

And God said let there be...

...and there was

THE WORD OF GOD

*"For the word of God is quick, and powerful..."
(Hebrews 4:12)*

Moses Ayomikun Oladipupo

**THE WORD
OF
GOD**

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By: Moses Ayomikun Oladipupo

Scripture quotations are taken from the
HOLY BIBLE, KING JAMES BIBLE

First Released in 2015

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INTRODUCTION

In this book I intend to speak on this important subject: The Word of God. I am very happy to write this book as I intend to share what I have come to know about the Word of God since the time I was born again, which was in the year 2005, when I started a regular meditational study of the Bible.

During this time, there were challenging times in which my faith was shaken and there were also times of doubt when through seeking to understand more about God, I bumped into one or two things that really created a whole lot of doubt in my heart. But through it all I have found that the Bible is the true and living word of God.

I hope to share my convictions about the Word of God with you [the reader]. I hope to clear doubts and stare up confidence in your heart as we look at this all important and precious gift of God.

I pray that if you don't believe the Bible, you will come to believe it with all your doubts cleared. I hope that if you believe the Bible, you will, by reading this book, become confident in your belief. And also, if you are confident in your belief already, you'll be more confident.

Thank you.

Ayomikun

HAS GOD SPOKEN?

Isaiah 1:2 "Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth: for the LORD hath spoken..."

Before I start to talk about the Word of God, I would like to address this question: "Has God spoken?" How can we speak of the Word of God if he had never spoken? Is there any point just saying things about what we want people to believe is the word of God if we don't know if he has spoken or not?

We are told in the Bible verse above that the LORD has spoken, it therefore calls on both heaven and earth to give ear.

In the record of the creation we also understand that God made the things that are with the words he spoke. It is sad that the integrity of this record have been questioned by both agnostic and atheistic scientific theories making use of weak and failure bound scientific superstitions. It is even more sad when theologians challenge the accuracy of this record. All who attempt to push aside this very profound truth have failed to provide an evidence for there claims and rush past reason in a bid to nullify it. However I do not wish to speak on those theories at this moment.

But has God spoken? In as much as this world exists, then God has spoken. God, in the beginning, created all things with the spoken word of his mouth so that in Hebrews 11:3 it says "Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear." So God spoke into being those things that were not in existence just by the power of his words. If this world on which we live exists then GOD HAS SPOKEN!

We also understand that he didn't speak man into being but he made man out of the earth which he spoke into being. So as surely as you are not a fiction, and you can touch your face and feel that it's really there, then GOD HAS SPOKEN!

If you look around you and see all things as they are, whether they are man made structures, or the sun, the moon, the sea, and sky, all these all echo one thing; "God has spoken!" For out of the earth man was made, and man also get the resources he uses to build his structures, instruments, and the things he needs to support himself. As surely as all that we see really exists, whether they be natural or artificial, then GOD HAS SPOKEN!

God spoke the sun into being. It gives us light and energy. The plants absorbs this energy from the sun and turns it into other forms of energy which we and other creatures can make use of. The plants are eaten by us and we have energy to carry out all our activities. Other things we have as food all get their nutrients directly or indirectly from the sun. So we all make us of the energy from the sun. Inasmuch as we have the energy to walk, GOD HAS SPOKEN.

In summary, if we are, then God has spoken. If we can see, then God has spoken. If we can walk or stretch or yawn or blink, or breathe, God has spoken. All things that are ours, that we are, that we can do, that we see, cry "GOD HAS SPOKEN."

Now in the midst of many words by many speakers, which are the words spoken by God? I shall therefore proceed to talk about the Bible, the written word of God.

WHAT IS THE BIBLE?

2 Tim 3:16 "All scriptures is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness..."

The Bible is the sacred authoritative book of the Christian faith. It consists of the Old Testament and the New Testament. It is this book that contains all that the Church of Christ believe, practice and teach. It is the most important book on the subject of God. It has no substitute. No manner of godly music, inspirational books, fire-brand sermons, or anything at all could replace the study of it. If it is absent in the life of any man, then there is certainly a vacuum in its place.

The Bible is used in the Christian Church for many purposes. It is used in sermons, Sunday school class teachings, wedding ceremonies, etc. Prayers are prayed in line with the instructions and pattern of the Bible. It is also used in composing hymns. The Bible can't be done without in the Christian church.

As the quoted scriptures above says that all scriptures are profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness. these are, primarily, the use of the Bible in the Christian church. These profits make it impossible for anyone who wants to live right to do without the Bible. The Bible is therefore as rightly said to be the manual for life.

The Bible is also used in the society in a lot of ways. The Bible is used in the court of law for oath taking (sadly this is against the Bible's instruction that swearing to any oath is evil). It is used in organisations in setting their ethical standards. It is also used in national and even international constitutions. There is a statue of man with a hammer beating a sword [perhaps into a constructive instrument] made by or for the United Nations in which the concept of the statue was gotten from the verse of the Bible in Micah 4:3 where it says "...they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more." The laws of the Bible are used in to decide the laws of a country in which the citizens are expected to live by.

The Bible is used by individuals for study purposes, to understand history, morals, to understand the right values of things, for building of personal philosophies, in getting directions and life's bearing, for personal counseling, and for other purposes as well. The Bible is to the Christian a book for reading and meditation (not the Buddhist type). The Bible is used to build faith, in fact it is the primary source of faith. The Bible is used for self reflection to see one's self in his true state, as in a clear mirror, whether or not one is in right standing with God. The Bible is used to know the end and the whole essence of man. The Bible speaks accurately of future events, and there are many interesting stories in it too (the story of Mordecai and Haman for example).

The Bible being so immensely important to the Church, the society, the constitutions, and individuals, is God's gift to humanity. The importance cannot be overemphasized.

Writers Of The Bible

Psalms 68:11 "The Lord gave the word: great was the company of those that published it."

Contrary to what one would expect, if he were to consider the way the Bible was put together, it is

flawless and very free from errors and contradictions. The books of Bible were written by people of various walk of life, and it still is free from error! It was written by people of various works of life ranging from wise King Solomon to Amos the shepherd, from Luke the physician to Peter and John the fishermen, from Paul the “used to be Pharisee” to Matthew the “used to be the tax-collector.” Such a wide range yet it is free from contradictions.

If you were to read books written by people from the same walk of life, as long as they were the products of different minds, you are likely to see some contradictions here and there. Even within the product of a single mind can one find contradictions. I can write a story today and tomorrow write another that will contradict it without my being aware of it.

If you were to read the books of people from non-identical but similar walk of life, say an engineer and an architect, you will most certainly see contradictions everywhere. But how can the writing of a high king like Solomon who was given to much study, be in complete concordance with the Shepherd Amos? Or a fisherman with that of a physician?

Not this alone the books of the Bible were not written in just one era, or time in history, it was written over a period of more than 1500 years. A time enough for systems of beliefs to be completely changed and many pattern of life to have been completely eroded, but all that the Bible says from beginning to the end is constant. This only shows that God inspired each and everyone of the writers of this book, that while the writers vary a lot, God was constant thus there wasn't any contradictions found in it. That is why the text in Psalms 68:11 that “The Lord gave the word: great was the company of those that published it.” So God gave the word but men published it.

What The Bible Say About It Self

John 6:63 “It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.”

If you read through the entire Bible you will not even come across the word “Bible” once. This makes some to think that the Bible says nothing about it self. This said to question the authenticity of the the Bible. They say the affirmation of others may be more important, but at the least if you are true, you should be able to affirm it so. If you can't affirm it, there is something fishy about your being true. So if we can't come across the word "Bible" even once in the Bible, there is something wrong about that. There are only few errors that can be further from the truth than this. The word “Bible” is from the ancient Greek word “Biblia” meaning scriptures or books. Books or scriptures are precisely what the Bible consists of. So when the Bible says "All scriptures is inspired by God", it is simply saying "The Bible is inspired by God."

A large chunk of the Bible does speak about the Bible, in fact, the Bible in its longest chapter which is psalm 119 speaks of itself extensively. To understand to a good extent what the Bible says about itself, it is important to know what words the Bible uses in referring to itself and what is contained in it. Going through Psalm 119 (which is the longest chapter of Bible) one would come across some of these words. They are; the word of God, the commandments of God, the law of God, the testimonies of God, the statutes of God, the precepts of God, the judgments of God. These words speaks of the Bible and what the Bible is constituted of. So the Bible is not a book that doesn't testify about itself. It speaks boldly and confidently about itself saying "For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven."

THE ORIGIN OF THE BIBLE

John 17:7-8 “Now they have known that all things whatsoever thou hast given me are of thee. For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me.”

Reading the way that many theologians start to describe the origin of the Bible and stop is quite disturbing. I say the way they stop because if they didn't stop where they did, they could have been a bit justified if they continued that is by trying to give meaning to their heresies. But if they claim to be teachers of the Bible and teach incomplete truth and heretic doctrine one can easily conclude that they are Devil counterfeit. I wish they could do us the favour of not giving any explanation of the origin of the Bible at all.

When explaining how the book of Genesis, which is the first book of the Bible [the book of which if we could say one book is more important than the other, then it is of paramount importance] came about, they say before it was written down it was passed down by word of mouth. This automatically removes the likely possibility of its complete correctness. If the content of the book of Genesis was first passed down by parents just telling their children stories, then this story must have undergone series of modifications. For example telling a story when you are in a happy mood would quite vary from when you are telling the same story when in a sad and moody state. Therefore the possibility of the correctness of this very important book is being attacked by the very theologians who should defend them. When in the introduction I said certain times in the past my faith was shaken, this was the explanation of theologians that made me start doubting the Bible.

If they didn't stop there but went further to explain why the book of Genesis is still very correct, then their action wouldn't be as bad and one could conclude that they had good motives after all. But most times they just want put it this way, leaving people in doubt of the scriptures. Some even go ahead to accuse this all important book as being inaccurate. In fact there have been so many comments about the book of Genesis than there should from a people who claim to walk by faith and not by sight.

The lady who taught me Christian Religious Knowledge in the Secondary School said to us (her students) that the book of Genesis is not accurate and there are faults in the Bible. That even in her theology school anyone who affirmed otherwise were made to fail. How very appalling.

However, I feel these individuals can go away with their explanations. They are Devil counterfeits. They've got no truth in them. For though they shook my faith, God being my help stayed me and held me in place.

With that said, let's take a careful look at the origin of the scriptures.

The Man Moses

Exodus 2:10 “And the child grew, and she brought him unto Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. And she called his name Moses: and she said, Because I drew him out of the water.”

The first five books of the Bible were written by a man called Moses. This man was a Hebrew and was adopted into the royal family of the people of Egypt. As a result of this we could easily

conclude that he received the best education in the whole world of his time. "And Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and in deeds." (Acts 7:22). He later ran away from Egypt to the land of Median and there he got married and served his father-in-law, taking care of his flock. God called him and sent him to return to Egypt and bring out the children of Israel where they served as slaves. He was by no means a common man, and it was through him that the book of Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy were written.

It is the book of Genesis that contains the Biblical account of the creation. This book covers from the creation of the world to the time when Joseph ruled in Egypt till his death. All this time Moses was not alive and so he wasn't an eyewitness to all the happenings within this period of time. It was not until chapter two of Exodus that he began to be an eyewitness.

So all the record of the creation, and of the life of Adam, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, etc. were not written as a result of Moses witnessing these events in person. Nevertheless the complete correctness of his account cannot be doubted. He wrote this book down not by the account that was passed down by word of mouth, but by divine revelation. Being so close to God he gave the account of things revealed to him. His record were based on these revelations and not what his mum or dad told him.

Now, if at all it were true that he got his account by the account passed from one generation to the other, what role could the things passed down by word of mouth play? I believe it has no role to play in the account Moses gave. If asked, by whose word of mouth did Moses get his record? You'd say his parents. If you were continuously being asked in that line, you'd get to Jacob. If you are asked, by whose word of mouth did Jacob get his record? You'd say Isaac's. If you are asked, by whose word of mouth did Isaac get his record you'd say Abraham. And down and down that way. Then you'd be asked, by whose word of mouth did Seth get his record? You'd say Adam's. Your interrogator would also wish to ask, by whose word of mouth did Adam get his record? You'd say, hmm. For Adam, the first man, couldn't even have been an eye witness of the things that were before he came into being. Adam only came into the creation story in verse twenty seven of the first chapter of the book of Genesis. Then whose "word of mouth" is accountable for the record of the previous verses?

If Adam had known anything at all about the creation to pass down to his children, then they were things he came to know as he communed with God, perhaps before the fall. All records of creation could only emanate from God himself. If at all Adam, Enoch or any of the other people close to God before Moses could have had a knowledge of the creation because God revealed it to them, then he also could have revealed it to Moses since he even said about Moses in Exodus 12:6-8 "Hear now my words: If there be a prophet among you, I the LORD will make myself known unto him in a vision, and will speak unto him in a dream. My servant Moses is not so, who is faithful in all mine house. With him will I speak mouth to mouth, even apparently, and not in dark speeches; and the similitude of the LORD shall he behold: wherefore then were ye not afraid to speak against my servant Moses?" Therefore, since God could testify of Moses in this way, if he revealed to any other the things concerning the creation, then he would have revealed far more to Moses. And if he didn't reveal it to others, they had nothing to pass down by "word of mouth." They were clueless about their origin and how they came to find themselves in they state they were in. If Moses wrote this books through anything other than the revelations of God, then we can be sure that if there were anything untrue, it would have been corrected by those things he received through revelations. If the record of Moses were not a product of God's revelation, perhaps the book of Genesis could have began with the words like "in the beginning, Adam was shell shocked when he opened his eyes."

