclif's.
- a b c 9. The King James Version appeared in: (a) 1952; (b) 1611; (c) 1382.
- a b c 10. Apocrypha means: (a) book; (b) hidden; (c) parchment.

Complete the scripture quotations:

1. Neh. 8:5 — “And..... opened the book in the sight of all the; (for he was above all the people;) and when he it, all the people stood up.”
2. II Peter 1:21 — “Holy men of spake as they were moved by theGhost.”
3. I Cor. 2:13 — “Which things also we speak, not in the which man’s..... teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth.”
4. II Tim. 3:16 — “All is given by of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for, for, for instruction in righteousness.”

Fill in the blanks:

1. The three most important New Testament manuscripts are....., and
2. Three of the many English translations which have been made are and
3. The Rheims-Douai Catholic Version was issued in the year
4. The Scrolls were discovered in 1947.
5. Some books of the Bible were originally written on paper made from theplant.
6. The inventor of printing was
7. Wyclif completed his translation in the year
8. Copies of Tyndale’s translation were burned in the city of.....
9. The Bible is accurate, accurate, and correct.
10. The world’s highest standard of morality is presented in the

Name..... Grade.....

Address..... Date.....

City..... By.....

STUDIES IN THE BIBLE — LESSON 1