



Bible Believers' Bulletin

Vol. 40 No. 4

“Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth” (John 17:17)

April 2016

Mathematics Of the Bible

By Brian Donovan

Mathematics is defined as “the abstract science of numbers and quantity.” Many think that the sciences, including biology, math, psychiatry, physics, etc., are independent and separate from the Bible. However, the Bible believer understands that nothing is independent of the Bible, for the whole universe is both created and held together by the Lord Jesus Christ and His word (Col. 1:16–17; Heb. 1:3). The science of mathematics is no exception. Pure mathematics works because it is derived from the God of creation. Math is not neutral; no science is neutral. Even a lie is not neutral. God Almighty is the author of mathematical laws that He often allows men to search out and discover. The laws of geometry, written out by Euclid in *The Elements*

about 300 B.C., are true over 2,000 years later because he was shown the laws God put in place (e.g., the shortest distance between any two points is a straight line; you can circumscribe a circle around any fixed point, etc.).

The main problem, today, with the sciences is that they have left the realm of fixed, absolute laws and deal solely with speculation and theory. Modern educated man prides himself in being an independent thinker (“outside the box”) who does not have to follow written laws. Today’s “scientists” are religious philosophers with an extreme bias against truth. That is why the last place for anyone to look to find truth would be science and philosophy (with religion thrown in as well).

Richard Dawkins is the present-day religious high priest of evolutionary theory, with such a hatred of God that he cannot write more than a few pages without mentioning Him. To show you just how upset the Lord God makes this religious fool, read the following parts of his quotes: “The God of the Old

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Infidelity

By Dr. Peter S. Ruckman

“And the burden of the LORD shall ye mention no more: for every man’s word shall be his burden; for ye have perverted the words of the living God, of the LORD of hosts our God” (Jer. 23:36).

“For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me. But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe my words?” (John 5:46–47).

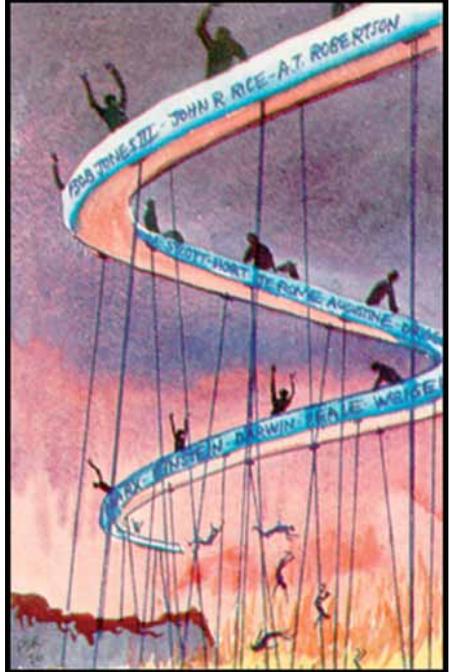
The subject of this article is *infidelity*. Infidelity is basically unbelief in, or unfaithfulness to, the words of God in the Scriptures. There are some things about infidelity every Christian ought to know.

The first thing to which I want to call your attention is that *there is a difference between an old-fashioned infidel and a “new-fashioned” infidel*. Back in the old days, an infidel was out and out against God and the Bible. They boasted, raved, ranted, and blasphemed against the Lord and His word.

The new infidel, though, is carefully disguised. He is usually a “Bible-believing” teacher or preacher. Back around 1900, the greatest apostasy was among Modernists and Liberals. But with the publication of the ASV in 1909, the greatest apostasy has been among Conservative and Fundamental scholars.

The ones who taught modern atheists and left-wingers not to believe the Book were ordained ministers and professors in Seminaries and Bible Colleges. I have a quote that was sent to me from the *San Francisco Chronicle* where an Episcopalian minister named Robert Cromney said, “It made me feel very free about God being dead. If God is dead, I don’t have to pray to him. Anyway, I have never known God to answer a prayer. We are now being pushed to see the world as it really is and to take responsibility for its condition.” What Cromney was “pushing,” as far back as 1965, was the agenda of the *sex perverts*.

That was an Episcopalian. It was an Episcopalian back in Topeka, Kansas who damned my momma and daddy by preaching Socialism and disarmament instead of the Bible and the Gospel. Another Episcopalian, Bishop Pike, said, “Certain concepts of God are dead I have tried to avoid using the word *God* for a while, but I couldn’t think of anything to replace it.” Both those men



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stood up every Sunday morning before their congregants and professed to believe in every fundamental in the Apostles' Creed. They were both infidels.

The religion of the Liberals and Modernists is the great religion of "I don't know." Is there a God? "I don't know." Do you know where you are going when you die? "I don't know." Is Jesus God in the flesh? "I don't know." Is the Bible the word of God? "I don't know." Can you know you're saved? "I don't know." If I were that stupid, I wouldn't brag about it.