Word of mouth had little or no significance at all in the record of the scriptures. If one would insist that it had a role, he will have to consider that even if these were true, then the role it could had had

would have been very insignificant since the Bible does say that the scriptures were given by inspiration of God. If it is by the inspiration of God, then, the accuracy of it is not dependent in any way to human traditions of word of mouth but on God's record.

God Keeps His Own Records

Psalms 139:16. "Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them."

God who is from everlasting to everlasting keeps his own records as the text above clearly shows, even showing what level of details his record contains. First it says thine eyes did see, meaning God sees, and later it says "in thy book all my members were written" making us understand that God keeps his own record based on what he sees with his all-seeing eyes. In this case David speaks of his member, which were not even formed as yet, being seen of God and all these were written down in God's own record. We are also made to understand in Matthew 10:30 that God knows even the number of strands of hair on our head. How amazing.

Moses said to God "Yet now, if thou wilt forgive their sin--; and if not, blot me, I pray thee, out of thy book which thou hast written." (Exodus 32:32). In the next verse being Exodus 32:33 God said to Moses "Whosoever hath sinned against me, him will I blot out of my book." This shows that God keeps his own records of the actions of men. From this passage we can understand that the record of God that he keeps contains, perhaps, those who are dear to him and those to whom he will show his favour.

In Psalms 56:8, the psalmist says "Thou tellest my wanderings: put thou my tears into thy bottle: are they not in thy book?" The psalmist acknowledges the fact that God keeps record. He asks if his tears were not in the book of God as he had expected that God should have acted according to the records of it. He knew full well that God had his own book. And here we understand that God keeps record even of our emotions.

Jesus said to his disciples in Luke 10:20 "Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven." God keeps records of his own.

And finally in Revelations 20:12, the Bible says "And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works." This passage, talking about the judgment day, says that books were opened, and then a book was opened making us to understand that records of everything going on under the sun are being recorded in heaven.

These passages along with a many other passages makes us understand that God has detailed record of everything from the first to the last. Since God keeps his own record and it was he who revealed to Moses the things recorded in Genesis, then we know that this record is completely true and accurate.

The Accuracy Of Things Revealed

Psalms 111:7. The works of his hands are verity and judgment; all his commandments are sure."

Now we will go on to consider the accuracy of things revealed. Since what Moses wrote could only be as a result of revelation, then we ought to consider with a practical example the accuracy of things revealed as we can observe from the Bible.

Apostle Paul was a man who also wrote some of the books of the Bible. In-fact he wrote a larger chunk of the New Testament. This man was not among the twelve disciples of Jesus Christ though there are indications that Jesus may have spoken about him in person when he said in Matthew 19:30 "But many that are first shall be last; and the last shall be first." This is because he said "many" showing plurality, which could have been to refer to the twelve, and "the last" showing singularity, which could have been to refer to apostle Paul." But that's just a speculation.

This Paul was a Pharisee and was brought up under strict Jewish laws and traditions. All the time Jesus had his earthly ministry Paul was not in the story. He was first mentioned in the Bible in Acts 7:58 with the name Saul, when he stood in approval as Stephen was being stoned to death. He was a man who, with zeal, strongly persecuted the early church. In his zeal to persecute the church the more, he went to Damascus, but was converted on the way when Christ appeared to him. His encounter with the risen Christ was what changed him into the Christian champion that he was.

In Galatians 1:15-24 Paul gave an account of himself that after he had been converted, he conferred with no one. Neither did he go to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before him, but he went straight to Arabia, which is now Saudi Arabia, and later returned to Damascus. Then after three years he went to Jerusalem to get acquainted with Peter and stayed with him fifteen days. But he saw no other Apostles except James the brother of Jesus Christ. He was unknown by face to the churches of Judea where the apostles were. These were his experiences before he began his ministry to preach the word of God.

From many indications Paul was not closely involved with the earthly ministry of Christ, that is, in his close fellowship with the twelve. Neither was he an eyewitness of the Last Supper. After he had been converted he also had no real interaction with any eyewitness with which he could have known about how the earthly ministry of Christ went. All he knew about Christ were the things he experienced during and after his conversion through revelation. He also had said to the church of the Galatians "But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ." All the things he taught and preached were given to him through revelations and not by being taught by men.

Despite Paul's absence from the last supper and his very little interaction with those who were present he still gave an account of the Last Supper! This was the account he gave of the Last Supper in 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 "For I received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come."

Having not gotten the information with which he gave his record from the twelve apostles he clearly stated at the beginning of his account that he had received his record from the Lord Jesus Christ himself. This was an account through revelation and his account was in absolute concordance with

those of the apostles before him who were eyewitnesses as we can see recorded in Matthew 26:26-29, Mark 14:22-25, and Luke 22:15-21.

If the account that was through revelation and the account of an eyewitness are in complete harmony, then we ought to know that the correctness of an account given through revelation can not be doubted.

As the Bible says in Psalms 119:89 “For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven.” It means that there is in heaven a record, or a recorder of events as well. There is a recorder whose record is responsible for everything that is written in the Bible. Therefore the correctness of the account before Moses were correct, not not because it was passed down by word of mouth, nor was it because he was an eyewitness, but because it was revealed to him.

In the book of Genesis, Moses himself was not an eyewitness but his record were those of an eyewitness. When the Bible said “In the beginning God...” that was an account of an eyewitness. Therefore the entire Bible were precise records of eyewitnesses and not just records based on hearsay.

PRESERVED FOR EVER

Psalms 12:7 "Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever."

The Bible verse above speaks of the dedication of God to the preservation of his word. It makes us to understand that the Bible is preserved not by the hand of men but by the hand of God forever.

I once spoke to a friend of mine who said to me that the Bible is not the word of God because (as this my friend claimed) it is not dependable and he presented to me another book and said to me that this book was trustworthy. His reason was that this book is being committed to memory and recited continually and he gave some other reasons why he said this book was trustworthy and all the reasons he gave were all a show of human efforts to preserve human traditions.

This action of my friend is just like a person going into his house and bringing out all manner of drugs, crutches, wheel chairs, and medical prescription, saying "can you see these? These are to show you that in my house there is no ailment and everyone is in good health." Yes, it may show that in such a house they can move around, and that when they start having an head ache, they have a solution to it, but what is more glaring is the ill-health ravaging such a home which is contrary to what he says it proves.

God said that his own hands will preserve his words and not the hands of men, so how does human effort in the preservation of something prove that it is the word of God? If this is all the evidence to show, does it not only prove that the thing in question is not the word of God?

The Bible is God's word not because men strove to make it but because God made it and gave this word to men through men. He used men in such a way that it becomes evident that man on his own couldn't by himself have written such a book.

God preserved his counsel to man in this one book as it says in Psalms 33:11 "The counsel of the Lord standeth for ever, the thoughts of his heart to all generations." God accomplished this through the Bible that all his counsel are preserved to every one of us even to the end of age. As Christ has said in Matthew 24:35 "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away."

History shows how there had been so many attempts to destroy the Bible, yet it stands till today. This attempts were not just by mean men or people of mediocrity. These attempts were done even by kings and emperors against the Bible of which the Christian had no power to protect, yet the Bible prevailed. Rather than the Bible been destroyed the Kingdoms of such persecutors were lost. This is not man prevailing but God. Therefore we know that God preserved the Bible and not men. And, thus, the Bible is God's word.

The Catholic "authorities" also tried to pocket the Bible so that only the Catholic priests could have access to it and they would by this have the liberty of teaching all manner of false doctrine as they so wished, but one man in his days saw to it that the Bible was available to all in a language widely understood and that the falsehood of the Catholic doctrine was known to all. This man, Martin Luther, confronted the Catholic priests despite all the authority invested in them and in their head "The Pope" and yet he prevailed. Not man but God through man. As the Bible says in Zechariah 4:6 "...Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts."

The church authorities of the church of England also killed the man by the name “William Tyndale” when he attempted to translate the Bible into English. They sought for him and when they found him they killed him. He died but not too long after his death the King James Bible was published and ordained by the king to read in the churches.

These actions to get rid of the Bible and its doctrine, and to plunge men into utter darkness while there is still hope, are all diabolical. The Devil has used, among others, violent approach, peaceful approach, and in this very apostate era, he uses aggressive secularism, scientific superstitions, and “infiltrate and destroy” approach. All these have failed and will keep failing. He causes men to infiltrate the ranks of the Church of Christ and pretend to be one of us and start causing a lot of havoc with their heresy and divide the church in playing the dirty game of doctrinal politics. By doctrinal politics I mean the creation of doctrinal boundary that separates one church from the other and them seducing members by music, welfare, free transport to church, and other approaches. Dirty game, I must say, it is to divide the church against the church for profit's sake. The Bible has always and will always prevail, not because of the strength, wisdom, tact, and holiness of men but because of the special intervention of God. And through it all, by the power of God, the church remains united.

No other book has ever been attacked with such vehement hatred as the Bible yet no other book has prevailed over all its enemies. Despite these, no other book has been so loved. Lovely songs have been sung of the Bible, so many poems, and so many beautiful articles and books written about the Bible of which this book is also one.

Philip P. Bliss, the hymn writer wrote:

*"Sing them over again to me,
Wonderful words of life,
Let me more of their beauty see,
Wonderful words of life;
Words of life and beauty
Teach me faith and duty."*

A verse in The Psalter of The United Presbyterian Board of Publication, 1912, goes;

*"I should have perished in my woe
Had not I loved Thy law divine;
That law I never can forget;
O save me, Lord, for I am Thine."*

There are a vast number of other songs and hymns written about the Bible which shows the intense feeling of love, affection, and gratitude to God, that is felt for the Bible.

The Bible is preserved by God. And even in the wake of apostate theology, the Bible is still pure as it was. And of the Bible we can say as the creed goes “as it was in the beginning, is now and shall be forever.” And that by the power of God. Amen.

WHOSE IS THE BIBLE?

Isaiah 55:10-11 "For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it."

The question as to who owns the Bible is an important question. It is the owner of a thing that has absolute authority over it. Also it is the owner of a thing that do to it what others can't. When something is mine, nobody can tell me what to do with it authoritatively.

So, is the Bible owned by the Church, or by the ecclesiastical authorities of the Church? Is it owned by some unique individual? Does it belong to the Jews? It is the owner of the Bible that could say whether or not it should be acted upon this way or that.

For a long time the error that the Bible is owned by the Church [that is in the authoritative sense of the word] has been common. The error is based on the assumption that the Bible was compiled by the church. This argument is that; though the individual books were written by men inspired by the Holy Ghost, it is the church that chose which book belongs in the Bible and which did not.

At this point it is important to note that though God sent his word, he still lays complete claim to it. He entrusted it into the hands of men but still calls it his word. As the text above clearly shows that though God gave his word to man, he still calls it "my word." This text makes us to understand that the extent to which God lays claim to his word goes beyond the act of entrusting in which one will say to his entrustee "that's my word, so be careful with it." He absolutely owns his word, even in the hands of his entrustee, that he cannot do just what he wishes with it, so much that it will return to him. It is more or less a messenger (not entrusted into the hands of a messenger) on an errand and independent of those to whom it is sent. Therefore no one owns the word of God save God himself.

The Bible is not at anyone's disposal to change or modify. It is God's word and only he can change it. Since God does not change, his word too will not change. That's why in Psalms 119:89 it says "For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven." It is settled forever. It will not change. It remains constant forever. If by its standards lying is wrong, don't assume that after five million years, lying, by its standards will be right. No, it is forever settled. There is no debating and arguing about it. It is not tossed about about by the restless sea of change, time and era. It has been, it is, and will be fixed forever through all ages.

The Prophet, Isaiah, prophesied and said in Isaiah 40:8 "The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever. " Jesus Christ also said concerning the word of God in Matthew 5:17-18 "Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. "

Though age and times change it would still be God's own word, gathered together by his own spirit. We will look into this in the next chapter.

COMPILATION OF THE BIBLE

Isaiah 34:16 “Seek ye out of the book of the LORD, and read: no one of these shall fail, none shall want her mate: for my mouth it hath commanded, and his spirit it hath gathered them.”

Most error about the Bible's ownership comes from the misconception about the way it was compiled. I think, if men would be aware of the above verse and what it implies, it would keep a lot of misconceptions at banished out of sight.

Some people especially Catholics claim that the church compiled the Bible, thus the church owns the Bible and have the authority to determine which book belongs in the Bible and which does not. That if the Bible is faultless then it is because of the faultlessness of the Church. This erroneous claim, perhaps, is what accounts for the extra books in the Catholic Bible. They have exercised their "power" and "authority" over the “Bible” as they think they have.

Many others, due to this, have customised the Bible to suit their own doctrine. Among them are the Jehovah Witnesses, Latter Days Saints, and other pseudo-cults. Also in history we have seen where men wrest with the words of the Bible because it is not favourable to them and their ambitions.

