

The Cost Of Truth

(Galatians 4:16)

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INTRODUCTION

“Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?” Paul was writing to the Galatian Christians because of the doctrinal error brought into the churches by those who believed that for one to be truly born again, they first needed to become a Jew religiously, and then needed to keep the Jewish law. The error is as old as the Church. There has always been a Jesus plus works doctrine of salvation.

Paul was trying to correct the doctrinal error by writing the truth of the gospel to the churches, many he had personally founded, and all of which he loved; he was criticized for his efforts to correct a major flaw in the faith that would destroy the Church the Lord Jesus Christ had bought with His own blood. Standing for truth in opposition of error is always costly. The cost, however, is worth paying. I like an old proverb I heard long ago. It says, “The enemies a person makes by taking a stand will have more respect for him than the friends he makes by being of the fence.” Taking a stand for truth is seldom easy. It is usually much easier to go along to get along than to stand for truth and right.

TRUTH COSTS FAMILIAR ASSOCIATIONS.

Long time friends will forsake us if we put truth before emotional attachments. I have lost close friends over the years because of some truth issue. Having grown up in a Southern Baptist Church, gone to North Greenville University, Furman University, Charleston Southern University and The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, all Southern Baptist schools, I lost friends I dearly loved because I didn't accept the Revised Stand Version of the Bible instead of the King James Bible. They felt that I was some sort of extremist.

After beginning work as a pastor in Southern Baptist Churches, I quickly came into conflict with both the church leadership and membership because of our differing views of biblical and pastoral authority. Southern Baptist Churches are primarily deacon and committee led churches. The pastor is usually an ex officio member of all committees, but he only gives “input”, not “leadership.” Southern Baptist pastors normally must preside at a monthly business conference where matters from the floor are common. The pastor isn't allowed to lead the church in matters God desires and often spends much of his time trying to put out fires started in a business conference, which were normally whimsical and carnal in origin. Then followed the monthly deacon's meetings, which often saw the deacons, argue over how to do what the church determined (Without pastoral leadership) it was going to do. Never mind how unscriptural or counter productive the effort brought before the church by a member who

perhaps seldom came and whose spiritual life was often weak at best, if it sounded good at the moment, it passed. When I as pastor tried to assert my God-given authority and bring godly direction and scriptural guidance, I became an enemy that must be overcome. My children, wife and I would then endure the cost of rejection for upsetting the status quo. All that could be done then was to take the every-four-year-migration to another church and pray that pastoral leadership could be established before unscriptural conflict arose there. When truth is refused, the cost for the truth bearer is high. Churches and loved institutions will often withdraw their good opinion and fellowship from us if we choose truth over consensus.

In independent Baptist efforts, mission boards often are dominated by Critical Text School graduates. In these increasingly CT mission bodies, one who stands for the preserved King James Authorized Bible is placed in jeopardy if he stands unapologetically for the KJB. Churches and mission boards are increasingly screening out men who stand in opposition to the CT. It will increasingly cost the man or woman who is seeking mission support in the days ahead.

I live in Greenville, SC, home of Bob Jones University. I find Bob Jones University to be a religious bully in their dealings with independent Baptist churches in this area and elsewhere. I am criticized for saying that. I have lost church members and friends because I say it. But those affiliated with Bob Jones University are often religious bullies. If anyone begins an independent Baptist work in this area, Bob Jones students and graduates will usually begin attending. It will not be long until they are trying to build up a following within the church fellowship, recruit other Bob Jones people and begin insisting that the church adhere to Bob Jones University guidelines. These problem people are often snobbish and arrogant. They insist upon dominating every aspect of the church with their superior and highhanded attitude. They are indoctrinated with a better-than-thou mindset by the cultic statements in classroom and chapel. When one graduates from Bob Jones University, he or she is usually a missionary of change; change intended to bring into conformity the church, mission board, college, printing house, rescue mission, fellow missionaries in a field, home school material and any other ministry they come into affiliation with. Now hear me kindly, there are some BJU graduates who “get over” the BJU cult influence and go on to be godly and productive Christians. However, I cannot help but believe students must be infused with some cult virus, which, though not necessarily terminal, it is highly infectious and crippling to those who come into contact with those so infected.

I know there are those who are offended by these statements. You may wonder why I seem to be picking on Bob Jones University. Let me explain. Bob Jones University has one of the most far-reaching influences in Fundamentalism. Although they have in the past been known as King James Bible supporters, they now use almost exclusively the English Standard Version or New American Standard version in the classroom. Their graduates and those they have influenced over the years are involved in efforts along with other colleges and universities to supplant the use of the KJB. Bob Jones University is deceptive in its claims when they declare their loyalty to the Word of God. They do not believe we have the very words of God preserved in the King James Bible; they only believe the *message* is preserved. Anyone should be able to understand that without the **words**, the **message** is lost for the message is words.