The new infidelity says, "Down with God; down with the Bible," and they offer nothing as a decent substitute. You say, "It offers 'love,' Ruckman." What kind? How much does it cost? How long does it last? Who dispenses it? What do you get when you receive it? What do you give in exchange for it? (Shh! Don't be so "negative"!)

As I have said, the new infidelity got its start with ordained ministers. Here are a few examples.

R. C. Briggs of Southeastern Seminary, while teaching a study course in Jackson, Tennessee, denied the doctrines of the substitutionary death of Christ, the blood atonement, and Christ's literal, bodily resurrection.

Dr. Harold Tribble, formerly of Southern Seminary, who became president of Wake Forest College back when it was a Southern Baptist school, testified at the North Rocky Mount Church trial that he believed Jesus had a human father.

Dr. Eric Russ of Southern Seminary said the first part of Genesis is made up of myths.

Dr. McDowell of Southeastern Seminary, in his book *The Meaning and Message of Revelation*, said, "We who live today, therefore, are *in the Millennium*." You are?! You reckon Vietnam, the Gulf Wars, the "War on Terrorism," "ISIS," Al-Quada, and 178 wars since 1945 are signs you are in the Millennial reign of Christ? Like an old Bible-reading, Bible-believing grandma said when her grandson, who had been to Seminary, told her the Millennium was here and the Devil was chained in the Bottomless Pit: "He sure does have a long chain." Another old saint said, "If the Devil is already chained, I sure would like to know who's doing his dirty work for him."

Dr. Clyde Francisco of Southern Seminary cast doubt on the plenary, verbal inspiration of the Bible. Dr. William Hull, professor at Southern Seminary of New Testament Interpretation, in an article entitled "Professor Criticizes Fundamentalist Spirit," says, "The religion Christians are called to is one which casts itself like a seed into the yawning, shadowy chasm called Calvary."

Why, Calvary is no "shadowy chasm" to the believer. Paul says "**the preaching of the cross**" is "**the power of God**" to the saved (1 Cor. 1:18).

Dr. T. O. Hall of Southern Seminary is quoted in the magazine *Faith* as saying, "The writers of Holy Scripture had vital experiences with God. *The Bible is not the word of God*; it is the record of it."

Dr. Frank Stagg, head of the New Testament department at New Orleans

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Seminary, said, "The major New Testament emphasis is not upon substitution, but *sharing*. One simply sublimates his egocentric depravity if he desires Jesus be punished for one's own sins. Jesus would not have had to die had man been willing to die to self." That's "tradesmen jargon" for saying Christ came to *share* your sins, not to *bear* them (1 Pet. 2:24).

Every one of those men professed to believe the fundamentals of the faith when he was hired by the Seminary. They all had one big failing: none of them accepted the *King James Bible* as the word of God. But every one of them professed to believe in the virgin birth, the bodily resurrection, the blood atonement, and the inspiration of the original manuscripts when he got the job. Infidels today are not in Liberal and Modernistic pulpits; they're in *Conservative, Evangelical pulpits*.

The largest Protestant denomination in America, the Southern Baptist Convention, paid a fellow named Nels Ferré to lecture to their students. Do you know what Nels Ferré taught in his book *The Christian Understanding of God* (pg. 186)? He taught we have no way of knowing if Jesus was sinless and that there is a strong possibility that He was the bastard child of a German mercenary. A Conservative, Baptist denomination paid that fellow an honorarium to fill the heads of their young people with that crap.

In his book *The Sun and the Umbrella*, (pg. 39), the same author said, "The use of the Bible as the final authority for Christian truth is *idolatry*." I heard the same thing when I went to Bob Jones University. I heard one of my professors say, "If you say that Book (referring to the AV 1611) is infallible and absolute, you are a Bibliolater: you are worshiping the Bible." That was a premillennial, Fundamental Conservative who said that. He was an *infidel*.

Next, I want to talk about the three causes of infidelity. The first cause is *ignorance*. Most infidels are very stupid men, though they may be very highly educated. They are educated beyond their intellectual capacity.

I knew a lady who would mail out tracts, and she got a letter back from a *preacher*. This ordained infidel told that Christian woman, "Dear Mrs. So-and-so, You are doing a terrible thing in sending those tracts to people. Many who are ignorant and illiterate may be deluded by them, and will adopt a wicked and sinful philosophy of life." He went on to say that the tract she mailed to him "should be classified with obscene material."

"A philosophy which is unconcerned with social evils, civil rights, and other social concerns . . ." (that is known as "social justice" in modern "double-speak"; it is a new name for *Socialism*) "and emphasizes only selfish ends is psychopathic. Innocent people may be led to think they can be saved by believing your half-baked ideas; and thus will fail to develop the full and abundant life which Jesus Christ offered. I am praying for you . . ."

