

Wisely Converting Visitors to the KJB

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Bible Text: 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:21; Hebrews 4:12

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I have sort of a practical subject today that I would like to talk about and that is how to win visitors over to the use and the love and the conviction of the King James Bible.

Daniel 11 verse number 32 says:

...but the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits.
And they that understand among the people shall instruct many.¹

And that is really our job as a society is to not only stand for the Word of God in the original texts of Scripture, but also to instruct many. That has been the purpose of the Dean Burgon Society all these years. It has played a key role in my life since I went to Bible college. I went to Bible college back in the 1980s and I enjoyed myself there at Bible college. I went to Bob Jones University, but I discovered as a Bible major and a Greek minor that adhering to the King James Bible posed a lot of difficulties. There were a lot of challenges back in those days and it was the work of Dr. Waite and the society that really helped me through Bible college, through four years of the Greek minor at Bob Jones University to understand the issues and then to watch as the professors taught from the opposite view. Now that was fascinating for someone who was reading the works that were published by the Dean Burgon Society, fascinating to watch as professors taught from the opposite side.

And as my brother and I, we would compare notes and we would discuss these issues periodically, as we did so, we discovered that in our Bible college training the professors almost assumed that no student would be willing to challenge them or look at the other side. And so very little material was really covered. In fact, over four years it was extremely unconvincing.

Now, Dr. Waite, I don't understand, ok? I think that these men who taught me—Dr. Sam Snyder was head of the Greek department at that time—these are intelligent folks. These are intelligent people. They are not, from what I could gather, they are not dummies. They are intelligent people. And the more I have read and understood through the ministry of the Dean Burgon Society, the more I wondered how intelligent people could

¹ Daniel 11:32-33.

hold that position on the text. I mean, it doesn't take much to read in English how God has promised to preserve his Word. But then to be... and I marveled at that and I got into the ministry after graduating from college and I still marveled. And I thought how could intelligent people, I mean, folks who know the Word of God in so many other areas be so blinded on this issue of the text.

Dr. Waite, I believe I have an answer. Ok, I have an answer. Here it is. Oh, I think about a year or two ago one of the professors on the faculty at Bob Jones University—this is the only answer I can come up with—write a book about wine in the Bible. I believe it was Dr. Yakely. And it seemed to be a justification of social drinking. My brother wrote a pamphlet entitled *Baptist Bootleggers* and well worth your getting that pamphlet. It caused quite a stir. But it seemed like Dr. Yakely was justifying the use of alcoholic wine in the work that he wrote. So my best conclusion on the text issue is that the Bible department at Bob Jones is just a little tipsy. And perhaps they have been for years. I don't know. But I thank the Lord for the Dean Burgon Society, the work of the society.

Now we are talking this morning or this afternoon—and, by the way, it is hot in here. And you all are very full, ok? That means that you may doze off. If you doze off I am not going to wake you up, nor am I going to be offended. Psychologists tell us that people will only sleep where they feel protected and safe. So if you feel protected and safe while I am preaching, I will take that as a compliment and I am not going to wake you up or disturb you in the least little bit.

Now I want to talk about how to convert visitors to the King James Bible, because the... this is of practical importance. Many pastors here, many folks here and you go to churches and periodically you will have visitors like we do at our church almost every Sunday, visitors will come and they will bring every imaginable Bible version under the sun with them, if they bring a Bible. I have noticed a trend lately that fewer and fewer people actually bring Bibles to church. But if they bring a Bible, they will bring almost every Bible translation under the sun with them and we have a duty to do in understanding the truth of the Word of God to be able to convert these folks over who come to our churches, convert them over to a position where they are using, understanding and loving the King James Bible. And this is very, very important in the work that we are doing.

We talk about God's preservation of the text and we need to propagate that preserved text idea to other people. The big problem is it is really difficult to do, especially when you take our position. I mean, imagine this for just a second, folks. People come to your church with every Bible version under the sun and they do so because they have come out of other churches and from other places where all these Bible versions are used and loved and accepted and touted about and some of them tell me that their last pastor had three or four different versions on the pulpit and as he preached, he would just pick the one that he felt fit his line of thought best and move from one to the other.