The Catholics wrests with the doctrines of the Holy Spirit and argue with every other part of the scriptures that speaks of Mary, the mother of Jesus, being undivine. They do this to defend their false doctrines which includes “the Mary worship.” They also wrest with the list of books that make up the Bible with the intentions of including books which support these false doctrines of theirs.

The Catholics and secular skeptics claim that the Bible was compiled around 400 AD. However, the event which they refer to was just the gathering of the Christian Bishops to re-affirm the books which belongs to the Bible. This was a necessary action to checkmate the insurgence of false doctrines, teachings, and claims of the time. Many were bringing up this argument and that argument, why a book should be included to the Bible, and why some should be removed. These leaders came together in this re-affirmation to put all these arguments to an end and with their collective agreement move the church to reject all false claims and stick to the truth. But the gathering was not to decide which book belongs in the Bible or which does not. The books of the Bible had been closed since the time of the late apostles.

The writings of people who wrote just within fifty years after the death of John the beloved, an apostle of Jesus Christ, the writer of the book of Revelations, included quotes from the New Testament, which is an evidence that at their time there was already an authoritative list of books which already constituted the New Testament. So this gathering of Bishop was just to reaffirm that which was already in existence.

Therefore both the Catholics and the other pseudo-cults and the secular skeptics are arguing against the words spoken by God about his word, and arguing against reason when they attribute the compilation of the scriptures to the Church instead of the Spirit of God. Who then shall we say is wrong? God or the skeptics? The answer is simple.

The Bible is the word of God, spoken by God, owned by him and gathered by his Spirit, entrusted into the hands of men, yet absolutely independent of men.

THE AUTHORITY OF THE WORD

Luke 4:36 "And they were all amazed, and spake among themselves, saying, What a word is this! for with authority and power he commandeth the unclean spirits, and they come out."

According to O. Donnell, authority "is the power in a position to exercise discretion in making decisions affecting others." Authority is the right to act, decide or command and expect obedience from a subordinate or the right to direct the actions of others.

Authority is vested in positions and not necessarily in the personality occupying the position. A police man has the authority to make arrests not because he is a father of twelve but because of his position as is clearly evident in the uniform he wears.

Therefore, the Bible, though written by ink on paper, by the virtue of being the Word of God has the final and all encompassing authority on the Christian, the Christian Church, and on all of creation. Yes, it is printed by ink on paper just like my Physics textbook, it is my devices like any other application, and, in a way, we can consider paper, ink or device to be the personality. But its authority is not based on these. The authority of the words of the Bible lies in the position it occupies (in a way) which is the position of the Word of God.

Many people, both in the secular and religious circle, have been challenging the authority of the Bible but to no avail. As mentioned earlier, the church did not compile the Bible, so the Bible is not under the authority of the church. Christian individuals did not compile the Bible, therefore it is not under the authority of any Christian individual. The Bible is completely independent from all but its owner, I mean God himself and since he never changes, the Bible will never change.

This Bible is the best piece of God we can have while in the flesh. Many will talk about miracles as being something so great, others will talk about revelations as in a dream to be great, but however good these may be the greatest piece of God we can have is still the Bible.

In 1 Peter 1:16-21 Peter spoke of many things as to confirm that the doctrine he, through the Holy Ghost, had laid down for the church were not mere fables. He spoke first of being eye witnesses of Jesus Christ. This is a great thing to have witnessed, lived with, talked to, and work with the creator of Heaven and earth while he passed through our world. Very great indeed. Secondly he spoke of the voice from heaven which said "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." If relating so closely with God in the flesh was great as well as speaking to God who will respond with the voice of a man in the flesh being Jesus, how about hearing the voice from heaven? He went on to say "this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount." At the mount of transfiguration, they had seen Christ transform and spoke with Elijah and Moses. This experience distinguished their experience of Christ from every other person's experience. Others had seen him in his earthly form but now they saw him in an heavenly form and as if that was not enough they had the voice from heaven. This was a greater evidence of the truthfulness and accuracy of the scriptures. Thirdly he spoke of the written word saying "We have also a more sure word of prophecy." This, Peter considers to be greater and surer than the two other experiences they were privileged to have. So whether there be miracles, it is great, or whether there be revelations, they are great to direct us, but the final, surer, and greater form of directions are from the Bible.

For this reason the written word has more authority than any revelation, or miraculous evidences we may have. If there are revelations brought to us by any means, whether an angel, or a dream, or any other way, we must report to the great authority of the Bible and have its approval of that revelation

before accepting it. If there be any miraculous evidences, if it does not prove what the Bible approves, it is false. So great is the authority of the Bible that anything that is not inline with it is false and must be rejected. Failure to do this is eternal damnation. What a book! What a book!

Sometimes it is sad to see people (even some Christians) who fall into the error of regarding mundane things like traditions (ie of men), fame, facts, religion (i.e. in itself), popular opinion, instincts, personalities of men, etc as things possessing the final authority. It is sad, for these just can't be binding on men since they are man-made. What ought to be our final authority ought to be from our maker.

When two kids who are brothers are arguing about something, it doesn't always matter how persuasive the other may be but when they go to their dad and ask his opinion about the thing in question, the moment he speaks, it is taken to be the truth and that would bring an end to the argument. This is what a final authority is. Other things may contribute to our perception of things but when the final authority speaks, all other thing we have considered that are contrary just has to be false and thus pushed aside. "Without a final authority there is no reason for me to be here or there" said the great preacher A.W. Tozer, and how true that is. There is no meaning at all to everything under the sun, neither is there any essence to all our activities if there is no final authority. That final authority which gives meaning to everything in existence no other than the Holy Bible.

The Weakness Of Human Tradition

Isaiah 55:8-9 "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts."

Traditions are man-made, and, in the words of A.W. Tozer "tradition is the dust-bin of history." Traditions has no possibility of being entirely in line with the will of God. In the passage above, God says " For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways." Looking at the heavens and seeing the vast space between, it only makes us to understand to what extent our way of life (especially natural ways) is at variance with the will of God. How then can it be that men assume that traditions emanating out of the understanding of men to be ever correct or faultless so as to ascribe such an authority to traditions and thus ask men to obey it?

Charles Seet, in his book "A Christian in a non-Christian World," says "it is important that Christians recognise that they cannot just accept everything that claims to be merely cultural. We need to draw definite lines between what is acceptable in culture and what is not." How very true. Culture being human traditions are too often at variance with the will of God. He went on to say "we must have the conviction that not all things that are cultural are neutral. Since the Fall of man took place, man's culture has often reflected his own sinful nature. And though many cultural things are not bad, and there are good novels, good music, poetry, art and also good wholesome entertainment which do reflect the image of God in man, there are also many things in culture which are the expressions of his sinful nature. As such, they express ideas of corruption, futility, permissiveness, rebellion, self-centred pride and ambition. If we say that all that is merely cultural and immerse ourselves in enjoying them, we will definitely be adversely influenced by them. " I believe this words are for every one seeking to please God. Seeing that there are things in the human traditions that are wrong, we ought not to see traditions as being binding just because it is tradition.

It is sad to see that at times where the truth of the Bible is presented some would say “how can it be, our father's never did things this way.” The way the fathers did things is not important because that it is done by the fathers doesn't make its correctness absolute. It is nevertheless the product of human minds thus it lacks the credibility enough for the final authority to be ascribed to it. This kind of action of course is idolatry which we can call “the worship of the fathers.”

We are also made to understand in Luke 16:15 where Jesus says “that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God.” He did not qualify the extent of unacceptability of this by a weak word as “rejected” but used the very strong word “abomination.” This we see being so rampant everywhere in every aspect of human life. It is only natural for people to tell lies in business dealings. People promote hypocrisy with statements like “you don't let your clients see your weak side.” Natural human mind if not continually purged by the Word is always at variance with the truth.

Now we will consider a classical example of people who ascribe to traditions of men the final authority which were the Scribes and the Pharisees. It is important to note that the Pharisees were not of a secular background but of a strict religious background. Not just were they of a strict religious background of some pseudo religion, rather they were of the religious background in which they had the words of God for reference so much that Christ could not help but to say in Matthew 23:1-2 “The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat.” But what did the tradition which they held to mean in the sight of God? It put them continually at variance with the very Son of God. It made them nullify the very commandments of God. It made them to kill the prophets. It made them to crucify Christ who was innocent. It also made them persecute his disciples after the ascension of Christ. Of this their tradition Jesus said in Matthew 15:3 “Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition?” By traditions these highly religious people which sat in Moses' seat transgressed the commandment of God.

Now if these highly religious people who sat in the very seat of Moses could create and hold on to traditions that cause men to transgress the commandments of God, how much more transgression would the traditions created and held to by people who knew nothing about God cause us to transgress his commandments. How much worse would be the traditions of idol worshipers, blood suckers, ritual killers, of which the slightest would be a common moral pagan, how much worse would the traditions of such people make us to transgress if the Scribes and Pharisees could transgress?

The Bible says in 1 Peter 1:18-21 “Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you, Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God.” Here we are told that God had redeemed us from vain conversation which we received by tradition from our fathers. Here tradition should also be referring to ones life style in general. The word vain means senseless and futile, and it is such life style we can receive from men. But God has now set us free from all that through Christ Jesus. It went on to say that “Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God.” That answers it all, “that our faith and hope might be in God” and not in traditions of men. How ever we do not see God but we see him through his Word, thus it is in this his Word that the our faith should be and thus being dependable enough for us to fix our faith and hope upon, it is in it that the final authority lies.

Finally, in Colossians 2:8 “Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.” This warns us of the

dangers of philosophies that are after the traditions of men and rudiments of the world. Philosophy refers to every form of reasoning aimed at answering life's questions and relates all these attempts coming from men to be vain deceit. So every attempt to answer life's questions outside Christ are all deceptions. Deception first to the deceiver and then to the deceived.

We can see the place God gives to human traditions, the place of absolute insignificance. Therefore there are too many flaws in human traditions for one to even assume that it were ever possible for it to have the final authority. It is sad to see men, especially those who profess Christ, at one point on the other cling to traditions of their fathers as something that mustn't be acted in variance to, even to the extent of going against the very Word of God. It is also sad that people justify actions and mode dressing making reference to traditions of men in this or that part of the world so as to forsake the Bible's injunction on how we are to live. May God help us to be wise in the Word and not foolish after vain traditions of men.

The Weakness Religion

Luke 16:15 "And he said unto them, Ye are they which justify yourselves before men; but God knoweth your hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God."

I am not one of those who say that Christianity is not a religion and I am always opposed to them. Whenever I hear these strange doctriners say that Christianity is not a religion, my question to them is always this "if Christianity is not a religion, then what is it?" They'll mumble this and mumble that but never give a meaningful answer. Rather they'll contradict themselves. Christianity seeks (permit my using the word "seek" as it didn't) to answer the questions such how came about, why we are here, what are the right things to do here, and where we are going from here. These constitutes religion. These blabbers not receiving any revelation from God to give his church decided to coin up a clever sounding rubbish that isn't without dire consequences. Let's be warned, Christianity remains a religion.

However I must maintain thar religion in itself for the sake of religion lacks the ability of being the final authority being a subset of philosophy. Only religion founded upon the Bible can amount to anything. Apart from the Bible all religion is self-destruct, and they can't be truly called religion. I still call them religion only because it is widely understood thus and not because they are in essence.

The religions of the world all contradict themselves. I was once told a story of a Hindu boy who some fellow students who were Christians and Muslims tried to persuade that he should not worship idols but worship God. The Hindu was the one that all the words were directed to till he asked them "who is God?" The Christians and the Muslims turned on themselves and started arguing. The Muslims argued it was "Allah" while the Christians said it was "Christ Jesus." This just goes to show what manner of contradiction lies among the religions of the world and to try to unite Christianity with any other religion that is no religion at all in essence only and always produces such shameful results. Therefore religion not founded on the Bible has no authority in it. If it is not based on the Bible, it is just meaningless jargon. Therefore, not as a matter of sentiments, the Christian faith is the only authoritative faith in the world as it has the absolute backing of the authoritative word of God.

The Weakness Of Facts

Luke 16:15 “And he said unto them, Ye are they which justify yourselves before men; but God knoweth your hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God.”

Proverbs 16:25 “There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.”

Facts has always been regarded as something in which the final authority lies. I wrote about the weakness of facts in my first book “FAITH: The Evidence Of Things Not Seen.” A fact is something known to be true. It is something that everybody agrees and affirm to be true so that there is no need arguing about it.

However, that something is known to be true doesn't make it true. For something to known to be, it means it has been proved with acceptable evidence that it is true. Nevertheless, the things that have been taken for evidence have not always been true in the end, neither are the minds which accept these evidences faultless so as to say what it accepts as evidence is truly evidence. For this reason, the final authority can't lie in facts.

We see that the Bible clearly speaks about the evil proclivity for men to justify something unjustifiable before God. In the first verse above Christ says to the Pharisees saying “ye are they which justify yourselves before men.” This justification of cause would have been done with evidences. They must have shown evidences to men to convince them that they are justified. Same way that men would provide evidences to justify claims before other men and the result is “fact.” Perhaps, before the intervention of Christ, it was a fact that the Pharisees were holy and very acceptable before God, but Christ exposing this showed it that these men were in no way acceptable before God.