He is?! To whom?! It sure isn't the One who promised the abundant life (John 10:10). *He* said, "**I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall**

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be saved" (John 10:9). *He said, "I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep"* (John 10:11). Not one word about "social evils," "civil rights," "other social concerns," or social justice. It's the *vicarious atonement, the exclusivity of Christ, and faith in Him.*

"I am praying for you and for the publishers of your tracts that you may be brought to a sane religious experience." The Jesus Christ of that Bible wasn't concerned about a "sane religious experience"; He was concerned about a *new birth* (John 3:3-7). What was that? That was the ranting of an *ignorant, stupid infidel*. When it came to salvation, Jesus Christ, and the Great Commission, he didn't know which end was up.

From time to time, surveys are taken of College students to see how much of the Bible they really know. The results are a complete fiasco. "Who was Methuselah? He was the snake in the Garden of Eden." "What is your favorite story in the Bible? Elijah crossing the ice." One of those College students said, "Paul stood in Mar's Hill and said, 'Great is Diana of the Ephesians.'" You never saw such a mess in your life. Those are supposed to be College-educated adults, and they don't know the first thing about the best-selling Book of all history. Infidels are stupid.

The scholastic world and the media love to portray Bible believers as ignorant boobs. Well, here are some men who believed that Book, and they weren't stupid.

Sir Isaac Newton—"We account the Scriptures of God to be the most sublime philosophy. I find more sure marks of authority in the Bible than in any history in the world."

Sir William James—"The Bible contains more true sublimity, exquisite beauty, more pure morality, more important history, and finer poetry than all other books, in any age or language, that have ever been written."

George Washington—"It is impossible to rightly govern the world without God and the Bible." (Boy, if that's the case, this country is in one flat-footed mess.)

Thomas Jefferson—"The studious perusal of the Sacred Volume will make better citizens, better fathers, better husbands."

Abraham Lincoln—"All the things desirable to man are contained in the Bible."

Daniel Webster—"The Bible is our only safe guide."

John Quincy Adams—"The Bible is the book above all others to read at all ages and in all conditions of human life; not to be read once or twice through then laid aside, but to be read in small portions every day."

And who was that little pipsqueak who wrote that woman? You think he could stack up, intellectually, against such men? People who really knew the facts have always believed the Bible, and people who didn't know the facts have always rejected it.

Laziness can also cause infidelity. A lot of men are infidels because they are

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too lazy to look up the facts. A lot of these infidels are too lazy even to come up with their own infidelity. Some other infidel tells them something, and they just swallow it hook, line, and sinker without researching it at all.

I talked to one like that. The reason he wouldn't trust Christ is because he didn't believe "all those animals could get in the ark." "How big was the ark?" I asked him. "I don't know," he admitted. "How many animals got aboard the ark?" I asked. "I don't know," he said again. "Then how do you know all the animals couldn't get aboard it?" I asked. Imagine being that stupid because you are too lazy to get the facts.

You won't find an infidel in your town who has ever read Pember or Larkin or Wilbur Smith or Harry Rimmer, et al. You know why? He's a lazy bum. A man who's not lazy will dig and hunt until he finds the truth.

And finally, *sin* will make infidels out of people. A man who loves sin, doesn't love the truth. "Truth is not relished where sin is cherished." "That Book will keep you from sin, or sin will keep you from that Book."

Infidels who reject the truth because of their sin aren't lazy. They will study till the cows come home to *justify what they want to do*. The Seventh-day Adventists say *Satan* is your sin-bearer. The Catholics teach that the grace purchased by Christ's death comes only by the Roman Catholic Church. The Christian Science religion says the only way to get rid of sin is not by the vicarious atonement of Christ, but by realizing sin is just in your mind. The Jehovah's Witnesses say Christ's death on the cross can't save anybody, and that you'll get a second chance after you die; in the meantime, "all is well, there is no Hell." All those churches are religious infidels who have rejected the truth of Scripture because of their sins.

To wrap this up, I want to talk about the *consequences* of infidelity. The United States has become a nation of infidels. What will become of that?

The first consequence is *sin*. Sin begets infidelity, and in turn, infidelity begets more sin. They're reciprocal.

In Romans 1, the Gentile nations held "**the truth of God in unrighteousness**" (Rom. 1:18); they weren't thankful for God's goodness (Rom. 1:21); they became vain and foolish (Rom. 1:21); and they became idolaters (Rom. 1:23). What did God do to them for all that? Why He gave them over to uncleanness (Rom. 1:24); He turned them over to "**vile affections**" (Rom. 1:26); He let the sex perverts take over (Rom. 1:26–27); and he "**gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient**" (Rom. 1:28). Their sin brought infidelity, and their infidelity resulted in greater sin.