And so folks are coming into our churches and, honestly, they haven't got a clue about this thing. They really, really don't. And how are we going to bring them into our

churches, make them comfortable with what is happening and at the same time begin to plant a seed of conviction? And I like that word. A seed of conviction in the heart that flourishes into a real understanding of the Word of God.

It is very, very challenging and it is very difficult because it is, frankly, a very technical position. Have you ever tried to explain the text issue to some person who is new at your church? You say, "Well, we are going to talk about the text issue tonight." And half the crowd thinks they are going to be discussing cell phones. They haven't got a clue, ok?

I was thinking about that this morning, Dr. Waite. I am going to give Thomas Nelson a brand new idea. They like to publish every brand new idea under the sun. They are going to have to publish a texter's Bible. Can you imagine? That is a fruitful idea, isn't it? See, now they are all tuned in and ready to make some money. The texter's Bible. And you can have all sorts of abbreviations and little smiley faces printed on some verses and some verses could have little frowning faces. You would end up with some abomination like Psalm two where the Scripture says:

He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh.²

Maybe we should just say, "He that sitteth in the heavens shall LOL." I am worried, because I believe I just let a million dollar idea right out of the bank.

But the truth of the matter is folks come with all this stuff. They haven't got a clue. We need to begin where people are at.

Now, the average person who comes and visits your church will be offended rather than instructed if we present the issue with all sorts of assumptions. If we say, "Well they should know this, they should understand it."

Well, after all, if they were really a dedicated Christian, this would be common to them. We can't begin with those assumptions. We have got to begin where the people are at. This is an emotionally charged issue.

A few weeks ago I was preaching in eastern Wyoming and I was riding across a ranch with a rancher in his pickup truck and we were doing something, getting ready for one of the activities of the church meeting and the fellow said to me, he said, "You know," he said, "Pastor," he said, "I need to talk to you."

And I have known this man for many years. He said, "When I am in church, my preacher is telling me that I should only be using the King James version." He said, "Now, I have not been a member of that church for long. The last church I was at," he said, "I used to read from the NIV and teach Sunday school from the Holman study Bible." And he was getting... folks out west are sort of independent. And I could tell he was getting a little hot on the subject. And he said, "Now, I want you to tell me right now. What is wrong with my Bibles?"

² Psalm 2:4.

Emotionally charged, ok?

And I had to approach the issue rather gently because folks come with that basis. You tell someone that the Bible they brought or got saved with or had for 10 years isn't any good and all of the sudden you are going to have some trouble on your hands. So we have to begin where people are at and try to help them.

Now in pastoring my church I would say the majority of people who visit my church are evangelicals. They have never heard of the text issue. They have never heard of the King James Bible issue. They come to church with every version under the sun. And there has got to be a way to bring these people into a King James version position and we have done so successfully with many, many people over the years. We have done so successfully.

I just give you several pointers. Most of you already know these things. We are just being reminded of them today. I would say this, first of all, as a pastor. I avoid riding a hobby horse. I do not ride a hobby horse. If I did, it would be very swayed back. I avoid riding a hobby horse. In other words, I don't talk about the version issue all the time. It is not the only thing that my people here.

Folks, listen. You have got a King James Bible. Now open it up and preach Christ out of it. Open it up and teach it verse by verses. Open it up and win souls. Open it up and preach the cross. Open up that Bible and preach all the things that God has given us. It is a wonderful thing. I don't ride a hobby horse with my ministry. I stay balanced, because if I am imbalanced in ministry, those who disagree with us have another bit of ammunition, don't they?

Well, all pastor Monte talks about is the King James Bible. You couldn't get fed there. That is all he talks about.

No. We want to bring up the issue. But we don't want to make it the main focus of everything that we are doing and I have tried not to do that over years.

So, preacher, what do you do?

Preach the King James Bible. Watch spiritual fruit develop I people's lives. And guess what, folks? It is really hard to argue with spiritual fruit. Have you ever noticed that? It is really hard to argue when souls are getting saved, lives are changed, marriages are being put back together, families are coming back together, kids are being helped. It is really hard to argue with that. And that is what the Word of God does. And thank God we have it I our possession.