In the second text we are made to understand that apart from man's standard of judgment being detestable in God's sight, it is also naturally destructive. It says there is a way that seems right to a man but the end thereof are the ways of destruction. For this reason, the final authority can't lie in the what is known among men to be true. The word “fact” seems so strong and powerful that during an argument or debate once used the person on the opposing side would seem to agree without really thinking about what has been said and it becomes hard to attempt to object against it even it were wrong. But seeing it by what it means and the limitations of the minds it is subject to, it really can't possess the final authority in itself.

The Weakness Of Personalities

Romans 2:11 “For there is no respect of persons with God.”

People do recognise personalities as people with final authority. They have an idol in their heart in which they trust so much that he cannot be ever wrong. When ever he says something or does something he or they can't be wrong. These personalities are usually distinguished with unique qualities, usually by educational achievements or class or reputation.

The doleful effect of this secular way of accepting the persons of men and ascribing the final authority on them has flown into the Christian Church. The Church now sees some distinguished

men holding some ecclesiastical post as men with the final authority.

It is sad that when you bring up a wrongful practice practiced by a church, and from the scriptures point out why it is wrong, yet someone would still vehemently oppose you saying “you are proud! Could this or that preacher be wrong? He also practices and allows it. If you are confused about anything, meet those higher than you to put you through.” My question however is which ecclesiastical authority can show that he has the mind of an angel and not of man? Therefore, ecclesiastical authorities in themselves are no authorities at all. Even Paul, the only apostle that got Peter's expressed endorsement, never ascribed any authority to himself. In 1 Corinthians 11:1 Paul said “Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.” Why we should follow him is only because he follows Christ, and no authority did he claim to himself. So also the final authority cannot be attributed to any personality of which in the Church would likely be an ecclesiastical authority.

The Glory And Authority Of The Word

Psalms 138:2 “I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name.”

Understanding the authority of the scriptures, Richard of St. Victor (1117-1173) said “I hold all truth in suspicion which the authority of the Scriptures does not confirm.” Man's standards of judgment is detestable before God, and if at all it would be acceptable then we must base our judgment on the Word of God. Having seen the weaknesses of the things that emanate out of man's opinions, in which one may fall into the error of taking them as the final authority, let us see where the final and ultimate authority really lies.

We know that God never honoured any man or his philosophies just because they are his, neither did he say he will honour any prophet, not even Moses, Samuel, Enoch, nor the man Abraham, more than his name. But he said of his word in Psalms 138:2 “...for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name.”

Nothing in this whole wide world has such honour to be lifted above all the name of the creator of all things. This alone is enough for us to see that it is the Bible that possesses the final, ultimate and absolute authority. It is the only thing that is perfectly true. It is not subject to human reasoning, it is not subject to anything at all. It came expressly from the perfect mind of God into the hands of man. It moves with the majestic stride and power of the Most High.

Its authority is all encompassing. There is no questioning it. It is the very word of the Most High. There is either two options once these words come into one's ears, either one accepts it and gets broken by it or one rejects it and gets crushed by it.

The Bible which is God's written word is the only thing tangible on earth that never changes. God has given his word to preserve it, thus it can't be corrupted. God is its keeper and preserver. Nothing in this world has, will, or can even overcome the Bible. For it is in its pages that the hope of man kind exists. It contains the map of the very way back to God. These, and much more, are the glories of the Bible.

The final authority lies in none other thing than the very word of God. The word of God should be restored into its rightful place in the Christian Church.

WHY SO MANY TRANSLATIONS?

Psalms 62:11 "God hath spoken once; twice have I heard this that power belongeth to God."

There are many translation of the Bible, as can be easily observed, however, it is important to know that most of these translations came about by evil intent. Others may have been out good intent but ended up being very bad. Some have been made to undermine certain unfavourable doctrines of the Bible. For example, The Revised Bible was written in the University of Oxford but under strong Catholic influence to undermine the doctrine of the Holy Ghost and other unfavourable doctrines of the Bible to the Catholic church. It was one of the relentless efforts of the Catholics to re-establish the dominance papal faith in Britain and elsewhere. Even those who attempt to defend the Revised Version acknowledge that the translation of this book were done by people among which were some who deny the Godhead of the Lord Jesus Christ. I got the following from the book "Our English Bible" by Harold Smith who, in this book, stands in defence of revision of the Bible:

"A breakdown was narrowly averted near the start. Dean Stanley invited all the revisers to a Celebration in Westminster Abbey; there were among them about sixteen non-Anglicans, including a Unitarian, Dr. Vance Smith. Hence arose a great outcry against the "Westminster Scandal"; there was much indignation among High Churchmen, who appealed to the Confirmation rubric. The Bishops were carried away by it, and passed a resolution that no person who denies the Godhead of Our Lord Jesus Christ ought to be invited to join either company, and any such person now on shall cease to act. But Bishop Thirlwall regarded the resolution as mischievous and likely to discredit the honesty of the revisers' work, and sent in his resignation at once, with the effect that the obnoxious resolution was practically withdrawn.

So we see that these revisers had in there midst sixteen non-Anglicans. He spoke nothing about who these non-Anglicans were. Maybe they were Buddhists. Certainly, they are heretics. At least he made mention that one of them was a Unitarian who are heretics and who don't hold on to the true words of God the way it is. They deny the Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ.

These heretics are allowed to partake in the revision exercise. And those Anglicans who were among them were from many indications apostates. That is a big blunder not to mention the ignorance and the gross waste of time to even assume that the Bible needed revision. What fellowship has light with darkness? But such was the company of those who wanted to revise the "Bible". It is a shame.

The Dead Sea Scroll that is purportedly claimed as the most accurate manuscript is another big scandal. It is the manuscript through which most, if not all modern translations of the Bible are translated from. When exposed to some electromagnetic ray, it was found out that the manuscript has been altered at least eight times. They are not the original of what was written at all. The accurate manuscript remains the Textus Receptus (Received Text). This is the manuscript from which the King James Bible was translated from.

Another example of these fraudulent translations is the New King James Version. Most other translations of the Bible base their translations on one manuscript or the other, but this one claims that it's translation is based on the King James Bible and goes right ahead to contradict the King James even doctrinally. What is even a more serious problem about the book is that as it calls itself "The New King James Version," it makes the The King James Version sound obsolete. As the Bible says in Hebrews 8:13 "In that he saith, A new covenant, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away." Being that the New King James Bible has

deceptively gotten wide acceptance for itself, it is sad that when referring to the King James Bible some now refer to it as the Old King James Version, as if it were ready to be done away with.

Many errors are in the NKJV and I wonder why people read it. Many do so because they love the King James Bible and seeing the NKJV as if it were the King James Bible in contemporary English, they love it. But that book is a counterfeit.

The New International Version that many theologians acclaim to be the best translation is a classic book of blunder meant to turn Christians out of the way into Hell. They had many things right but the important things are wrong. As David Daniel from Chick Publications pointed out, that in the Newest NIV, nothing was changed except a verse which reads "Go ye up unto this feast: I go not up yet unto this feast: for my time is not yet full come." (John 7:8). Their earlier translations read "You go to the festival. I am not yet going up to this festival, because my time has not yet fully come." However, their newest translation reads "You go to the festival. I am not going up to this festival, because my time has not yet fully come." Note that the "yet" was removed. And two verses later it reads "However, after his brothers had left for the festival, he went also, not publicly, but in secret." This makes Jesus out to be telling what can be called diplomatic lies with the intent of deceiving his brothers. Most of the contemporary English versions has it this way too. The earlier NIV versions had this right, that is, the 1973, the 1978, and the 1984 editions. And now, after 37 years, the 2011 changes the text to make Jesus out into a liar. Very sad.

There are several scandals out there in the Bible societies. A lot of people are out there for profit and profit is multiplied when people have up to twelve different Bible translations in their shelves instead of one. There are a lot of devils out there too who hope to destroy the church by these translations. There are a lot of popish persons out there who are doing the bidding of the Catholic church to hide their error. The evil out there is much. The surplus of Bible translations is an evidence of it where there should only be one translation.

These are the reasons why we have many translations of the Bible. These translation very silently create division in the church. It is so silent that even though you see the division you just can hardly trace it to the use of multiple translations. But God is greater than them all. The wind of multiple translations is very strong, but the church is marching on.

THE KING JAMES BIBLE

Psalms 12:5-7 "For the oppression of the poor, for the sighing of the needy, now will I arise, saith the LORD; I will set him in safety from him that puffeth at him. The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever."

All the other translations have been endorsed by this theologian or that theologian, but it doesn't necessarily make them true or reliable. How about the King James Version. It is the oldest complete translation into English language. The King James Version is superior to all other translations. Though it doesn't really have a written down endorsement of any scholar or theologian, the King James Version is the only version prophesied about in the Bible. So its endorsement is of the Almighty, and not of human.

We humans are weak and are so limited so much that no one's endorsement is ever enough for the approval of any Biblical translation at all. Instead I believe that those unreserved theologians and so-called scholars who go right ahead to endorse translations of the Bible are vainglorious, pompous, and arrogant if not even blasphemous to even assume that they could approve which translation of the Bible is worthy of our trust or not being the children of God.

We should not let ourselves to be swept away with all the deceptions of this apostate age. All the other translations are good but just like every other commentary are only good for the purposes of study and intimating the self with variant opinions and not for guidance. That which has the endorsement of God is that which should be accepted fully and no other one should be accepted as equally true.

The Advent Of The King James Version

Psalms 12:5-7 "For the oppression of the poor, for the sighing of the needy, now will I arise, saith the LORD; I will set him in safety from him that puffeth at him. The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever."

In the early times of the church only church leaders really had access to the Bible. Not by forbidding the laity but for the reasons that to possess a copy of the Bible was a tedious job. It meant to copy the entire Bible with the hand. Those times through faithful and godly men people could be led in the way of the Lord, without being led astray. I used to wonder how beautiful it would be to be taught of a man like Polycarp and others like him. These men could lead men in the way of the Lord. I have read of so many godly men brought up this way who lived a perfect Christian life without having direct contact with the Bible, but were only taught by some good friend of God. This was so till the era of apostasy.

Prior to the advent of the King James Version, the Bible couldn't be understood by the public or the lay man. They could only be understood by the priests who by training had learnt Latin. This was because the catholics and men in authority who favoured them had prohibited the people from owning a copy of the Bible or to translate it, and even killed some of those who attempted to translate the Bible into a language understood by everyone. By this prohibition, they could preach whatsoever false doctrine they wanted to, they could claim whatsoever authority they wanted to.

They could even make the people incur on themselves whatsoever curses as much as they wanted.

Within this time Catholicism triumphed unchallenged. They had both political and ecclesiastical authority. They thrived financially as they held the people to perpetual slavery using the cords of ignorance and lies. They brutally crushed anyone that withstood them. They controlled Kings to embark on bloody crusades. They did as they wish even claiming that they had authority over the Bible.

They were responsible for some of the cathedrals scattered across Europe today. The money with which some of these were built were extorted from the common people to whom they had lied to the people that salvation was to be bought. This was gross wickedness indeed. Because of these lies a widow would give her last penny that she could have lived on believing she was buying forgiveness of sins for her dead husband. It was through wickedness that they gained much grounds, holding even kings captive.

Speaking of the St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, Ginny Justice of Rollins College pointed out that "The popes and their minions connived and stole to get much of the money to build the basilica. Indulgences were sold and empty promises made, frequently to poor, naïve villagers throughout Europe."

It is also stated on Durham World Heritage's website by an unknown author that "From the mid-twelfth century, the Church started granting indulgences (forgiveness of sins) to those who would help to build a church or cathedral." By this, they, with their false doctrine of indulgence, employed the service of ignorant men without paying them. They gave them a false pardon for sins. So by this heresy they got great gain to themselves. Not just money but free services also.

Aren't those Cathedrals elegant? So magnificent they were that Bayard Taylor (1825-1878) talking about his experience when he visited the St. Peter's Basilica made this comment "And when at length we stood in front with the majestic Colonnades sweeping around, the fountains on each side sending up their showers of silvery spray, the mighty Obelisk of Egyptian granite piercing the skies, and beyond the great façade and the Dome,—I confessed my unmingled admiration. The awe I felt did not humble me. On the contrary, I felt exalted. Beings in the form I wore planned that glorious edifice, and it seemed that in God-like power and perseverance they were indeed but little lower than the Angels. I felt that, if fallen, my race was still mighty and immortal." Yeah, that is how magnificent they are. Such devilish landmarks can't humble you. They are too magnificent for that. Magnificent with a magnificence that speaks of extortion.