Infidelity leads to *anarchy*. The reason this nation is in the mess in which it is today is because it has turned the word of God down wholesale. When I say wholesale, I mean the Fundamental schools right along with the rest of them. The schools taught the preachers not to believe the Book, the preachers taught the congregants not to believe the Book, and the church members went out

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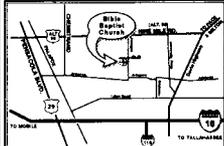
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and taught everyone else not to believe the Book.

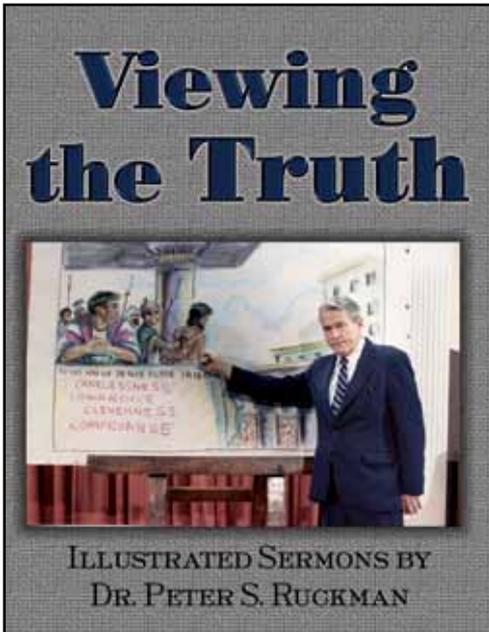
When you don't believe the Book, you have no final authority for deciding what is right or wrong except *your own opinion*. That is exactly what anarchy is. You are in the state Israel was at the end of Judges: **"In those days there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right IN HIS OWN EYES"** (Judg. 21:25).

The Fundamental scholars and teachers up and down this country say, "Pete Ruckman thinks he's right and everybody else is wrong." That dirty bunch of bald-faced, lying rascals; they think *they're right* and the Bible is wrong. Do you know what they have against me? I think the Bible is right and *they're wrong*. My standard of judgment is not whether you are for or against me, or for or against my school. My standard of judgment is *are you for or against that Book?*

Do you know why you now have legalized sex perversion in this country?

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Because five people dumped that Book and made their own opinions the “law of the land.” As far back as 1947, Arthur Schlesinger said, “We have dispensed with the absurd Christian myth of sin and damnation, and believe that what shortcomings man might have are to be redeemed, not by Jesus on the cross, but by the benevolent unfolding of history. Tolerance, free inquiry, technology, all operating in the framework of human perfectability would, in the end, create a new heaven and new earth—a goal much more sensible and wholesome than a Heaven in Heaven.”

How’s that “benevolent unfolding of history” working out for you? Oh, 178 wars, 27 new venereal diseases, one out of two marriages ending in divorce, sex perversion taught to your kids in kindergarten, the highest crime rate in the world, public schools turned into war zones, whorehouses, and drug cartels, over a million babies aborted every year. That’s the “new heaven and new earth” of these infidels: it’s hell on earth.

William Penn, the founder of Pennsylvania, had more sense. He said, “The nation that refuses to be governed by God will be governed by tyrants.” Every belief is as good as another, and if my belief is just as good as yours, how do you decide by which one to go? Why, “might makes right,” of course. If I can get more guns, cops, troops, laws, thugs, and prisons on my side, then my opinion rules; not because there is any absolute authority behind it, but because I have the power to enforce it. That is where you are in America right now. You are living under the law of the jungle because this nation has dumped God’s Law.

Infidelity leads to *moral ruin*. When a nation dumps the Book, God dumps it. God took two world powers that once honored that Book—Germany and England—and turned them into third-rate nations when they rejected the Book for deism, rationalism, Charles Darwin, Marx, higher criticism, Westcott and Hort, and nihilism. Do you think the United States will fare any better?

God is going to take this nation from being a “superpower” and bankrupt it economically, socially, religiously, militarily, and morally. No nation can live like America has been living for the past seventy years and get away with it.

“The wicked shall be turned into hell, and ALL THE NATIONS that forget God” (Psa. 9:17). America is no exception.

Infidelity leads to despair. If you have no faith in God and the Bible, you have no hope (Eph. 2:12). That’s why there are so many suicides in this nation: people have nothing to live for. They have no hope, no purpose.

And of course, infidelity leads to *Hell*.

“He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him” (John 3:36).

“But the fearful, and UNBELIEVING, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death” (Rev. 21:8).

People, you reject that Book at your own peril. God help you.