What I try to do with our ministry, anyway, is I have always tried to stay positive in my presentation of this issue. That is hard to do, because there are so many things. You

pastors know what I am talking about. You just like to haul off and skin the cats every once in a while.

Do you all ever get a burr under your saddle before you preach? I do sometimes. I just like to skin them. But I try on this issue to stay very positive, because the folks don't know. Listen. We can't attack people for what they don't know. We really can't. You know, it would be silly to start a war over what they don't know. And so what I have tried to do is over the years I have tried to stay positive. By doing that, I mean, I always exalt the accuracy of the King James Bible. I know something.

The folks who are not using the King James at my church have footnotes in the bottom that say the oldest and best manuscripts do not contain this verse. When I am preaching and I know there is a verse that has one of those apostate footnotes at the bottom of the page, what I will tend to do is I will tend to stop and I will say, "Folks, now I want you to see the wonderful accuracy of the old King James Bible. You see, a lot of the modern translations have omitted these words and I will read the following words, or they have put a footnote at the bottom of the page. But your King James translators understood the language and manuscripts. When you have a King James Bible, it is more accurate."

Now I will make that statement in about two sentences when I am preaching and I will move on. And the people who have NIVs are looking at theirs saying, "Maybe there is something wrong here. I didn't have those words."

But I will not write it for a long time. I will just make a point and move on. I point out the accuracy of the Scripture. I emphasize the constancy of idioms and expressions, the constancy of translation. When I am teaching the Word verse by verse I will demonstrate to people that the idioms in the Bible are constant throughout, from Genesis to Revelation. The Holy Spirit designed them that way and the King James version consistently translates idioms so that you can actually follow a development from Genesis to Revelation and study the Word of God.

And I might make mention. I will say, "Now, folks, if you are using a new translation, you will have a very difficult time doing this, because there is not a constancy in the translation of the idiomatic expressions."

Now half of the people when I make a statement like that, they don't know what I have just said. I mean, let's be honest. But they think, uh, oh. Maybe I don't have all that I should have.

It might just be the nature of Americans, but whatever the idea is seed planted into someone's mind that they don't have all that they should have, what is the first thing they want to go to? Go get it. Ok? Just takes a little seed pouch, sometimes.

I emphasize that constancy. I will discuss the textual differences whenever they arise. And when you are preaching and teaching the Word of God verse by verse they arise thousands of times. And it is very simple when you are in a passage to say, "Now, if you

are in a new translation, this word may have been changed or this phrase may have been omitted or this word order or construction may be different.” And I will teach it as a part of it, but I move rather rapidly on as I am talking about it, because, again, you are just trying to do what? You are building line upon line, precept upon precept.

Another area that I have found is good is this. I will preach a whole message on preservation and I do so periodically. Do you know the idea of God’s Word being preserved makes sense to most people who have never heard of the textual conflict at all? It just makes sense. And so preservation is a very good place to start when you are encouraging people to come along and move ahead forward for the Lord. But I am saying stay positive in your presentation.

Now, folks, listen to me. One of the reasons I do this, because my area is very strongly influenced among conservative Bible believing Christians. It is strongly influenced by a man by the name of Peter Ruckman, ok? Peter Ruckman. I want to stay positive about the King James Bible, because I do not want to let Ruckman define who I am. Now listen carefully. Ruckman calls himself the Lord’s junkyard dog. I never heard of a closer description of anyone. Junkyard dog, amazing. I don’t want that in my ministry. I don’t want that spirit. I am not letting Peter Ruckman define my spirit. I believe, frankly, that Ruckmanism is the leading cause of bipolar disorder among conservative Christians. It is absolutely....

You say, “Oh, I don’t like...”

