

WHAT I BELIEVE ABOUT THE WORD OF GOD

By Rev. G. Robert Cox

I believe that the Bible is true and proper for use by born again Christians as their guide to daily life. Within the Bible we will find Jesus. Every page leads us to God and to the discovery of His love for us.

2Ti 3:16-17 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; (17) so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

Some would say that Paul was speaking only of the scripture from the Old Testament and did not mean the New Testament. The idea comes from the assumption that the New Testament was not written at that time. The first question that comes to mind is what part of the New Testament can be considered not relevant for today's Christian. Where do we begin to lay aside what we have in the Bible of today? Which of Paul's letters are not profitable for us? Do we ignore the statements about our position in Christ as outlined in chapters one and two of Paul's letter to the Church at Ephesus. Maybe we can simply skip the thirteenth chapter of First Corinthians. What sorry state of affairs would we find in the church today? Who will assume the job of correcting the New Testament to agree with the idea that it is not inspired by God as some would claim? Was God not aware that all of His Word had not been committed to paper?

1Co 1:25 Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

1Co 2:5 so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God.

Jas 1:5 But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

The next point of contention is about which Bible to use. There are many versions available today. Some are excellent while others diminish the power of God's Word. There are several that have found wide acceptance within the true born again Christian community. Three that I use and find very equal in use are the King James Version, New King James Version, and the New American Standard Bible. This is sure to bring heated debate as to which is the only one to use. I have a great problem in attaching the word **Authorized** to the King James Version. The source of the authorization came from King James the First of England. His authorization was made to allow the printing of a Bible in the English language. He did not have the ability or authority to determine the correctness or completeness of the translation. His only purpose was to permit the printing and distribution of the Bible to the common people in England. His authorization required that it be the only version used in all of the churches in England. As a point of fact the KJV Bible in print today has been revised several times since the original 1611 version was translated and printed.

The English used in the King James Version has not been used for more than one hundred years. Even people living in England have difficulty in reading and having a clear understanding of what they read from this version. Is not God able to inspire modern day

translators in preparing new English language translations of His Word? Would God allow His children to be deceived by a group of scholars who cross check each other and use all that is available today to ensure a correct translation?

There will continue to be those who will not change their opinion as to which version to use. Our prayer is that they will listen to the Holy Spirit and believe God concerning what they hear and read from His Word regardless of the version used. I believe God can and **will** guide us into all truth if we will submit to Him. For those who hold to the King James Version only we say we have no intention to call the KJV incorrect. We will say that it would serve God better if we all end the arguments and debates as to the best version. Debate and conflict among God's children is not profitable to God's Kingdom. Trust God to lead you into His truth.

My brothers and sisters in the Lord, we should all spend time in the word no matter what version you prefer. Praise God He will guide and comfort us through the power of the Holy Spirit. AMEN