Mathematics of the Bible

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Testament is the most unpleasant character in all of fiction . . . jealous, unjust, unforgiving . . . control freak . . . homophobic, racist, genocidal, megalomaniacal, sadomasochistic, capricious, malevolent bully." Sounds like someone is really concerned about his wicked life and having to face judgment.

Evolution is no more of a true science than philosophy. If you combined the four major branches of philosophy (Idealism, Realism, Naturalism, and Pragmatism), you could find more truth by sticking your head in a dumpster for five minutes.

Like any science, mathematics has set laws that are absolutes. For instance, $1+1=2$. Unless you are a philosophical fool trying to show off your stupidity, that statement is a fact. A college math professor teaching his students that $1+1$ can sometimes equal 3 should not be taken seriously, and he should not even be paid a salary as a math teacher. The Lord created fixed laws within His creation that are absolutes, showing His faithfulness and reliability.

Only the Author of mathematical laws can override them, and His exceptions prove His rules. For instance, the Lord can make $1+1=1$. Only the Lord can take one man and one woman and make them equal one (Eph. 5:31). Only the Lord can take millions of sinners and add them together where they are equal to one body (1 Cor. 12:12–20). Only the Lord can take one basket of **“five loaves”** and **“two small fishes,”** divide them into pieces, subtract the pieces by feeding 5,000 men, then add all the

leftovers to equal twelve full baskets (Matt. 14:19–21; John 6:9–13).

When the Lord makes exceptions to His absolute laws, a fool like Einstein thinks that means all absolutes must be done away with. Einstein once said, “The search for truth is more precious than its possession.” The Bible calls this: **“Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth”** (2 Tim. 3:7). The greatest thing that can happen in the life of any sinner is to come into possession of the truth: the Lord Jesus Christ (John 14:6). On your death bed, you will never regret being in possession of eternal life (1 John 5:20), and will be comforted in those last moments to know you are not still searching for answers, as it will be too late in that solemn day.

In the Bible, we have examples of the Lord using these absolute mathematical laws of addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. The Bible contains a whole book called Numbers. In that book, over 115 times the Lord numbers people, places, and things; that shows He is a God of order and mathematical precision, not confusion. He tells the children of Israel to encamp in a set order, by set numbers, throughout their forty years of wandering in the wilderness (Num. 1–2). He also tells them that, because of their disobedience in not going in to take the land when the spies returned from their forty-day reconnaissance in Numbers 13, they would have to wander in the wilderness for forty years, each day of their reconnaissance representing a year of wandering (Num. 14:29–34).

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The Lord continually exhibits His attention to numbers in this fashion throughout the Bible. For instance, in Deuteronomy 32:8, the Lord says He **“divided to the nations their inheritance . . . according to the number of the children of Israel.”** This world contains twelve boundaries to separate the Gentile nations, and the fact that modern, technological man has crossed over and obliterated those boundaries does not negate the Lord’s intentions.

Another case of the Lord’s mathematical precision is found in the Babylonian captivity of Judah. Daniel was taken captive as a young teenage boy, and as an old man, he found out, by reading Jeremiah, that the captivity would be over after seventy years (Dan. 9:1–2). Notice that Daniel did not see this until the captivity was almost over—**“In the first year of Darius,”** which was 68 years into the seventy years. Why was the captivity seventy years and not fifty, or twenty or a hundred? Because unknown to anyone at the time, the Lord was using His calculator while Israel was going about her business of making money.

Way back in 1500 B.C., the Lord told His people to keep a sabbath of rest for the land every seventh year (Lev. 25:1–7); they were to trust the Lord and believe His promise that He would provide enough crops from the sixth year through the seventh year of resting the land (Lev. 25:18–22). But in 1 Samuel 8, the children of Israel decided they wanted **“a king to judge us like all the nations”** (1 Sam. 8:5). The Lord told Samuel to **“protest”** in preaching the truth to them (1 Sam. 8:9),

but to let them have their desire not to be **“a peculiar people”** anymore (see Deut. 14:2). The result was a type of the Antichrist in Saul. When Saul put his government together, he began to tax the people and take a tenth of their crops (1 Sam. 8:15). (Governments do not make money; they steal it from the people.) The costs of having a government took such a toll on Israel that they began to violate the seventh-year land sabbath. This began when Saul took office in 1096 B.C. Over the next 490 years, every seventh year the Lord watched as the Jews ignored His law. Finally, after watching this happen seventy times (70x7), the Lord called in Nebuchadnezzar in 606 B.C. to force the land to rest for exactly seventy years.