Folks, listen to me. If you read the Bible believer’s bulletin a few... oh, about a year and a half ago there was an issue in which Peter Ruckman said that he found that the King James Bible that our job throughout all eternity was going to be a chauffeuring couples to different planets who would then populate those other planets. I am not kidding. You look up back issues of Bible... that is Mormon doctrine, folks, Mormon doctrine. Ok, I don’t have that much time for it. And I will tell you another thing. The spirit of it is very destructive in our churches, very, very destructive in our churches, something certainly to be avoided.

So we want to have a positive spirit about our presentation of the Word of God, especially the folks who don’t know we are talking about visitors. Now we have got to understand their objections. A lot of people have objections. After all, they will say, “The King James Bible is harder to understand.”

Now you probably won’t be able to convince them that it is not, because that is what they have heard all their life. So the thing to do is to offer them tools. That is what the Dean Burgon Society is about. The defined King James Bible is a tremendous tool to offer to people. I don’t now how many times I have had folks come up. They say, “Pastor, I would like to follow along with you in the King James Bible. That language is so hard.”

I will say, “Look. You need to get a defined King James Bible.”

I was speaking at a political meeting some, oh, about a year ago. And after I was done they had me come to political meetings in our county because everyone is afraid to pray in public and so they like to get the awkward part over with and I am always willing to do it. And so I go and I always give some Scripture before and make a few comments and then pray. I prayed at a political gathering one time in our county and when I was done a lady approached me and she said to me, she said, “Pastor, I can tell by the way you prayed that you use the King James Bible.”

I said, “Yes, ma’am, I do.”

And she said, “I need to see you when you have an available moment.”

I had some time. I talked with here a little bit. And to make a long story short, she said, “We need to start a new church.” And she named the little rural town north of where I live. She said, “We need to start a new church in that town. Would you help us start a new church in that town?”

I said, “You know, I would be glad to.”

And so we, for a few months we have been doing Bible studies all this and that, but the first time I came to this meeting of these folks who wanted to start a new church and, by the way, these people had come out of the Baptist General Conference. It is a very evangelical conference popular in our state. When the first meeting I came to I was looking around the room. People had their Bibles in their laps and, lo and behold, defined King James Bibles. And I said to this lady who had one. I said, “Where did you get that?”

And she said, “Oh, I don’t know.” She said, “Some outfit on the internet. It has been the biggest help I have ever had. I am recommending it to everybody.”

I said, “Well, I happen to know a little bit about that outfit on the internet.”

You see, we have tools, folks, that can be used to help people and it overcomes their objections. We understand their objections. We overcome them.

Now there is always the emotional element involved and that may take some time, but when people become committed to the Word of God all of the sudden their emotional attachment becomes less and less as they discover what they are missing out on. The King James Bible is a rich banqueting table. It is a feast. The modern translations are like going to White Castle for Thanksgiving, just something you would not do.

People get used to it if they come to understand it.

Now what I try to do as a pastor and this has really helped our church, because, again, I would say the majority of our visitors and they come and they stay and they begin using the King James Bible and eventually adopt the King James Bible out of conviction. And

that is our goal. One of the things that I have done that I think is indispensable and I believe most of you would agree with me is that I preach and teach the Word of God verse by verse, line by line and word by word.

When we preach and teach that way, we exalt the verbal plenary inspiration of the Bible. We demonstrate to people that the words of the Bible are exceedingly important. And when people are focused upon the words of the Bible, it is very simple to show them that those words which came directly from God and are given to us, the words of the Bible become their very meat. It becomes their spiritual food. They are focused on it. When people's needs are met and they grow in Christ, they begin to respond and I cannot tell you.

A few months ago I had a couple come up to me that were carrying brand new King James Bible. They said, "Pastor, look what we just got." They held out their King James Bibles.

I said, "That is wonderful."

The lady said, "We will be able to follow along with the preaching and teaching. We will be able to follow every word."

Isn't that what it is all about? Every word.

Now, in order to do that, you will have to do this little inconvenient thing and study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed. That can get kind of sticky right there, but it is well worth it, because you are developing convictions in God's people, line upon line, precept upon precept.

One thing I do is I try to employ helpful illustrations. And one was used here last night. I will tell folks. I say, "Well, I like the modern wording. It is easier to understand."

