

From: NeilUher2@yahoo.com

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Subject: Pure Words - Ps. 12:6-7

Greetings my beloved friend, how are you doing? It is my hope that you are well and are increasing with the increase of God (Col. 2:19).

Let's begin this weeks letter with a word of prayer together.

"O Father, how unworthy are we to approach Thy throne and to call upon Thee to bless our time this week. Father, I ask that You bless ever tender soul who receives this letter, may You bless each one according to their need. Lord we ask that Thou wilt bless this message and edify Thy Church to increase with the increase of God. We ask in Jesus' name. Amen."

This week I would like to say a few words about the different Bible translations that are available. Some wonder why there are so many, and what are their differences. These - and a few others - are some questions I hope to answer for those who may be confused, or would like information on the topic.

The text I would like to begin with is
Psalm 12:6-7

"⁶The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times.⁷ Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, Thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever."

The "them" in verse 7 may either refer to "the poor" and "needy" in verse 5; or, "them" may refer to "the words of the LORD" in verse 6. The overall context of the Bible supports both ideas, God keeps and preserves His people, and He keeps and preserves His words. Most people agree with the former, but it seems some doubt has arisen as to the latter; this will be the topic for this week's lesson, "Has God Kept His Words Pure?"

"The words of the LORD are pure words..."

The Hebrew word for "pure" is "tāhor" and means "clean, pure, flawless, free from impurity." The prophet Habakkuk didn't understand how the wicked seemed to live wickedly and not ^{be} punished by God; Yet

he knew God is infinitely holy and detests sin. In his wonder, Habakkuk wrote of God,

"Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity: wherefore lookest Thou upon them that deal treacherously, and holdest Thy tongue when the wicked devours the man that is more righteous than he?" Habakkuk 1:13

Habakkuk may not have understood what was going on, but he knew God hates sin; in fact, God hates sin so much that He gave His Son to save us, "For He has made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him." (2 Cor. 5:21). The word translated "purer" in Habakkuk is the same Hebrew word, "tāhor" meaning "flawless, free from impurity." So God's eyes are pure, and we read in Psalm 12:6 that His words are pure "as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times."

The meaning of the last part of Psalm 12:6 is not that we must try God's words to see if they are true; but that they are true, they are pure.

as the purest silver which has been tried or "purified seven times," 7 meaning "perfectly." God's word is perfectly pure, as pure as it was back when Psalm 12 was wrote, all the way to today. God's word - the Bible - is perfect in the original languages - and it will stand forever.

"The grass withers, the flower fades: but the Word of our God shall stand for ever."

Isaiah 40:8

Most people are under the assumption that the differences between all of the Bible translations is just making it more readable to today's readers; others think that different translations are geared toward a specific denomination, or even to keep people buying new Bibles. While these are legitimate reasons - and there are many more - yet there is a crucial difference that most people are unaware of.

Of all of the major Bible translations available today, only the King James Version Bible and the New King James Version Bible were translated from the more accurate original Hebrew and Greek texts. All modern translations use ~~the~~ inferior texts to

translate their versions of the Bible. For example, if you open your King James Bible to Matthew 6:13 this is what you will find.

"And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: for Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen."

Pay close attention to the second part of this verse (i.e. beginning with "for Thine is ...") because I will now quote from the New International Version (N.I.V.) and you will see it is missing the second part of Matthew 6:13.

"And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one." (N.I.V.)

Look how the same thing happens in the New Living Translation (N.L.T.).

"And don't let us yield to temptation, but rescue us from the evil one." (N.L.T.)

Notice how both Bible translations leave out

the second part of Matthew 6:13 "... for Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen." This is not a mistranslation, the N.I.V. and N.L.T. translate this passage accurately according to their manuscripts of the Greek New Testament. Sadly, they have reduced this part of the Word of God to a footnote in the margin.

Let me show you something, if you open your Westminster Shorter Catechism (if you don't have one please ask me for one and I will gladly send you one free) to page 46 we read:

"Q. 107 What doth the conclusion of the Lord's Prayer teach us?