In Bible mathematics, the Lord starts off by showing man he cannot compete with Him, as He alone is eternal. In the first mention of numbering, the Lord tells Abram that He will make his **“seed as the dust of the earth: so that if a man can number the dust of the earth, then shall thy seed also be numbered”** (Gen. 13:16). God tells Abram to look up into the night sky **“and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be”** (Gen. 15:5). Man cannot number either **“the dust of the earth”** nor the stars in the sky. As late as the 1930’s, “scientific” man thought he had the stars counted. Wrong. Then they said, **“Oops, we were wrong. The stars are infinite in number.”** Wrong again. The Lord not only has the stars numbered, but He has individual names for them (Psa. 147:4).

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Mathematics of the Bible

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The Lord has also numbered **“the dust of the earth”** and measured it out (Isa. 40:12).

God’s math is past finding out. Yet this eternal, infinite Lord, whose years cannot be numbered (Job 36:26), has condescended to come down and be **“numbered with the transgressors”** (Mark 15:28).

The Lord’s geometric figure is the infinite circle. Throughout His physical creation, you can see His hand uses arcs, spirals, and circles. The interesting thing about the circle is that it is an infinite figure, without a beginning and without an end. The mathematical figure used in figuring out the area of a circle is *Pi*. Area equals *Pi* times the radius squared. In 1 Kings 7:23, the Bible shows that Solomon made a circular molten sea that had a diameter of ten cubits and a circumference of thirty cubits. When these numbers are plugged into the mathematical equation, the result is *Pi* equals three. In a rush to make fun of the Bible, critics try to show how ignorant the Bible writers were. In a book about *Pi*, an author states, “The inaccuracy of the biblical value of *Pi* is, of course, no more than an amusing curiosity.” He then proceeds to tell us that the Babylonians figured *Pi* to 3.125 back in 1000 B.C., and the Greeks (Archimedes) had it figured to 3.14 in 300 B.C., while the Hindus and Chinese figured it to 3.14 in A.D. 500. With the use of computers, modern, technological man has spent computing the eternal, non-repeating value of *Pi* to twelve trillion places, and it still has no end.

Had the fools looked at the Bible with a believing heart instead of

fear that they might have to give account one day, right in the context of 1 King 7 they would have found that Solomon had *Pi* figured to 3.14 (and then some) in 1005 B.C.—way ahead of the Babylonians, Greeks, Hindus, and Chinese. A few verses after telling you the diameter was ten cubits, the Bible shows that the brim of the molten sea **“was an hand breadth thick”** (1 Kings 7:26), which is four inches. If you subtract eight inches from the diameter and convert the cubits to inches, Solomon’s figures are within ten-thousandths of an inch, with *Pi* being 3.14. Don’t ever try to outthink the Book! The author of that book on *Pi* possesses a biblical ignorance that is no more than an amusing stupidity of a college education.

When a Bible believer uses the gifts the Lord has given him (1 Cor. 12:8), he will glorify the Lord with them. Evolution can be disproved mathematically, not religiously. All of the great brains and scholars of this world simply hop over the facts in trying to disprove the Bible and judgment. Scientifically and mathematically, evolution is a hoax, and they know it. But their only option to it is . . . GOD ALMIGHTY.

The Lord’s math is not exactly how they want to figure. The Lord’s math says you can add up all the wealth of this world and it is not equal to your soul (Mark 8:36). The Lord says seventy or eighty years of pleasure are not worth going to hell for eternity. The Lord’s math says, **“that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us”** (Rom. 8:18).

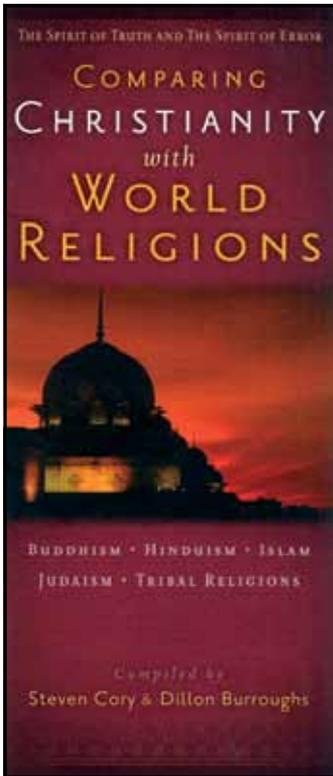
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Pastor Tom Cochran
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April 29 – May 1

Lakeside Baptist Church
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Pastor Ted Hines
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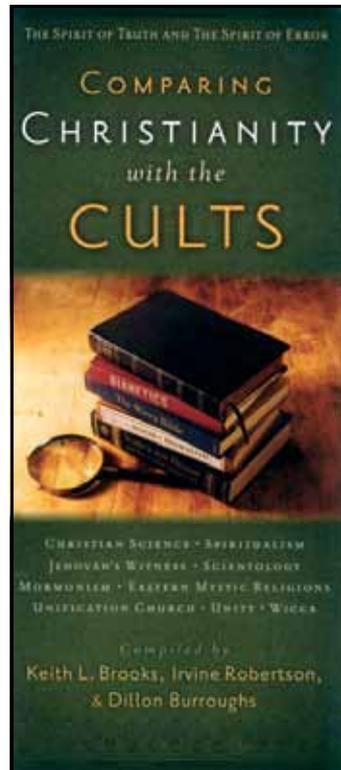