All cathedrals were either built by extortion or by ignoring the poor. I once watched an historical documentary in which a man disapproved of the building of a cathedral with such expensive materials while having poor children running about naked on the streets. Not because they didn't know that they ought to be dressed but because the poverty was so great, parents could not afford clothes for their children. The poverty could have been this great because they were being extorted by this same people executing the project of building the cathedral. The builder just went ahead building his cathedral saying that having expensive jewels in the walls and expensive glass paintings for windows made one to feel the presence of God when he entered the building. How very foolish. When Lawrence the martyr was asked to present the wealth of the church to the Roman government who wanted to confiscate them, he presented the poor and said they were the wealth of the church as the church had given all its money to the poor. But this fools ignore the poor and extort them to afford a congregation a feeling. An idolatrous feeling that you were in the presence of golden images. This, blind men who know nothing about the presence of God say such is the presence of God. True enough. They feel this way for that is their god; golden images and money. How foolish.

They knew that their power will be broken, were the people to realize the truth. So they denied the people the right to own a copy of the Bible. They killed, they persecuted people and threatened others to ensure no one knows the truth. And even when King James ordered that the Bible should be translated, in their desperation, they still opposed it as is evident in the letter to King James where the translators said “we hold it our duty to offer it [The translation of the King James Version] to Your Majesty, not only as to our King and Sovereign, but as to the principal Mover and Author of the work: humbly craving of Your most Sacred Majesty, that since things of this quality have ever been subject to the censures of ill meaning and discontented persons, it may receive approbation and Patronage from so learned and judicious a Prince as Your Highness is, whose allowance and acceptance of our labours shall more honour and encourage us, than all the calumniations and hard interpretations of other men shall dismay us. So that if, on the one side, we shall be traduced by Popish Persons at home or abroad, who therefore will malign us, because we are poor Instruments to make God's holy Truth to be yet more and more known unto the people, whom they desire still to keep in ignorance and darkness.” They did malign the translators despite having King James who was the King of Great Britain, France, and Ireland, as the “principal Mover and Author” of this translations. In their desperate effort to retain the gain they had through extortion, they did not even respect the king. They even attempted to assassinate the king by blowing him up with a barrel of gun powder placed under where he was standing, but the plot was discovered, foiled, and the perpetrators arrested. Because God intervened, they were, at this point, too weak to prevent the translation of the Bible into English language.

This explains why God said in the prophesy recorded in Psalm 12 about the King James Version “For the oppression of the poor, for the sighing of the needy, now will I arise, saith the LORD; I will set him in safety from him that puffeth at him.” The advent of The King James Bible really did put an end to all the wickedness of these men who forced themselves on the Church, extorting money from the poor, preventing men from finding God, and even killing innocent men.

Now to consider how the King James Bible was purified seven times. It is known that there were six translations of the Bible into English Language before the King James, meaning it is the seventh. These translations are: Wycliff’s Lollard translation, the Tyndale’s Bible, the Coverdale’s Bible, the Matthew’s Bible, the Geneva Bible, the Bishop’s Bible and then the King James Bible.

It is important to note what the translators wrote down before the beginning of the New Testament. They wrote: “THE NEW TESTAMENT Of Our Lord Jesus Christ. TRANSLATED OUT OF THE ORIGINAL GREEK AND WITH THE FORMER TRANSLATIONS DILIGENTLY COMPARED AND REVISED BY HIS MAJESTY'S SPECIAL COMMAND.” When they said that they had translated the King James Bible out of the original Greek and that they had also compared the former translations which are the six preceding translations, it shows that the King James Bible is not just a compilation of the preceding translations as it was translated out of the original Greek, but being that they compared former translations, it means that the King James is the product of all these translations. It is, therefore, not possible to say the King James was translated out of the original Greek alone, meaning it is just the product of one effort to translate the Bible to English, meaning that it is just one time purified, but it was product of all the previous efforts, therefore all these were purifying processes for the King James Bible.

Therefore I believe the King James Bible was endorsed by God and not by men. We then know that the perfect translation of the Bible is the King James Bible, advent of new manuscripts, arguments of theologians notwithstanding. It is therefore the only infallible Bible we have, it is the only translation that have the perfect truth and word of God, and all other translations are just good yet faulty study materials.

Weakness Of Expression?

"Where the word of a king is, there is power." (Ecclesiastes 8:4)

People often assume that the King James Bible had weakness of expression but how wrong that is. The old English is far richer than the contemporary English we use today. If you'll take a look at the dictionary, you'd see a lot of words which are said to be archaic. My little observation is that the language loses words in the common aspects of life than it is gaining. It loses words we use in everyday life while new words are mostly scientific or professional terms and not words to aid us in precise expression outside the field of sciences.

If one were to pick a book, let's say of John Wesley, many of his expressions are not readily understood by a contemporary English speaking person. Many of the expressions the language had then have been lost which I perhaps as I suppose is in the subconscious bid to have a simpler language with fewer words to express many things. The richness of the vocabulary in the King James Bible is second to no other. While other translation as they are meant to appeal to lazy people go about using simple expressions, the King James Bible sometimes uses expressions that are tough but expresses God's thought with perfect precision.

Love Or Charity?

1 Corinthians 2:13 "Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual."

The King James Bible uses the word "charity" throughout 1 Corinthians chapter 13 while other translations say it is love. We must note that the King James Bible uses the word "love" 280 times elsewhere. Then why does it use charity here? The commentators on this passage say that the King James is just using an archaic or less appropriate word for love, but how true is that?

Love as we all know is an intense feeling of deep affection, but charity is kindness, tolerance, leniency in judgment, and benevolent goodwill toward others. The King James Bible says it is charity that is kind, while the other translations say it is love, but how kind is love?

The Bible makes us to know that love isn't always kind. In Proverbs 13:24 it says "He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes." How kind is that? If love was kindness then for one to inflict pain on his son for whatever reason is not love. But here we are told that it is love to chasten and to do otherwise is hate.

God who is love personified chastens and scourge those whom he loves as it says in Hebrews 12:6 "For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth." So this is a part of God's love to punish those whom he loves when they act contrary to his will. However of God's charitable act in Matthew 5:45 it says "That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust." Here it is strictly kindness and no punishment or chastening. This is charity.

Charity is love expressed by kindness, forbearance, tolerance and leniency in judgment. Not every expression of love is charity. Just as chastening and scourging are both expressions of love, charity

is another.

So we know by this that the King James Bible did not refuse to use love which it used 280 times elsewhere for no reason. Thus, the King James Bible is right and all translations that are on the contrary are wrong and thus false. At the most they are just good, wonderful, interesting, detailed, yet faulty commentaries but don't have authority as The Word of God. Only the King James Bible has 100% correctness. All other translations just keep making blunder about the Christian doctrine at one point or the other. Little they may seem, but these have led many astray and given many wavering feet.

It is this charity that Paul admonishes to be amidst us as brethren in this passage. Among brethren it should be love expressing itself in charity. Though collectively we are to cast out evil profane persons from our midst, but no brother individually should chastise his brother or teach him a lesson. We should be lenient in our judgment of one another. We shouldn't be too quick to criticise one another. We should be benevolent in our good deeds and overlook faults. This is what Paul admonishes. Not chastening or scourging which one can also do in love.

Concision Or Circumcision

"Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the concision." (Philippians 3:2)

In Philippians 3:2 above, the Bible clearly speaks against schism and disunity in the body of Christ. Making us to see that denominationalism is not God's will. Having one church existing in unity, purity, devotion to God and absolute surrender to his will. This is his will. For any man to say he were doing God's will and starts his own church, by this verse, we can prove such a liar. However let's see what other translations say in this verse.

The Message Bible

"Steer clear of the barking dogs, those religious busybodies, all bark and no bite. All they're interested in is appearances — knife-happy circumcisers, I call them." (Philippians 3:2)

The New International Version

"Watch out for those dogs, those evildoers, those mutilators of the flesh." (Philippians 3:2)

The New Living Translation

"Watch out for those dogs, those people who do evil, those mutilators who say you must be circumcised to be saved." (Philippians 3:2)

You see, none of these translations warns us against division. Perhaps the revisers don't want us to have a enough text to condemn church division by denominations as it is a good business.

Guilt And Conscience

"For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things." (1 John 3:20)

Some translations make us to undermine the role of conscience. For example the New Living Translation (NLT) says "Even if we feel guilty, God is greater than our feelings, and he knows

everything." (John 3:20). That phrase "even if" makes us to think our feelings doesn't matter. When we do what is wrong and we feel guilty it does not matter. God is greater than our feelings and he justifies us even when we feel guilty. This verse alone caused me a major stagnation in my walk with God. The improvement to my moral life came to a stand still as I ignored my conscience. But look at what the King James Bible says "For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things." (1 John 3:20). Here the King James Bible makes it plain that if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our hearts and we should expect a greater condemnation from him since he knows more than the heart. In the next verse it says "Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God." (1 John 3:21). This means that our confidence towards God should be based on the fact that our heart does not condemn us. Therefore we know that we are not to ignore our feelings. When we feel guilty, we should make things right with God immediately and not just ignore our feelings.

From my conversion I have used many translations in study. I started with the Contemporary English Version, then moved to the New Living Translation, then moved on to use the New International Version, I used briefly the Good News Bible, then to the New King James Version, and then finally, I started using the King James Bible. Nothing attracted me to the King James Bible because it was hard initially to understand what it was saying. I started reading it as I was forced to start reading it when I heard no other translations at hand to read. Not long after I started reading it, I fell in love with it. I can tell you that if you take any of these contemporary translations and study it, and build your life on it, and I take the King James Bible and study it, and build my life on it, though we both say we are Christians living by the word of God, we'll be two entirely different people. While you will be careless and irreverent, I will be very conscientious and live in reverent fear always.

Jude The Brother Of James

"Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, and called: Mercy unto you, and peace, and love, be multiplied." (Jude 1:1 - 2)

The author of this vibrant book of Jude can be a little hard to know. Why? Your contemporary translations. It may seem a little issue to be uncertain about the author of each and every book of the Bible but it is not. We can't adequately defend the Bible and consequently, the Christian faith if we can't say this or that is the author of this or that book. We know that the authority of the authors of the books of the New Testament flowed from Jesus himself and not just the writing of anybody who wishes to write constitutes the Bible. They all had their authority from Christ and evidences that what they wrote was given to them through revelation from God.

So who is this Jude? And what gives his epistle the authority to be in the Bible? He is very easily the same person referred to as Judas in Luke 6:16 where it says "Judas the brother of James." as well as in Acts 1:13 where it says "Judas the brother of James." This noble man was also spoken of in Acts 16:22. He is most likely the one referred to as the only other Judas among the company of the apostles killed himself a long time ago. This is what the Bible says in that verse "Then pleased it the apostles and elders with the whole church, to send chosen men of their own company to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas; namely, Judas surnamed Barsabas and Silas, chief men among the brethren." (Acts 15:22). He was first of all said to be chosen and also it was said that he was chief among the brethren. This was the noble author of the book of Jude.

But what influence does your contemporary translations have in this respect? Here we go. If in the

KJB, Judas was described as the brother of James in both Luke 6:16, and Acts 1:13 which agrees fully to Jude's introduction of himself, how does your contemporary, easy to read translations put it.

The Message Bible

"Judas, son of James" (Luke 6:16)

"Judas, son of James." (Acts 1:13)

The New Living Translation

"Judas (son of James)" (Luke 6:16)

"Judas (son of James)." (Acts 1:13)

The New International Version

"Judas son of James" (Luke 6:16)

"Judas son of James" (Acts 1:13)

But they all have Jude introduce himself as Jude Brother of James in the book of Jude. You'll just think that Judas was somebody entirely different from Jude. But in the KJB however, the both Luke 6:16, Acts 1:13, and Jude 1:1 refers to one person, the brother of James. Not a brother, but the brother of James. One dubious translation goes ahead to make Jude introduce himself as "a brother" rather than "the brother." This has been a source of major contention as to who the author of this sublime book is. There needn't be division among us, just throw your contemporary Bibles out of the window.

Yea And Nay!

2 Corinthians 1:18 "But as God is true, our word toward you was not yea and nay."

I suppose all contemporary translations of scriptures are not the Bible at all for all the footnotes and usage of multiple manuscripts to say to its readers "yea" and later "nay" with footnotes reading something like "however some other manuscripts puts it this other way." In other words some other manuscripts says that we are telling a lie. I think we ought to just cling to the true word of God, the most magnificent and rich translation, the King James Bible, endorsed not by scholars or theologians but by the very word of Prophecy; seven times purified (Psalm 12:6). We don't find any such ridiculous approach to presenting the word of God in the King James Bible of saying yea and nay on the same issue. No, I'll rather not have my life guided at all than to be guided by a compass that will tell the way home is forward and backward at the same time. But I'll be completely willing to be guided by that which will lead me home by pointing me to just one direction always. The right direction.

The list of faults found in contemporary versions goes on and on. How they say women can put on gold and look like Jezebel. How they say women should respect their husbands rather than reverence them, how they complicate simple truths and render them meaningless. The King James on the other hand stands for righteousness, modesty, reverence for one's husband. The King James also reads "For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink." (Romans 14:17) but the NIV puts it "For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking." What a fine shield the NIV provides for people who are so preoccupied with preaching "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house." (Malachi 3:10), yet they cannot prove their relationship to the sons of Levi.

You can compare for yourself and don't be blind to think that all these translations are worthy of

acceptance. If fact, none is. Only the King James Bible is worthy of our reading and acceptance.

Why English Language?