Bob Jones isn't alone in their misleading, dishonest claims of orthodoxy regarding the use and endorsement of the King James Bible. Southern Baptist schools have long misrepresented their views. Pillsbury, Maranatha, Moody, Tennessee Temple and the list goes on and on of Bible schools that take money from KJB believing people under false pretenses. But Bob Jones University is the most militant, has a faculty which is producing the most books using double talk, smoke screening and redefined and misleading statements to their supporters and thereby must be pointed out as the leader in Bible replacement efforts.

If any KJB believing person dares to stand for the truth against the megaliths of religion and education, stand against the politically correct establishments and government, we must be prepared to pay the cost. The cost of truth is high. In days to come missionaries, evangelists, teachers, writers and church members will pay a high cost for daring to stand for the truth.

TRUTH AND ERROR ALWAYS CONFLICT

If two are riding in elevators and one elevator is going up and one is going down, those riding in those elevators cannot agree about direction even at the precise moment they pass. Even though the two seem to be momentarily together as they pass one another, their momentum prohibits agreement about direction because they are in the process of going different ways. One cannot escape the truth of Amos 3:3, “*Can two walk together, except they be agreed?*” Therefore, I find myself in conflict with those who chose error and reject truth.

The Textus Receptus with its perfectly preserved Hebrew, Greek and Aramaic words (The pure words of God), preserved and accurately translated in the KJB, will always be in conflict with the Gnostic versions, which are the altered texts compiled in Alexandria, Egypt, cherished by the Catholic Church and are the underlying texts of Westcott and Hort’s perverted text, as well as the modern perverted Critical Text.

Thousands and thousands of changes make for many places of conflict for the preserved and unaltered KJB supporter. Just because someone thinks himself right doesn’t mean he is. I was recently turning right out of a parking lot into a busy four-lane road. A man was making a left turn onto the same road. Under the laws of most states, left-turning vehicles must yield to right turning traffic. In the case I’m referring to, the man making the left turn didn’t yield and nearly ran into my car. So sure was the man that he was in the right that he pulled up beside me and cursed me for the fool he thought me to be. Having been in law enforcement for years, driven tractor trailer trucks for years, trained numerous times in professional driver training classes and driven over a million miles in the last few years, I knew he was wrong, but all I could do was sit and listen to his shouts, but his screaming didn’t make him right. The truth is, right turns have the right of way over left turning vehicles and truth always conflicts with error when someone wants to alter truth.

TRUTH COMPROMISED IS ALWAYS ERROR.

Scholars constantly ask the question Pilate asked Jesus, “*What is truth?*” (John 18:38) Although many claim to love and strive to find truth, most of them are looking for something that agrees with their view or position. There is no reason to change the God-preserved King James Bible. The only reason anyone would want to change it is: For Satan inspired purposes, intellectual pride, money, accommodation of some sin or to lessen the authority of the Word. There may be other reason, but they are just as satanic as the above. The blood of the martyrs enabled us to have a preserved Bible. The scholar desiring to change the blessed Word of God, whose greatest suffering in life has been enduring the dust of his library, will one day stand before the living Word and give an answer for his efforts.

Scholars most often use the human method of dealing with conflict: **REASON, ACCOMODATION AND COMPROMISE**. This method has even brought our great American Constitution to powerlessness and the nation into chaos and moral ruin. It has also brought the Church into **APOSTASY**.

If one is baking a cake and omits frosting with coconut because someone objects to using any grated ingredient is a cake, you will not come out with a coconut cake. In any compromise, change occurs. When change occurs in the Word of God, serious error is the result. Pencil me in with the uncompromising, crowd who are always accused of ignorance. The great minds of the world have always been too smart to trust God and His Word. So be it.

TRUTH MUST CONFRONT ERROR

If truth doesn't confront error, **error will replace truth.** Whether in science, government or the Bible, Satan is waging war to replace truth with error. If we, like Adam, stand idly by while those we love have God's words wrangled from them by a fast talking con artist, we are apathetic at best and cowards at worst. The cost of truth is higher than we may know. Not to pay the cost of truth leads to the ultimate price, which is that those we love will be led from Jesus Christ.

Jesus asked the twelve, in John 6:67, "*Will ye also go away?*" Peter answered with surprising wisdom, "*Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? Thou hast the WORDS of eternal life. And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God.*" (John 6:68, 69).

We must confront error. If we don't, we have gone away from the Lord. Our friends at Bob Jones University condemn me for standing against their compromise on the scripture. They use the cultic practices of peer pressure, ostracizing, overpowering with ridicule, threatening friends employment who work there, taking names off the alumni association membership role, not allowing the retired ministers to eat in the dinning hall and other arm-twisting methods. There are costs to be paid for standing for the truth. My dear wife and I have paid for thirty-five years in Christian ministry and preaching the gospel. Some of you have and are paying as well.