

## WHAT IS WRONG THE NIV? NO. 2

Note: If you have not read the previous articles you should read them first. (W. D.)

Notice the following statements that I have made:

**I would say something like, “The NIV mistranslated Psalm 51:5 to teach the false theory of Total Depravity.”** But I finally realized that I was not being as fair, or using the same logic and reasoning, when I read the NIV as I did with the KJV. If I had, then most, if not all, of my objections would have ceased. Notice the following comparisons:

NIV. In **Psalm 51:5** the NIV reads, *“Surely I have been a sinner from birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me”*.

KJV. In **Psalm 58:3** the KJV reads, *“The wicked are estranged from the womb: they go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies”*.

**Note: If a person allows me to explain that the wicked do not really “go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies”, but this verse, in the KJV, is probably an exaggerated statement to emphasize the extreme wickedness of some people, why can’t others explain the passage in the NIV in the same way? Do the wicked really “go astray as soon as they be born”? Are they really guilty of “speaking lies” as soon as they are born? Most of us in churches of Christ, who defend the KJV, do not believe that babies are guilty of sin, nor do we believe that they speak lies as soon as they are born. We do not teach, or think, that the KJV is a “perversion”, or is an “unreliable” version, simply because this statement is made in Psalm 58:3. We know that the KJV teaches clearly in other passages that babies are not guilty of sin. (See Ezekiel 18:20; Deut. 1:39; Matt. 19:14; Rom. 9:11 etc. KJV) Therefore, we conclude that the statement in Psalm 58:3 is not to be understood literally.**

**The question I had to face up to is: Why can’t those who use the NIV do the same thing? Why can’t they explain that the statement in Psalm 51:5 is also an exaggerated statement about David’s sin? Especially since the NIV clearly teaches in other passages that babies are not born sinners. (See Ezek. 18:20; Deut. 1:39; Matt. 19:14; Rom. 9:11 etc. NIV). Brother Hugo McCord believed that David’s statement was an exaggeration and was not to be understood literally in either version. (See Closer Walk Archives). Both the KJV and the NIV teach that we are “fearfully and wonderfully made” (Ps. 139:14) and both clearly state that the son does not inherit the guilt of his father’s sin (Ezek. 18:20). You might also observe that the NIV is actually plainer in making the point in the Ezekiel passage than is the KJV. If the NIV is a “perversion” because of Psalm 51:5, why isn’t the KJV a “perversion” because of Psalm 58:3? The point is that they both teach what we believe to be the truth when we read all these verses on this subject in either translation. More to follow.**

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