Zephaniah 3:9 “For then will I turn to the people a pure language, that they may all call upon the name of the LORD, to serve him with one consent”

When I read the History of England, I was surprised at the event of things that took place before we now have what is called the English language, but when I related it to we having the Bible in this language, I understood well why it was good that things happened thus. Various events took place before we had the English Language we all speak today, and these all had their influence on the language. We shall look at them briefly and see how it affects this all important translation of Bible, I mean the translation to English language.

1. Migration (about 446 AD): Some Germanic tribes migrated to isles of England who were the real originators of English Language. These tribes were called Angles, Saxon, and Jutes. We could assume that these three tribes spoke different languages.

2. Latin Influence: Due to these tribes having contacts with the Roman Empire and as Roman missionaries came to this region with the gospel message, they borrowed a few words from latin.

3. Scandinavian Influence (865 AD): When the Danes invaded and settled in some parts of England, they also influenced the language and some words were borrowed into it.

4. French Influence (1066 AD): After the Norman Conquest, the Normans who spoke French also brought in their own influence and words from French were also borrowed into the language.

5. The Renaissance (1500 AD): During the Renaissance, English Language had a lot of growth in vocabulary. During the English Renaissance, (1500–1650 AD), some 10,000 to 12,000 words entered the English lexicon, including the word lexicon.

These were the major events that had influence on English language before the advent of the King James Bible in 1611 AD. All these events greatly improved the English language as it borrowed from many other languages. Now English language is so rich in vocabulary that surpasses all other languages, so much that in English language you can express yourself with absolute precision. If I say “I am hungry” it makes it known that I need food, but in the richness of English language, when I say “I am famished,” it shows to what extent I need that food. This and much more makes English language very unique indeed.

Being that every expression can be expressed with absolute precision, it goes to say that every truth that needs be expressed in the Bible can, in English language, be expressed with absolute precision so that one wouldn't need to wonder, when he reads the Bible, what the words of Bible meant to be expressing or if there were any other words that could better replace it. The translators had ample choice of words to choose from in their translation. For these reasons we could read the Bible in absolute confidence that all that is being read are expressed with absolute precision.

One may ask what of the understanding of Greek and Hebrew that enables one to have in-dept knowledge about what the Bible is talking about. Considering this, I think that whatever thing that such understanding have to add to our understanding of the scriptures can be done without.

Often time, when these knowledge of foreign languages have any additional meaning to what one can understand of what has been written, it is only because one is not a good thinker. For Example the word “pleasure” as used in Psalms 16:11 in Hebrew is “Na’iymoth” and helps know that the word “pleasure” here describes all kinds of things that are lovely, pleasant, sweet, and delightful, which may include nice music, or delicious food, or physical beauty. All these in the context adds no meaning at all. All these are pleasurable of course. With a little thinking, one could come to understand that “pleasure” here means all this things pleasurable and even more. And through good thinking one can also understand that the only exceptions to these are that since it describes the right hand of God in the passage, all sinful pleasures would be excluded from the list since sin is contrary to the nature of God.

This is how unprofitable understanding Greek or Hebrew is to our understanding of the scriptures. Most times these can't add any meaning, though they can ease teachings and explanations, but they seldom if at all add any whole new meaning. The King James Bible is precise and very little meaning can be added to it by considering anything outside its pages, whether they be foreign language, history, or my pastor's opinion.

I do not intend to undermine the importance of these foreign languages to scriptural study but to encourage every Christian who do not know these languages not to fret over not being able to arrive at the right conclusions by studying their Bibles alone (prayerfully). Studying the Bible is enough to draw one close to God and where there is something hard to understand, through prayer, God will open the mind of such a person to understand to the fullest what is being said. As a matter of fact the Bible speaks about how to understand the scriptures in 1 Corinthians 2 and doesn't speak to the gentiles about first understand Hebrew. It only emphasises the role of the Holy Ghost in revealing the meanings of these things to our mind. I will talk more on the Biblical standards of gaining knowledge about the things written in the scriptures in a later chapter but I will like to assure you now that it excludes knowing Greek or Hebrew.

The King James Version is also the only contemporary Bible translation that can be said was protected by the very hand of God unlike the newer ones that have not faced any persecution at all apart from minor scholarly criticism. The King James Version and the translations before it underwent serious persecution and were the ones threatened by individuals, collective authorities and leaders to be destroyed. Despite all these, the King James Version which if uninspired was just paper and ink prevailed and exists till today. The King James Version prevailed not by the power of paper and ink, not by the power of men, but by the power of the Most High God.

The argument that the Bible is like a constitution undergoing several amendments is therefor false. The Bible is constant and has not been modified in any way, and the true and completely accurate word of God is the King James Version and the King James Version only. These new versions amended nothing as no amendment can be where there is no fault.

UNDERSTANDING THE BIBLE

1 Corinthians 62:11 “Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.”

Now I wish to speak of the Biblical standard of interpreting scriptures or understanding scriptures. It is key to understand what God is saying in his word. To misunderstand his word will make us live against his will even when we might zealously want to do his will. The Jews after crucifying Jesus Christ persecuted the church passionately, and all this they did while thinking they were doing the will of God. Some of them did this out of sheer envy but others did it out of passionate zeal for God. But this zeal was without knowledge as they were even pleased when Herod killed James with a sword and when Steven was stoned to death. Some one like Saul who later became Paul was of a pure motive and considered what the church taught as heresy and wanted to put an end to their menace. But when he came to knowledge of God he regretted all that he had done against the Body of Christ.

So understanding the Bible is key to living a good Christian life. But how do we come appropriately to the knowledge of what the Bible is saying. The text above shows us the simple way to do this saying “comparing spiritual things with spiritual things.”

It is sad when one listens to modern day teachers and see the blunder being taught and how this principles have been relegated to the background by many from pulpit to the pew.

People now encourage group discussion in which many times the people conclude that anything they arrive at through their consensus is right. I once spoke to a friend of mine (who was a Catholic though) and presented reasons why something he said was completely wrong according to the Bible, but he wasn't convinced about it saying, “we discussed it in our discussion group and this was the conclusion we arrived at.” Isn't that sad? How can the carnal opinions of men become the basis of trying to understand the scriptures?

People also assume personalities (especially famous ones) with ecclesiastical title or achievement as those dictate what is right or wrong, true or false, and not the Bible. This assumption comes with over-due respect for the personalities of men. Paul was not a man of this sought. When he saw Peter, who by all indications was the head of Church, erring in his conduct from the way it ought to be, he rebuked him openly. He wasn't given to this superfluous respect of the personalities of men. Neither did Jesus Christ regard the Pharisees despite that he said they sat in the sit of Moses. This is not to instigate rebellion among Christians against their leaders but to get rid of this rather silly and sheepish way of reasoning that what a church leader says is true just because it is a church leader saying it.

I once spoke to a man on some practices that shouldn't be allowed in the Church as the Bible clearly speaks against it, but he accused me of arrogance and asked me “do you mean that that leader of that big church is wrong?” But the right question is “could that leader of that big church be right and the Bible be wrong?” This is another sad way in which men try to attain to knowledge of the things of God. They just go about listening to what this and that man says and compare these carnal things and arrive at a right-looking yet very daft conclusion.

Another sad way people try to attain to knowledge of the things of God is to consider the things

generally accepted by “church goers.” If it is generally accepted that women pray with their head uncovered, then it is not wrong for a woman to pray with her head uncovered. The people who judge according to this standard would also have to agree that if it is generally accepted that you will have to kill yourself like Judas Iscariot for God to forgive you your sins, then it is not also wrong for people to kill themselves. How foolish.

Human philosophies are also used especially in the theological settings to arrive at a conclusion on what the teachings of the Bible could mean. Sometimes I read books and articles of people who are supposed to have a theological education who write things that are quite absurd. Sadly, what ever such people write always have a sweeping negative effect whether it is positive or negative. They can use history, philosophy, foreign language, and other academic knowledge to mis-interpret the Bible and turn the whole meaning of the scriptures up side down.

I once read a book by a highly learned pastor who if I were to judge by his academic status I would not be too wrong to call him a scholar, but this man in all his knowledge said that it is not wrong to look at a woman lustfully. After translating the English Bible to Greek and re-translating it back to English, the meaning of the words had completely changed. He said that it is not wrong to look at an unmarried lady lustfully because the Bible said woman and not virgin. He also said that it is not wrong to look at a married woman lustfully except when she is looked at lustfully with the evil intent of wooing her. This conclusion he arrived at after all his translations. He also went ahead to appeal to the church to permit remarriage after divorce, that is to remarry another person who is not the one he or she separated from. His holy appeal though was that the church should not allow such remarry immediately, but wait for a long time before remarriage. All this claims were sound and agreeable only by his own standard but wrong and even diabolical Biblically and of such Paul says should be forever cursed. This heretic knowledge came about by applying human knowledge to the things of God.

In the whole of the second chapter of 1 Corinthians we can learn a lot from what Paul says about understanding the scriptures. Through it all he never included the necessity knowing foreign languages. He never compelled the gentiles to learn Hebrew even though the very scriptures they had available to them were in the Hebrew tongue. How this has become a thing in which men vaunt their knowledge of foreign languages at the common man who doesn't understand them is quite appalling as if to say you cannot come to the full knowledge of the will of God without consulting them. But not even when speaking about what qualifies a man to be a bishop did the Bible speak about knowing a foreign language. (Titus 1:5-9).

Having looked at the un-spiritual things that some use as a standard for judgment in the things of God, we shall now see what the Bible says is the right standard for judgment between right and wrong or gaining knowledge of the things of God. The Bible says that to know the things that are freely given to us by God, we do so by “comparing spiritual things with spiritual.” This is how to attain any real knowledge in the things of God. This has a lot to do with the authority of the scriptures we had talked about earlier. For it is because of the authority of the Bible that we can't compare it with other things with little or no authority. Just as there is no authority in human traditions, philosophies, facts, etc, it is not possible to derive meaningful knowledge from them.

Usually when one gains understanding through the reading of the scriptures and comparing spiritual things with spiritual things, he often arrives at a conclusion that is very contrary to the conclusion arrived by observing carnal things such as historical records, human philosophies, etc.

In the book of 1 Corinthians, the Bible places a lot of restrictions on women. In 1 Corinthians 11:3-16, the Bible says a woman must cover her hair when praying saying if she doesn't do it, she dishonour her head [that it says that a man must pray with his head uncovered also places some

level of restriction on him too]. In 1 Corinthians 14:34-35, the Bible forbids women from speaking in the church, saying it is a shameful thing to do so. It even forbids them from asking questions. But all these have been ignored in almost all the churches. All this became acceptable in the church because of the lies that is wide spread that Paul was speaking to the Corinthian church in particular. They start referring to history and say the women in Corinth were very arrogant and thus Paul had to speak this way. These things are just assumptions, but they say it with much certainty as if they were there in the Corinthian church in those times peeping from somewhere so much that some would almost act how the [according to them] the women of the Corinthian church used to walk with their noses in the air. But could this part of the Bible be addressed to the Corinthian church and not meant for us? Are we supposed to ignore it?

Comparing spiritual things with spiritual things we have to consider the introductory part of this epistle. In it Paul says “Paul, called to be an apostle of Jesus Christ through the will of God, and Sosthenes our brother, Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours.” (1 Corinthians 1:1-2). That answers the question as to who Paul was writing to. To the church at Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, who are called to be saints, to all that in EVERY PLACE call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, that is to as many as have Christ as Lord and Saviour. Is what the Bible saying not in complete variance with what many theologians want us to believe? Those who Paul writes to were not categorized by their geographical location, by the era, or character, but all that categorizes them is their relationship with Christ Jesus and their consequent sanctification.

Also when Christ said in Matthew 5:34 “But I say unto you, Swear not at all.” Some say this is only to people with religious duties and not to everybody. But in the introductory part of this chapter it says in Matthew 5:1-2 “And seeing the multitudes, he went up into a mountain: and when he was set, his disciples came unto him: And he opened his mouth, and taught them, saying.” So Christ spoke, not to the pharisees, not to the Sanhedrin, not to the lawyers, not also to the twelve, but to the multitude, meaning people from all works of life so it is an instruction to us all.

This is how to compare “spiritual things with spiritual things.” Even when one has any inspiration or revelation it is must be compared with the Bible to ensure that it is in line with the scriptures which is the ultimate spiritual reference for it is in it that it is even written in Galatians 1:8-9 “But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.” Not even angels could be accepted as a greater reference to the Bible (this not to be blasphemous or to delve into what can't be known but since what we use as reference are what we see them as and not what they really are whether they be false or true, but a true angel will not contradict the scriptures). No angel of the Lord can alter what the Lord himself has spoken. Therefore the Bible is the ultimate reference we have and all things must be compared to what is written in it.

