

WHAT IS WRONG WITH THE NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION? No 1 Wayne Dunaway

Most of the statements that I have read that criticize the New International Version of the Bible are statements that can also be made about the King James Version with equal force. I know, because I have made most of them myself in time past. At one time, I was as opposed to the NIV as anyone I know. I made some of the same arguments that some others are making now, and probably learned them from some of the same sources. But I no longer believe that they are true and I willingly admit that I now believe I was wrong, mistaken and really did not know what I was talking about. Therefore, the following statements are not directed at any specific person, church, or group, but are made in the interest of what I now believe to be the truth.

It is an effort to correct some of the mistakes that I, myself, have made regarding the modern versions of the Bible and especially the NIV. Hopefully, when I am mistaken about something, I will admit it when I see it, and go on from there. This is the case when it comes to this subject. I had a conversation with a young preacher years ago that cause me to re-consider what I then believed about the NIV. He said, in essence, "If you will allow me the same privilege to explain the verses in the NIV that you want others to allow you with the KJV, then we will have no problem over which version of the Bible that we use. Both translations teach the truth, but both have words that are not right and both have verses that must be explained in light of other verses." He then gave me a few examples of what he meant. After that conversation I knew that there was something wrong with what I believed. And while no one *likes* to be proven wrong (especially about things we have taught others), honesty demands that we admit it if it is proven. We are all *likely* wrong on any number of things because we all believe what we have been taught by those we respect and admire. If you tell me what school a preacher goes to I can probably tell you, in most cases, what he believes. Like me, he believes what he is taught!

I have included this series on our web site because I have been on both sides of the "version issue". At one time, I believed and taught that the King James Version of the Bible was the most reliable version and that the modern versions were nothing but perversions. I preached about it. I had numerous discussions about it. I had a private written debate about it. I wrote a poem about it. I read a number of books about it. At that time I was totally opposed to the modern versions and especially the New International Version. I now believe that *every argument* I made against the NIV can also be made against the KJV. And while I do not personally use the NIV as my primary study bible, I believe that it is as good and perhaps better than the KJV for the modern reader (primarily because the meaning of words have changed so much since the KJV was translated). I now believe that one can learn the truth from either translation. I believe that both have their strengths and both have their weaknesses. I believe that anyone who studies can learn the truth from either one. I still use the KJV and the New King James as my primary study Bibles, but that is mainly because of familiarity and not reliability. When you read the following articles you will be able to see why I changed my mind about the NIV (whether you agree with the conclusions or not). Brother Hugo McCord wrote, "Though the Father did not choose to leave us a perfect copy of the autographs, his providence

guarantees that we can learn from all the versions how to be saved. (Appendix, The Everlasting Gospel, IV Edition, pg. 693). If you agree with my conclusions, fine. If you do not agree, fine (years ago I would not have agreed with them either).

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