

The BIBLE (Part 6) Preservation:

Lesson 17- Spiritual Discipleship and Growth

Intro: At this point there are many that encounter real difficulty in comprehending the doctrine of preservation. The reason for that difficulty is human reasoning.

A. The Objection of Reason:

The logic of human reason would argue thus: 2 Timothy 3:16

1. Let us say the actual, original (Greek) writing by the hand of the apostle Paul in a particular passage is θεοπνευστος “theopneustos”
2. Accepting the fact that this word may be translated into English (which might be argued against on the grounds of strict “word preservation”), it should be translated as “God breathed.”
3. But in our English Bible, this ONE Greek word is translated to read: given by inspiration of God”. Meaning the translators have:
 - a. Added words! (1 Greek word = 5 English words)
 - b. Changed words (“theopneustos” literally means to “expire” or “breathe out” – “inspire” or “breathe in”).

Reason then asks, “How can this possibly be word preservation?”

B. The Answer of Faith:

The response of faith to the above reasoning is:

1. We do not have any “_____” autographs. Neither did Timothy, but he did have the Scriptures!
2. Timothy had available to him the Book of Deuteronomy (from his childhood) and the Book of 1 Timothy (initially addressed to him.)

3. 1 Timothy cites both the Book of Deuteronomy and the Book of Luke, affirming them as scripture.

1 Timothy 5:18

“_____”, *Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And, the labourer is worthy of his reward.*”

Deuteronomy 25:4

“Thou shalt not muzzle the ox when he treadeth out the corn.”

Luke 10:7

“... for the labourer is worthy of his hire.”

4. Sometimes when the New Testament quotes the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit uses a slightly different wording. One example is where Deuteronomy 8:3 is quoted by the Lord Jesus Christ in Luke 4:4, with slightly different wording (yet without loss of meaning).

Deuteronomy 8:3 *“...that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out the mouth of the LORD doth man live.”*

Luke 4:4 *“It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.”*

- a. In the first place, the quotation was from the Hebrew to Greek.
- b. In the second place, both references are taken from Books (Deuteronomy & Luke) that are specifically stated to be _____!
- c. In the third place, the Spirit of God is well qualified to use different words since He is the Author of Scripture.

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It is only an assumption that when a New Testament writer quotes from the Old Testament, he was sitting down and copying it from an existing scroll.

Acts 20:35 *"I have showed you all things, how that so laboring ye ought to support the weak, and to _____ the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.*

Jude 14 *"And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, _____ of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints,"*

Who can tell me where these passages of scripture are quoted from?

_____ And _____

These passages are not recorded anywhere else in the Bible

The very fact that the Bible does not record Enoch or Christ saying these words anywhere speak to the fact that the writer did not copy whole quoting. He was led by the Holy Spirit. Without the working of the Holy Spirit's in the writers of the Bible, many details would have been missed.

So did these men copy? _____, they were led.

Faith concludes that God will keep His promise to preserve His Word, working providentially by the same Spirit, through the processes of _____ and _____ to give us the very words He desires.

God's words are still His words when copied or translated.

We may not fully understand this fact, but the Bible clearly teaches it.

On numerous occasions Satan has attempted to eradicate the Word of God from the face of the earth. Decrees by wicked men have seen the Bible banned, burnt, banished, and battered by scornful critics.

For example:

1. In 302 A.D. the Roman emperor Diocletian issued an edict which decreed the burning of all Bibles.
2. During the "Dark Ages" (500-1500—A.D.) the Church of Rome forbade the use of Bibles by the laity. The first decree against the Bible came from Pope Nicholas 1 in 860 A.D. and in 1198 A.D. Pope Innocent 3 issued a decree that all who read the Bible should be put to death.
3. In 1415 A.D. 31 years after his death, the remains of John Wycliffe were dug up, judged, burnt, and then scattered in the River Swift for the crime of translating the Latin Vulgate into English.
4. William Tyndale was strangled then burnt at the stake in 1536 A.D. for translating the Bible into English.
5. During the reign of "bloody" Queen Mary in England (1553-1558 A.D.) Bibles were used as fuel to burn Protestants at the stake.
6. The French infidel Voltaire 1778 once boasted that Christianity would be a dead religion within 100 years of his day. He wrote many volumes against Christianity and the Bible. Within 50 years of his death his own printing works was being used by the Geneva Bible Society for the printing of Bibles! Ninety two volumes of Voltaire's works once sold at an auction for just a few dollars, at the same auction, one ancient Bible manuscript sold for over \$500,000

Closing: Preservation is not an easy doctrine to understand, but it is a doctrine about the Bible, taught by the Bible. Throughout the ages God's Word has been under attack. Without the hand of God it may have been that the Bible was wiped of this face of the earth. Let us hold fast to the doctrine of preservation.