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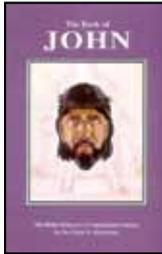
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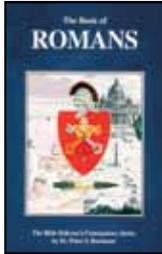
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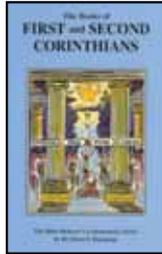
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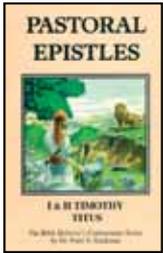
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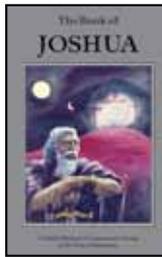
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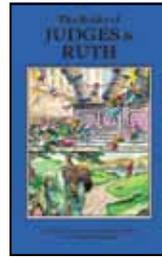
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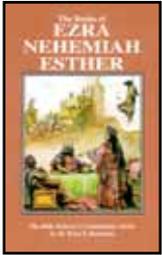
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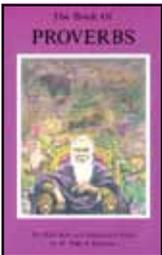
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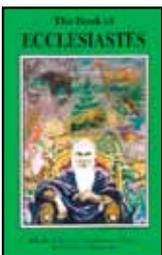
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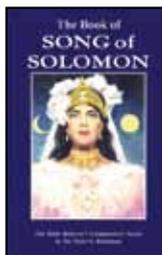
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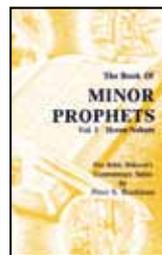
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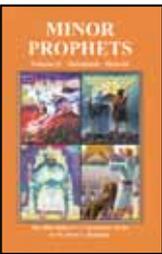
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The ESV

A Roman Catholic Bible

By Dr. Peter S. Ruckman

(Part One of Three)

Way back in 1970, we published a work the thesis of which has never been refuted. In *The Christian's Handbook of Manuscript Evidence*, we demonstrated to the tune of 51 verses (600% better than Hort's eight verses he used to "prove" the Byzantine text of the Receptus was a "late text") that the modern versions were the work of modern scholarship to restore the Dark Age text of Jerome's Latin *Vulgate* while throwing out the Protestant text of the Reformation as represented by the *Authorized Version* of 1611. We showed, by comparing the readings of 21 modern translations with the *King James* text, how the new English "Bibles," more often than not, side with the Jesuit *Rheims* Bible of 1582. In those instances where the *Rheims Version* reads with the *King James* against the modern versions, the new translations interpolate *Liberal theology* into the passages, making those "Bibles" more *non-Christian* than Roman Catholic versions.

Lately, the Bookstore has been getting calls about the new "darling" of Conservatives and Fundamentalists, the *English Standard Version*. If you go to the official website of the translation (esvbible.org), you will naturally find the *ESV* compared to the *KJV*. I say naturally because every new translation on the market has to compare itself to the *Authorized Version* in order to get a hearing. No new version compares itself to the one before it. They all make you think they are improving the "standard"—the English Bible of 1611.

Actually, the *ESV* is a revision of the second edition of the *RSV* of the Liberal National Council of Churches. But the *ESV* was translated by "Conservatives" instead of "Liberals," so that makes the *RSV* text more palatable to Fundamentalists who would have used that text if they could have gotten away with it (the *RSV* New Testament was being sold in the campus bookstore of Bob Jones University back in 1950–51).

The *ESV* came out in 2001 and was not available when we did our comparison back in 1970. We thought it might be interesting to put the *ESV* to the same test to which we put its predecessor, the *RSV*, to see exactly what kind of "Bible" it is. What follows are the pertinent passages where the *ESV* matches not only the Liberal *RSV*, but the Catholic *Rheims Version*. But as we pointed out in the first paragraph, there will be times when the Catholic "Bible" will represent a more conservative Christian reading than the *ESV* and *RSV*.

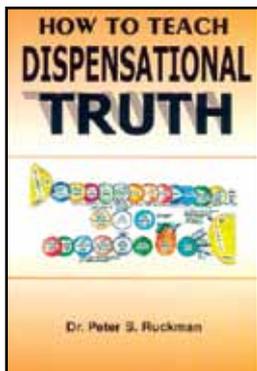
1) *1 Corinthians 10:28*. The Catholic "Bible" from Jerome has omitted "**for the earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof.**" Both the *ESV* and the *RSV* are in agreement with this omission.

