

## Word Magazine # 58:

### Reaction: ESV (2016) “Permanent Edition” Fail

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I just posted [WM # 58 Reaction: ESV \(2016\) “Permanent Edition” Fail](#). This episode offers some reaction and analysis to Crossway’s announcement yesterday (9.28.16) of the reversal of its summer 2016 decision to establish a “permanent text” edition of the ESV. In that announcement, Crossway President and CEO stated: “We have become convinced that this decision was a mistake ... We apologize for this and for any concern this has caused for readers of the ESV, and we want to explain what we now believe to be the way forward. Our desire, above all, is to do what is right before the Lord.”

Oddly enough, Crossway had apparently made the decision to establish the “permanent text” of the ESV in emulation of the stability of the KJV (since the 1769 Blaney edition). They apparently received some heavy backlash for this decision by their constituency. Indeed, it does seem odd that Crossway made this decision given that commitment to a modern translation based on the ever shifting modern critical texts of the Hebrew OT and Greek NT must necessarily entail an “open translation” philosophy.

Of course, from my perspective, a stable text of the Bible is indeed essential. What is key, however, is not a “permanent text” of an English translation but a stable, reliable, permanent text of the Bible in the original languages (the Hebrew Masoretic Text of the OT and the Textus Receptus of the NT).

Here are some sources cited in this episode:

[Christianity Today article from 9.9.16 announcing the ESV “permanent text.”](#)

[Christianity Today article from 9.28.16 announcing Crossway’s reversal of the ESV “permanent text” decision.](#)

[Scott McKnight critique of the ESV \(2016\) “permanent” changes to Genesis 3:16; 4:7.](#)

[Denny Burks' defense of the ESV's changes to Genesis 3:16; 4:7.](#)

[Evangelical Text Criticism blog article on plans for future revision to the modern critical text of the Greek NT over the next 82 years.](#)

[A pdf of my blog article "Three Challenges to the ESV" and the audio version.](#)

JTR