We are told in 1 Corinthians 12:10 that one of the gift of the Holy Spirit is that of discerning of spirit, this makes us understand that the not every spirit is of God. So not every spiritual manifestation is an evidence that God is at work. The girl in Acts 16:16 who was possessed with a spirit of divination did prophesy accurately but this didn't stop Paul from knowing it was an evil spirit and he cast it out of her in verse 18. Therefore even if we see someone who can do supernatural things, like prophesying, speaking in tongues, or even leaping and suspending in the air, or flying at night, we shouldn't be deceived by all these. In 1 Corinthians 12 the Bible made reference to many gifts of the Spirit but all these gifts are signs that can only edify us in the words of God and when they are contrary to his word, we can be sure that such signs are not from God and are not of his Spirit. The Bible is that final reference point at which, if anything is contrary, it is

false and unacceptable by the standards of God. For the Devil can mimic any other thing but being the father of all liars that he is, he cannot mimic the words of truth. We must always compare everything with what is written and not to compare them with things that cannot be found within the Bible. May the good Lord help us to do this. Amen

PURITY IN KNOWLEDGE

*"But unto you I say, and unto the rest in Thyatira, as many as have not this doctrine, and which have not known the depths of Satan, as they speak; I will put upon you none other burden."
(Revelation 2:24)*

I wish to write briefly on what I term "purity in knowledge." The Bible keeps emphasising this, but it has been sadly ignored by many Christians. The Bible keeps emphasising that we should be careful about what we know, but sometimes we think we could be better if we knew unhelpful things. Some have said that demonology is helpful for a Christian. Others will pick up occultic books like the seventh book of Moses and think that it will help them know more. Such people are of the opinion that the Bible is good but it is not enough. The Bible speaks against such actions. If we know what the word of God is, then why not just stick to it. One lie can make you doubt all the truth you ever knew.

Keeping The Heart

"Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life." (Proverbs 4:23)

King Solomon in the text above tells us that we are to keep our hearts with all diligence. We are not to keep it casually and accept to read every book offered to us by a friend, colleague, or curiosity. I think Solomon was in the right place to say such. He had been a godly man but he dabbled into occultic practices and saw the full effect of that. He then warns "keep your heart with all diligence."

There are books that one could read and you'd start doubting that this world was created by God. There are movies you'd watch you'll lose the appetite to pray. There are lectures and seminars you'd attend that you'll despise the gathering together of the brethren. These effects are signs that a man's heart has been poorly kept and he is gradually dying. We are to keep our hearts from the knowledge of lies that will wrest with the truth in us or raise any doubt in us. We ought to be pure in all things including our knowledge. Let us not have the truth and lies duelling together in our hearts.

There are many foolish questionings in the church today that arise out of contentious people who think they have arrived at a superior knowledge by reading foolish books. I heard a lot of people talk about a book called "Da Vinci Code" and they said it reveals a lot of things. But the little I heard about won't make me read it as I know that it reveals nothing, rather it blinds the eyes and obfuscates the truth. Despite saying many evil things about Jesus Christ that is contrary to scriptures many still go ahead to read it and think they've got some knowledge that you don't have. They'll assume that they know that Jesus Christ had a wife which other Christians inferior to them don't know. That is just like thinking I have a superior knowledge because I know that all the trees in the forest have leaves of green plastic. What a knowledge! It was out of the book that the foolish saying that says "What really matters is what you believe" came about. By this, the Biblical instructions are just things we can choose to believe or not to believe. If we choose to believe that there is hell for sinners, it matters only because we believe it. If we choose not to believe it, it does not matter. If we choose that God is real, it matters but if we don't believe, it doesn't matter whether or not he exists. Foolish. It will amaze you how such foolish knowledge from hell puffs up people. It takes a fool to be puffed up by foolishness.

Now how do we keep our heart diligently? Do we shut our ears to every sound? Do we shut our

eyes from seeing anything in the resemblance of letters? I know that the Bible has been the principal builder of my life but some other books really helped too. What would have happened if I had refused to read them in the bid to keep my heart with all diligence? I'm not sure, but I think it would have been to my disadvantage. The answer to this important question is found in the Bible where it is written "Go from the presence of a foolish man, when thou perceivest not in him the lips of knowledge." (Proverbs 14:7). It says we should depart from the presence of a fool WHEN we perceive that he doesn't have the lips of knowledge. Don't shut your ears to just everyone. But be quick to perceive if or not he has the lips of knowledge in him. If he has the lips of knowledge in him, not to listen to him would be to do yourself a mis-service. If he doesn't have the lips of knowledge in him, go from his presence. The author of Da Vinci Code didn't have the lips of knowledge so I departed from him. This will keep us wide open to everything so that we don't miss anything that is good for us, while at the same time place a sieve over us to sieve out all evil from us.

Avoid Occultic Literatures

*"But unto you I say, and unto the rest in Thyatira, as many as have not this doctrine, and which have not known the depths of Satan, as they speak; I will put upon you none other burden."
(Revelation 2:24)*

When I was reading through the second chapter of Revelations, what shocked me was not that Jesus was displeased with some of the people of Thyatira for practicing the depths of Satan, but his displeasure was that they knew it. By this I knew that it is not practicing demonism, satanism, diabolism or any other evil practice that displeases God but even knowing them. Jesus was happy with those who had not known the depths of Satan. How many of us today go seeking to know what heretics believe and practice? I admit that through curiosity and assuming it were helpful I had sought to understand what heretics believed and practiced in time past. I believe there are times when we may bump into these doctrines undeliberately but we should not go seeking after them deliberately. Let us be content with the Bible and sink ourselves into it.

Jesus also, while still in the world, said "Take heed what ye hear." (Mark 4:24). This makes us know that what we hear has consequences. It may be good or bad. Therefore we shouldn't assume that all knowledge is constructive. We ought to take heed because some knowledge are destructive.

You know, sometimes we see people who say they wish to study the Qur'an so as to enable them preach to Muslims. The study of the Qur'an among Christians has increased of recent and the rise of Islam has increased simultaneously. So, how effective is this? Futile.

Reading about the blind man who Jesus healed, he knew so little but he was still able to prove the truth about Jesus' righteousness. He knew nothing as compared to the Pharisees, but he confounded them. He didn't know their lies or arguments, but he relied solely on the little truth he knew. It is written of the man born blind, "He answered and said, Whether he be a sinner or no, I know not: one thing I know, that, whereas I was blind, now I see." (John 9:25). They had falsely accused Jesus of being a sinner. This man may have had little knowledge of the law or of Jesus' life to know if he were a sinner or not and he acknowledged it plainly, but he based his opinion of Jesus on the little truth he knew; "whereas I was blind, now I see." One will say "but the Pharisees were not convinced." Yes they were not convinced but their anger showed that this man, by his little knowledge of the truth, had defended Jesus most excellently. Their anger was out of envy for Jesus and out of pride, not out of not being convinced. We too, like the man born blind, can, by the one thing we know by the word of God, silence any adversary.

It were completely useless to read a book of heresy so as to be able to preach to those who are deceived thereby. Knowing the truth in depth is sufficient enough to convince any willing soul to come to Jesus.

The Book Of Jasher

"And the sun stood still, and the moon stayed, until the people had avenged themselves upon their enemies. Is not this written in the book of Jasher? So the sun stood still in the midst of heaven, and hasted not to go down about a whole day." (Joshua 10:13)

"(Also he bade them teach the children of Judah the use of the bow: behold, it is written in the book of Jasher.)" (2 Samuel 1:18)

I'd like to talk briefly about the book of Jasher. I have read and it is a great book that emphasises the greatness of God and his dependability? I didn't read it out of recklessness. Rather I read it because the Bible recommended it. It may not have been preserved like the Bible, but even as it is, it is very helpful. I encourage every Christian who wishes to go ahead. Not only was it recommended in the Bible, the apostles made reference to it's record. Paul wrote to Timothy "Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith." (2 Timothy 3:8). The Bible speaks nothing about Jannes and Jambres but they were written about in the book of Jasher.

It is a great historical book in which you'll great, interesting, and even funny discoveries. However I know nothing of its preservation, so any where there seems to be a contradiction with the Bible, stick to the Bible. I didn't find anything contradicting the Bible as such, but the stories the Bible didn't tell seems sometimes as if it were not possible to have happened. However no clear cut contradiction. Rather, it explains a lot of things which are hard to understand in the record of the Bible from the book of Genesis to Joshua. Take for example, the question about how many of each animal did Noah take with him into the arc? In twos or in sevens?

It is a great book that deserves our readership. But other books that claim to be authoritative which we can't trace back to the Bible must be avoided.

THE BENEFITS OF THE WORD

Proverbs 13:13. "Whoso despiseth the word shall be destroyed: but he that feareth the commandment shall be rewarded"

As in all the parts of this book, I am only speaking of the little I can about the Bible, here also I can only speak of a tiny part of the benefits of the Bible.

The text above tells us clearly that the word has its reward. It says that he that feareth the commandment shall be rewarded. It is important to know that many times when the word "fear" is used in the King James Bible, it does not refer to the cowardly fear that causes the one who fears to flee, but rather it is talking about reverent fear. The reverence that causes to be afraid of doing what will offend the one that he has reverence for. It is the fear of offending and not the fear of punishment or wrath. Thus here we are told that he that fear the commandment shall be rewarded. Any body who is careful to keep the commandment shall be rewarded. What are these rewards?

Wisdom, Knowledge, And Understanding

"For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding." (Proverbs 2:6)

It is God who gives us wisdom, knowledge, and understanding. It was the word that made Daniel wise. From the time Daniel was brought to Babylon, though he was just a young child, we can see that he was vast in the law. He knew enough not to defile himself with the King's meat. Daniel by this wisdom, knowledge, and understanding, was wiser than all the magicians and wise men in Babylon. He and his Hebrew friends were so wise that it is written "And in all matters of wisdom and understanding, that the king enquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers that were in all his realm." (Daniel 1:20). How? The reward and benefits of the word.

Daniel was a devout reader of the word that he says "I Daniel understood by books the number of the years, whereof the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah the prophet, that he would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem." (Daniel 9:2).

When we see anyone who studies the word of God, they are always full of wisdom, understanding, and knowledge whether it is David, Daniel, Paul, or Peter.

Let us also crave this benefit of the word and become wise and intelligent people. May God help us.

Distinction

"Keep therefore and do them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the nations, which shall hear all these statutes, and say, Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people." (Deuteronomy 4:6)

The word of God makes us distinct from the rest of the world. In the sight of the nations we will be praised for wisdom and understanding when we obey the things written in the Bible. We will be distinct in righteousness and exalted above all others.

It is written "Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people." (Proverbs 14:34). This word of God which we have is profitable for instruction in righteousness (2 Timothy 3:16) can exalt us as a church and draw men to the Kingdom of God.

The Bible - God's Perfect Expression Of Love

"As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent." (Revelation 3:19)

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." (2 Timothy 3:16)

Martin Luther the reformer wrote saying "there is no more cruel stroke of the wrath of God than when He sends a famine of hearing His words (Amos 8: 11), just as there is no greater favour from Him than the sending forth of His word, as it is said, "He sent His word and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions." (Psalm 107: 20)"

The Bible is one of God's perfect gift that demonstrates his love for us. As said in the text above, it is profitable. God showed us his love by giving us the Bible to guide us. If he is displeased with you, he simply stops guiding you. That is why we read severally that God gives people over to their hearts desire, or lust, etc. The absence of his word is enough punishment to any people.

Let's take a look at the first chapter of Malachi. Here God begins his argument by saying "I have loved you." (Malachi 1:2). He backed up this statement by continuing "Yet ye say, Wherein hast thou loved us? Was not Esau Jacob's brother? saith the LORD: yet I loved Jacob." (Malachi 1:2). God said he love Jacob and hates Esau. What was the effect of his hate? What was he going to do against Esau? Send fire down upon them like Sodom and Gomorrah? No, he says "And I hated Esau, and laid his mountains and his heritage waste for the dragons of the wilderness. Whereas Edom saith, We are impoverished, but we will return and build the desolate places; thus saith the LORD of hosts, They shall build, but I will throw down; and they shall call them, The border of wickedness, and, The people against whom the LORD hath indignation for ever." (Malachi 1:3 - 4). They shall be called the border of wickedness. It is the absence of the word in Edom that would made them to cease from being a people. God said he will throw down what they built. This he accomplished by giving them draught of the word. If they had had the word and were still thrown down, they shouldn't have been called "the border of wickedness." They could have been called the "an unfortunate people" but the absence of his word made them an habitation of wickedness. When God denies his word from a people, it is to throw them down and defeat their counsel. But Jacob whom he loved he preserved. He did not give his law to Edom and they were frustrated. He loved Jacob and he gave them his law as an expression of love. They prospered as long as they feared the commandment, because they reaped the fruits of the blessed word of God.

The composer(s) of the hymnbook called The Psalter (Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 1912), knew the benefit of the word of God when he/they wrote;

*"I should have perished in my woe
Had not I loved Thy law divine."*

I don't intend to exhaust the benefits of the word, all I'm trying to do is just to point out that there is an exhaustible amount of benefit of this word handed down to us from above. Let us reach out to these benefits as we daily dig into it in study and meditations and you'll be surprised what treasure you'll find therein.

What Makes The Word A Necessity

Psalms 119:1. "Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the LORD."

The word of God is indispensable to mankind. Why? What are the things we find in the word that without them we are doomed. There are principally two things. Salvation and cleansing.

Salvation

"In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise." (Ephesians 1:13)

There are many things calling for our attention in this world but none of them matter at all. Only the word has in it that salvation that we look for. When the word is preached to us, either by our reading it or another person speaks it to us, it is in believing it that we are saved.