Would you allow Barack Obama, Nancy Pelosi and Harry Reid to update the wording of your Constitution? Do you know that is essentially what happened to the Bible? A lot of people immediately identify with that illustration.

Hey, watch this.

When new people come to your church who believe that an English translation is inspired, I just look them square in the eye and I say, "Well, Jesus didn't teach that."

And they will step back a little bit. They will say, "What do you mean Jesus didn't teach that?"

And they will usually quote Mathew 4:4.

Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.³

And I will look at them square in the eye and say, “No, Jesus taught that only the original language manuscripts were inspired.”

And their jaws drop and they say, “Pastor, where is that?”

And I turn them to Matthew five and verse number 18 where Jesus said that:

...one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.⁴

Then I hold out a King James Bible and I say, “Go to the Old Testament and find all the jots and tittles for me, would you?”

Folks, do you know there is not one jot or tittle in your English Bible? It is a part of the Hebrew. I am no scholar. I don't know which part it is. I don't know if it is heads or tails, but it is part of the Hebrew. It is not part of the English. Jesus taught the original language inspiration. He did not teach English inspired.

I will just show people that. You can't imagine how many people, “Well, I never saw that before.”

Well, it is right here in the Word of God, Matthew 5:18.

And so use simple illustrations with people to help them sort of understand.

I think probably one of the most important things of all and we have talked a little bit about this, is the spirit that we want to have. I appreciate, though probably don't always emulate, but I appreciate the spirit of the true gentlemen who make up the Dean Burgon Society. We want to be, fellows, you who are pastors, we want to be Christian gentlemen. Whoever these visitors are, they are mostly our brethren. They are brothers and sisters in Christ. Most of the visitors I have are saved people. They are brothers and sisters in Christ. Now, even those who disagree with us are brothers and sisters in Christ. And we want to maintain that spirit, because when we fail to maintain that spirit we become ugly and we are easily thrown into other groups of those who claim to stand for the King James Bible.

Understanding this issue and presenting it, then, to people is a matter of encouraging them along in their Christian growth in the Word of God. And I am convinced of this, that for every person you come visiting your church who is not carrying the King James Bible, when they understand, when they are brought along lovingly and carefully, they will come back to you one day and say, “Pastor, I am rejoicing. I am rejoicing because

³ Matthew 4:4.

⁴ Matthew 5:18.

how lovingly and carefully you brought us along to understand about the Bible and how lovingly and carefully you taught us word by word and demonstrated the superiority of the King James Bible. And, my, how we are growing in the Lord.”

The truth is we could argue—and I have to say that at Bob Jones we argued textual variance at the bottom of the page of those Greek New Testaments they have ratings, A, B, C, D, E, F, I don’t know. And you could go over all of the ratings of the textual variants and you could go back and forth and discuss this, that and the other thing and you could do it until you were blue in the face.

Now, folks, some of you are scholarly enough to do be able to do that. I am not. But I will say this. Though we could argue textual variance until we are blue in the face, it won’t help our church people, ok? What will help them is spiritual fruit in their lives. And how do we get spiritual fruit? Through the Word of God, the Bible. That is how we get spiritual fruit. And that kind of an understanding will help to grow people and it will be a blessing.

So let me encourage you. Our position is correct. It is not easy and it is not glamorous, but it is correct. Now the key is to begin to help others to understand it and to bring them in and to bring them along and to love them and here is our philosophy. You start by loving someone where they are at and you love them to where they ought to be. Show them the Lord Jesus Christ and we have seen it time and time again scores of times.

They will say, “Pastor, we never knew what it was like to feast on the Word of God until we found the King James Bible. This is wonderful.”

And that can happen in your church. Do I... would I fight people over the issue? Yes. But I don’t fight people in the pulpit.

Now I hear the egg timer. Is that the three minute mark? That is the three minute mark. That means I am poached. I am not yet hard boiled. I am done, but let me encourage you. Be positive about it. Win people over to this position, because they don’t know the truth. We have the truth. Let’s give it to them in a way they can understand and in a way that they can truly embrace what is right.

God bless you.