A. The conclusion of the Lord's Prayer, (which is, For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.) teacheth us to take our encouragement in prayer from God only, and in our prayers to praise Him, ascribing Kingdom, power, and glory to Him.² And, in testimony of our desire, and assurance to be heard, we say, Amen.³ " (my underline)

This was written in the 1600's and notice

how they commented upon the second part of Mat. 6:13, they could only do so because it was part of the Bible they read almost 400 years ago; not only that, but we could go back even farther in history and find comments by old church theologians on the second part of Mat. 6:13.

This all began with the field known as "Textual Criticism." When some ancient Greek (Hebrew texts too) texts were found, ^(recently) they were identical to the texts used to translate the KJV in 85-90% of the time, and rather than allowing this to serve as a proof of God's providential care for His Word, people have attacked the very original autographs themselves, and dissect and arrange the texts into a never ending jig-saw puzzle, "This part goes here... no, no, it doesn't go here..." The key issue is not the translation, but the text from which the translation is based.

A while ago, I mentioned how the Greek word used in 2 Timothy 3:16 "All scripture is given by inspiration of God..." could be better translated "All Scripture is God breathed..." this could apply to no translation of the Bible - not the KJV, NKJV,

NIV, NLT, NASB, ESV, etc - Only the original Hebrew and Greek texts are "God breathed;" but think how this solid Biblical truth gets thrown out the window with the "textual criticism." If a committee of men are judging which original words go where, how could we consider such a text "God breathed"?

"The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times." Psalm 12:6

Praise God that His words are pure and that He is sovereign. We can trust His Word, 100%, His Word is truly "God breathed." To show God's absolute care for His written Word, read the 36th chapter of Jeremiah. God gave a message to the Prophet Jeremiah, who in turn called Baruch to write it all down. When this roll was read to King Jehoiakim, the King burned the roll in the fire.

"And it came to pass, that when Jehudi had read three or four leaves, he cut it with the penknife, and cast it into the fire that was on the hearth, until all the roll was consumed in the fire that was on the hearth." Jer. 36:23

This King destroyed the roll which contained the very words of God - words which God intended to be in His Book, the Bible. God permitted this to happen ... why? To show He is absolutely sovereign and that His words can't be stopped!

"Then took Jeremiah another roll, and gave it to Baruch the scribe, the son of Neriah; who wrote therein from the mouth of Jeremiah all the words of the book which Jehoiakim King of Judah had burned in the fire: and there were added besides unto them many like words." Jer. 36:32

Beloved, God is a living God. He is in control of His word; no man, angel, or any other creature can extinguish the Word of God. Therefore all textual criticism must be rejected, and should be considered a modern "penknife".

"The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times." Psalm 12:6

Question: Is Matthew 6:13 the only place where modern Bible translations are missing part of the text?

Answer: No, there are very many; in fact, whole verses are missing from their texts (see Mat. 17:21; 18:11; 23:14; Mark 7:16; 9:44; 9:46; 11:26; 15:28; 16:9-20; Luke 17:36; 23:17; John 5:4 ...). In addition, many omit passages of Christ's deity, and there are many other variations.

Question: Are there reliable copies of the original Hebrew and Greek available today?

Answer: Yes, contact www.TBS-sales.org The Trinitarian Bible Society (T.B.S.) has maintained the original texts used to translate the King James Version Bible. Also, they have many good articles which go more in depth into this topic of "textual criticism," and how God has faithfully kept His word "pure".

Question: Are all modern translations worthless?

Answer: No, not at all; in fact, used properly, they can be a valuable study tool to better understand the Word of God. However, we must understand their weakness is that they were translated from a

different text than the KJV and NKJV Bibles. Therefore in all matters of differences, the original texts (i.e. Hebrew and Greek) used to translate the KJV and NKJV must reign supreme.

Question: Why are people doubting that God has kept His word pure?

Answer: It has been Satan's design from the beginning, beloved, to get us to doubt what God has actually said, "Yea, has God said...?" said the serpent (Gen. 3:1); though I believe other factors are involved too (e.g. pride, money, ignorance, unbelief, etc.).

If you have any other questions or comments, please feel free to write me as I always enjoy hearing from you. May God bless you with greater faith in Himself, and in His "pure words".

Your servant for Jesus' sake,