If we had not the word, where will our salvation be? If we had not the word, what will the preacher preach to you to save you? Why would God even send him in the first place? What would you have to believe with your heart unto righteousness? What would you have to confess with your mouth unto salvation? Nothing! Then where shall your salvation be?

Cleansing

"That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word." (Ephesians 5:26)

*"Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word."
(Psalm 119:9)*

It was A.W. Tozer who made this statement "we all need cleansing for we are so shamefully defiled." No matter how vile a person is before conversion, as long as he keeps reading the word of God, he keeps cleansing himself and soon he shall be completely pure in the thoughts and imaginations of his heart. The words of his mouth will be consequently pure and that which initially was fun to say will become an abomination to him. He even hates to see the things he enjoyed doing in others.

The verses above speak of the cleansing that comes from the word. The first says that we as the church, the body of Christ, are sanctified by the cleansing of water by the word. There is no hope for a defiled mankind to be pure. There is no hope for a church that is constituted of men who came out of a defiled world to be pure. Only by the cleansing of the word can the church be pure. Only by the cleansing of the word can a Christian individual be purified.

The word can also cleanse a nation no matter how shamefully defiled it is with evil and corruption. I once saw a list of the best countries to do business and the first was Denmark. It wasn't first because it had excess crude oil. It wasn't first because it had a superior climate that supports agriculture. It was first because it had been cleansed by the word so much that honesty, morals, and ethics was the prevalent lifestyle. I was reading another article casually when also I read that in this particular country, people tended to be chaste. Why? I made a little study about this country and saw that it was firmly founded on the word. It had a functional state church of which the king being supreme must be a member of. Having word of God held in such a high esteem, they have risen among the ranks of nations to the first. They feared the commandment and they were rewarded. They held to the word and what it commands and they were cleansed. Every country of the world can be cleansed by this word of God. The Bible.

In the same vain Psalm 119:9 says that it is by taking heed to the word of God that a youth can be pure. Being a youth my self at this time when writing these lines, I know how very hard it is for a youth to be pure. If the word of God is so powerful to make a youth pure, certainly, making an adult pure is a cinch. And far easier it will be to make a child pure. God's word is powerful to cleanse us from all impurities both of the heart, mind, tongue, church, society, and nation. The benefits of the word surely cannot be exhausted. Do your own thinking and magnify God for his word! Praised be his glorious name. Amen.

THE RIGHT RESPONSE TO THE WORD

"He is our God; and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. To day if ye will hear his voice, Harden not your heart, as in the provocation, and as in the day of temptation in the wilderness." (Psalm 95:7 - 8)

Here, we'll take a quick look at three good responses we can make concerning the word.

Truehearted Obedience

Psalm 27:8 "When thou saidst, Seek ye my face; my heart said unto thee, Thy face, LORD, will I seek."

The right response to the word is to obey it. We are not to argue with the word nor try to subject it to the limited mind of mankind but fully obey it outrightly and not partially. The psalmist did not say "when thou saidst, Seek my face; my MOUTH said unto thee, Thy face, LORD, will I seek." Rather he said "my HEART said unto thee, Thy face, LORD, will I seek." Deeper positive response of the heart is what this word of no other than God deserves not mere lip service. From the heart we ought to passionately obey God without any reservation. We know that whatever conquers the heart conquers all. Therefore our warfare against disobedience starts right there.

By this, the first and most important response is that personal response that starts from the heart having God who sees the heart in consideration.

Adorning The Word

"Exhort servants to be obedient unto their own masters, and to please them well in all things; not answering again; Not purloining, but shewing all good fidelity; that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things." (Titus 2:9 - 10)

Next is still our personal response but with but giving consideration to other men. Our role here in the midst of the dying world is to adorn and beautify the word and doctrine of God. This is another response we should have to the word. Not just the will to obey from the heart but to also go ahead to beautify it. While obeying it is living according to the dictates of God, adorning it is patterning our lives before the observing world so that the scriptures become honoured amongst men. When our lives can speak of its holiness, its kindness, its love and so on, the world would be attracted to it.

This is not hypocrisy. Loving by the dictates of the word while being mindful of the observing world is far from hypocrisy though one has to be careful as not to become hypocritical in his attempt to adorn the word. Hypocrisy is claiming to have a moral standard which one does not conform to. In the bid to behave ourselves to adorn scriptures let us always know that we ought to be like everything but the Pharisees. This possible when through prayer and discipline we work on our ways so that they be inline to God's will. By this our good conduct will only be an expression of who we really are and not just who we claim to be.

Failure to adorn the word will displease God. Also when our lives contrary to the word, the doctrine will be evil spoken of as it is written "And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of." (2 Peter 2:2). God himself will execute judgment on us.

Preach The Word

"And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come." (Revelation 22:17)

Lastly we ought to preach the word, if for nothing, at least for the verse above. If we could place priorities on these three responses to the word, this is the least but still very important. If we preach the word without being trueheartedly obedient to God, our preaching will become laughable. If we preach without living our lives to show the goodness and beauty of God's doctrine, men will flee when we invite to accept Christ as their Lord and personal Saviour. Having these first two done, we should proceed to this of actively inviting them to God.

When we hear the voice of the Spirit and the bride intreating us saying "come" we told in our text as a matter of commandment that we who hear should echoe it back to world saying "Come."

Therefore my brethren, these are three good responses we can make concerning the word. May God help us to do them from the first to the third in Jesus' name. Amen.

GOD'S WORD TO MANKIND

Psalms 96:10 "Say among the heathen that the LORD reigneth: the world also shall be established that it shall not be moved: he shall judge the people righteously."

What is God's Word to Mankind? The verse above makes it clear that his word to man is that he reigns. He is on his throne and fully in control over all creation. He also says that the world shall be established and shall not be moved, making us to understand that this world has continued thus far by his will alone. The verse ends with "he shall judge the people righteously." He's coming to judge the world. This is God's word to mankind.

I will want to examine through the scriptures what the Word says to different classes of people.

God's Word To Humanity

Mark 16:15 "And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature."

In the verse above, Jesus commands his disciples to go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. This is God's message to the world: The gospel.

What is the gospel? The gospel is the good news of the salvation of Christ. What is this good news? The good news is as proclaimed in John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." The good news, therefore, is that everlasting life is now attainable through Jesus Christ.

This gives us an understanding that is contrary to what many religious teachers teaches that humans are the filth and dung of this world. In this false humility they assume that God doesn't care a bit for man. But that is not so. We are told "God so loved the world that he gave..." He didn't give a goat or a box of chocolate. No, he gave his only begotten Son. What makes this Son to be more dear is that he is the ONLY, but he gave him up for us all. Thus we know that God loves us so dearly. Therefore this gospel that was commanded to be spread through the world and to be preached to all creation is the message of God's passionate love for his creation.

This is God's message to the humanity. A good news because he wants to see us happy and cheerful that everlasting life is now attainable. Glory to God!

How do we possess this life? It says "whosoever believes in him.." The way is to believe in Jesus Christ. It is as simple as that. John 3:18 says "He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God." The only thing between every man and everlasting life is unbelief. If you haven't believed in Jesus Christ, you can do so today.

This is God's Word for humanity. Accept it today.

God's Word To The Sinner

I John 1:9 "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

God is ever merciful to our fallen race. So merciful is he that he doesn't say to the sinner "you are damned!" Rather, he, with a stretched out arm assures us with these words "if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." He cleanses us not unwillingly, but as a matter of faithfulness. He is faithful to his commitment. He also forgives us because he is just. Being a just God, he has made such provisions for our sins to be forgiven, even his only begotten Son. He couldn't be unjust to forgive us unjustly, that is by acquiring a sinner, but seeing we were unforgivable, he sent his Son to make us forgivable by placing our sins on him. So just and faithful is our God.

He will not pat sinner on the back saying "well done, I forgive you." Therefore we know that God's message to the sinner is not "well done" but "repent." His promise that he will be faithful to is that he will forgive and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Let as many therefore who find themselves in sin should run to him knowing that he that the way to be forgiven is now opened and he that has made provision for it to be opened is "faithful and just." Hallelujah!

God's Word To The Christian

"Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ." (Titus 2:12 - 13)

God's word to the Christian has always been to maintain a life of holiness. His word teaches us to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts. Contrary to what is been considered to be Christianity, Christianity is a life of absolute holiness. I sat down in front of the TV one day and watched documentary about how a government was trying to force sharia on its citizens. They tried to forbid people from going to beach, they tried to restrict what people wear, they also tried to stop people from holding hands and so on. A "Christian" woman trying to adorn the gospel said something like "Christianity doesn't force people to do things." Which is true of course. A young citizen there also said "As a Christian I'm free to wear what I like." And she was a jeans short, so short it was that it was almost up to her buttock. It brakes my heart to see that people speak of the Christian faith as if God's word to the Christian is "embracing all ungodliness and worldly lust, we should live sinfully, recklessly and unrighteously, in this present world. Not looking for any blessed hope for you have none"

Though we are free as Christians, we are only Christians when our lives is guided by the written word. Let us not be deceived by the hypocrites mounting the pulpit these days who just study what the sinful nature likes to hear and preach lying that God is speaking through them. No God's word to the Christian does not come from such people but as always it comes from his word "Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ." (Titus 2:12 - 13). Are you a Christian? Heed these words.

God's Word To His Saints

Psalms 85:8 "I will hear what God the LORD will speak: for he will speak peace unto his people, and to his saints: but let them not turn again to folly."

When I was yet an unbeliever, I disliked the Bible because I saw it as a book of doom and destruction. I dreaded the things written in it and in order to be happy I stayed away from it as much as possible. But after my conversion, I saw the Bible in a whole new light. The very book of doom and destruction became a book of commendations. The book that always said "hell hell hell" now says to me "heaven, peace, and joy!" I was surprised at the drastic turn around in my life. I now saw that even in erring, there is forgiveness.

So there is a message to the saints in the Bible. When I say saints I refer to as many as are in right standing with God whose life are in accordance with his word. This message is very contrary to what thought while yet unsaved. In the text above the psalmist says "I will hear what God the LORD will speak." It means there is a message that God has for his saints. He went on to say "for he shall speak peace unto his people, and to his saints." Just as I am a living testimony, God does speak peace to his people and to his saints.

When I was in the world and didn't know God looking into the pages Bible just makes me feel condemned, and I lose my peace. But as soon as I accepted Christ into my life as my personal Lord and Saviour only then could I see peace in its pages. As long as my life was not in accordance to his Word, he never spoke peace to me. My reading the Bible was just like a sinner listening to what God would say. Of course he will speak doom. But when my life was in accordance to his Word, he began to speak peace to me. My reading the Bible was now the act of a saint listening to what God had to say and he spoke peace to me.

But the verse ended with a solemn warning "but let them not turn again to folly." This was another thing the Bible always say to me when I look into its pages. It gives me peace and also cautions me. The warning against return to folly can be found all over the scriptures. Folly refers to every form of actions without the fear of God. In Proverbs 9:10 it says "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding." The picture one can paint from this is like a room full of wisdom, but the fear of God is the threshold of the room so that everything within the room is wisdom and everything without is folly. The Bible keeps warning the saints of not return to folly. We are ever warned not to cross that threshold. That it says "return" means they we were once in it and have now come out of it. Having gone out of it, returning would be a dog-like behaviour. In Proverbs 26:11 it says "As a dog returneth to his vomit, so a fool returneth to his folly."

These are the basic things that the Bible speaks to the saints. First it speaks peace, second it gives a solemn warning.

What is this peace? Philippians 4:7 says "And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." This peace is one that we can't fully comprehend. It is an immense peace that passes all understanding. It was this peace that caused the disciples despite being beaten openly to rejoice. It is the result of total confidence in God as well as full assurance about better things to come when this current life is over.

Isaiah 32:17 says "And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance for ever." The saint in his righteousness finds peace. It says the work of righteousness is peace. It is this peace given us that enables us to continue in righteousness. If a man loses these peace well-doing becomes a thing of struggle instead of willing obedience. In turn the

effect of this righteousness shall be quietness and assurance forever. When one works righteously and knows the awesome power of God in executing righteous judgments, one would be confident to face the reality of the coming judgment of God. Assurance and confidence shall maintain his peace even on his dying bed. This is the lot of the righteous.

CONCLUSION

"For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God." (John 3:34)

The conclusion of this is that God has spoken. He has given his word to us. It is his Spirit that has gathered his word. His word is independent of all including the church. Obedience to his word has reward. We should there make right responses to his word. His word is the Bible. And the Bible is that which we have.

We have not only the spoken word of God but the speaking word of God. His word is ever speaking, ever entreating, ever pleading, ever consoling and comforting, ever guiding, ever reproving, ever healing.

A.W. Tozer pointed out that when the Bible says "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." (John 1:1), that we can understand easily that God is ever seeking to be heard. He has not just the spoken voice but the speaking voice. In the first chapter we saw evidentially that God has spoken. If it be then that God has spoken and is still speaking, let us heed his voice and not be deceived being tossed here and there by every voice and wind of doctrine.

As we dig deeper into these truths and other truths yet unknown, it is my earnest prayer that God would build us up therewith, nourishing both our spirits and souls and prepare us for his everlasting Kingdom being guided by his word. Amen.