



Are all Bibles the same? Let's compare some passages: Acts 8:36-37; Luke 2:33; Matthew 18:10-11; 1 Timothy 3:16; 1 John 5:6-8

Answer: No. Well then, what happened? In the 1800's we went from faith in an inspired, inerrant, infallible extant (existing) Bible to *textual criticism*.

Let's consider two issues that effect your choice of a Bible translation:

1. The Issue of _____

- Bible was **copied by hand** for over 1,500 years.
- Printing **Press** Invented — 1454 A.D. — now there is the need for a standard text to print.
- Erasmus' **Greek Text** was printed in 1516 A.D. (first published Greek Text). Manuscripts used were from Turkey, Greece, and Europe. After several editions and revisions a Greek Text was printed in 1633 called the *Textus Receptus*. The Text also came to be known as the "Majority Text" because it was based upon the majority of existing manuscripts. These texts were based upon manuscripts (handwritten copies of the Scriptures) dating back to 500-1200 A.D. and are collectively known as the "Byzantine Text", "Asia Minor Text" or the "Traditional Text". This text is supported by over 5,000 manuscripts.
- **Tischendorf**, in 1859 A.D., discovered a Greek manuscript in a monastery on Mt. Sinai. It dated back to 350 A.D. and was named *Codex Sinaiticus*.
- In 1870 **another Greek manuscript** dating back to 350 A.D. was found. It was in the Pope's library and was named *Vaticanus*.
- In the late 1800's two scholars, **Westcott & Hort**, proposed that the *Sinaiticus* and *Vaticanus* were more reliable than the *Textus Receptus* because they date earlier. They produced a new Greek Text — "Westcott & Hort Text", which was based upon the *Sinaiticus* and *Vaticanus*. Other texts which have followed them are "Nestle Text" and "United Bible Society Text" and are known collectively as the "Alexandrian

Text". This text is supported by approximately 30 manuscripts coming mainly from the eastern Roman Empire (including Egypt).

- Critics of the Bible became convinced that, when it comes to comparing handwritten copies of portions of the Bible,
 - older better than younger (people changed the Bible)
 - shorter better than longer (people lengthened the Bible)
 - difficult better than simple (people simplified the Bible)

In the name of *textual criticism*, people began to produce Bibles based on their critical review of manuscripts that were previously not trusted.

- There are **differences** in these Greek texts.
 - WH, N, UBS leave out 2,165 words the TR contains.
 - 350 changes that question the deity of Christ.
 - Significant passages are left out.
 - *Sinaiticus* and *Vaticanus* disagree between themselves 3,000 times in the Gospels alone.
- From **which Greek Bibles** do the popular English language Bibles come?
 - KJV and its revisions come from the TR.
 - All other English translations come from the WH, N or UBS.

2. The Issue of _____

1. Translation Theory

- _____ **Translation** – Formal Equivalency
 - KJV, ASV & ESV
 - Goal is a word-for-word translation
 - More accurate, but potentially more difficult to read and understand
 - Translators translate; teachers teach
- _____ **Translation** – Dynamic Equivalency
 - NIV & All paraphrases
 - Goal is a simpler to understand translation
 - Easier to understand, but allows for greater translator bias
 - Translator interprets IN the translation

2. Word Choice

Admittedly, some portions of God's Word are difficult to read with a mere cursory reading (Ephesians 4:11-16; Philippians 2:5-8).

Examples: 2 Thessalonians 2:7; 1 Thessalonians 4:15; James 1:21; 1 Timothy 3:13; Hebrews 4:12

However, shall we trade an accurate Bible with a few problems due to old language for a modern Bible that lacks accuracy and cannot be trusted?

The Issue Summarized

- SOURCE – Did God speak the WORDS that are in my Bible? How would I know without being a Greek scholar?
- TRANSLATION – Did the translators accurately translate those words into my language w/o adding their interpretation?

Example of these two issues: 1 Corinthians 7:1

Some Practical Advice – Build People’s Faith in God’s Word

- Approach your Bible with **faith** rather than assuming an apparent contradiction is, in fact, a contradiction. If something appears to be a contradiction, it is your lack of understanding God.

There are *many* examples of apparent contradictions that were resolved with additional information.

Example: 2 Kings 8:26 & 2 Chronicles 22:2.

- Don’t **criticize** or slight the KJV of the Bible. Are you a scholar of ancient languages who has thoroughly studied the vocabulary and sentence structure you are dealing with?
 - “A better translation is....”
 - “This word really means....”
- Rather, **help people** understand the truth that is stated in the Bible. Help them understand the English word used rather than leave the impression that there is a problem with the Bible.
Example: “prevent” in 1 Thessalonians 4:15

Pastor’s Position

- Only the KJV is considered trustworthy. Other translations are, at best, similar to a commentary or someone’s opinion as to what God’s Word says. However, if the other translation appears to be different from the KJV, it is likely a corruption in the underlying textual source or a flaw in the translator’s opinion.
- Only the KJV is to be used by any teacher in our ministries.
- Only the KJV & NKJV is sold in our bookstore (some NKJV Study Bibles are sold to provide a study resource to read alongside the KJV).