2) *1 Corinthians 11:24*. This time the *ESV* and *RSV* are more Liberal than the *Douay-Rheims* version of 1582. The *ESV* and *RSV* omit "**Take, eat**" from the verse; the Jesuit *Rheims* retains it.

Continued on 19

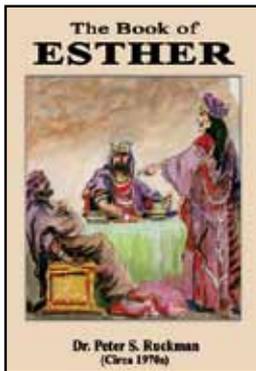
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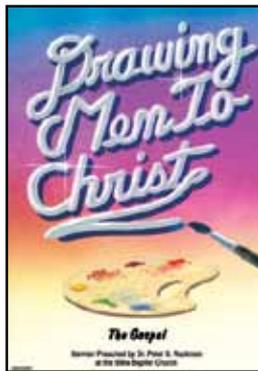
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The ESV, a Roman Catholic Bible

Continued from 16

3) *1 Corinthians 15:47*. The corrupt Catholic "Bible" doesn't like "**the Lord**" being in His own Book, so it boots Him out. Siding with Rome against the Holy Bible are the *ESV* and *RSV*.

4) *Galatians 3:1*. Here is another example where the *ESV* and *RSV* are more Liberal than the Roman "Bible." You see, the *Rheims Version* has adopted the correct reading of the *King James 1611 AV* ("**that ye should not obey the truth**"). The "Conservative" *ESV* and the "Liberal" *RSV* can't stand "**the truth**," so they get rid of it.

5) *1 Peter 4:14*. The corrupt Catholic "Bible" has omitted the last half of the verse ("**on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified**"). Backing Rome up, of course, are the *ESV* and *RSV*.

6) *Revelation 14:5*. The newer corrupt Catholic "Bibles," like the *Confraternity*, *New American*, and *Jerusalem*, alter their own sister translation (*Douay-Rheims*) and kick God off His throne. Joining them are the *ESV* and *RSV*.

7) *Titus 2:13*. The Jesuit *Rheims Version* attempts to do away with the Rapture and force the Christian to look for a *thing* ("**the glory**") instead of a *person* ("**the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ**"). Agreeing with this ancient corruption are the *ESV* and *RSV*.

8) *Colossians 1:14*. Neither the "Conservatives" (*ESV*) nor the Liberals (*RSV*) can stand the blood of Christ, so they both remove it from the text. This time, though, the Catholic *Rheims* "Bible" isn't that apostate: it retains the *KJV* reading "**through his blood**."

9) *Mark 1:2*. This is a famous scholarly "boo-boo," for the quote in verse 2 is NOT from Isaiah; it is from Malachi (Mal. 3:1). Verse 3 is the quote from Isaiah. The *AV* text has the factually accurate reading ("**the prophets**"). The terrible blunder of "*Isaiah the prophet*" is well represented by the Catholic "Bible" of 1582 and its "buddies" from the Twentieth and Twenty-first Centuries: the *RSV* and *ESV*.

10) *Acts 1:3*. The *AV* has the proofs of Christ's resurrection being "**infallible**." Neither Rome (*Rheims*) nor the Twentieth-Century Liberals (*RSV*) or the Twenty-first-Century Conservatives (*ESV*) care much for such "absolutism" in the Bible's miracles: all three dump the word "**infallible**."

11) *Matthew 27:4*. Rome has always wanted to put as much emphasis on the "non-blood" Mass as they do on the actual blood of Christ. Hence, the article "**the**" (*KJV*) is omitted from the verse by the Catholic "Bible." Following Rome's lead are both the *ESV* and *RSV*.

12) *Matthew 16:3*. Since Rome is Postmillennial in its theology, and since it reserves for itself alone the right to interpret the Bible accurately, it strongly resents Christ's remark in regards to being able to "tell" the future. It changes the *KJV* reading "**discern**" ("to perceive or recognize") to "*interpret*" ("to explain or understand as having a particular meaning"—*Rome's* meaning); ditto the *ESV* and *RSV*.

13) *Matthew 20:22*. Following Jerome's lead, the Jesuit *Rheims* "Bible" of
Continued on 20

The ESV, a Roman Catholic Bible

Continued from 19

1582 omits Christ's (and the believer's) baptism of suffering. The *ESV* and *RSV* follow suit.

14) *Mark 6:11*. The half of the verse about "**Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment**" was taken out by Origen and Eusebius. This corruption was preserved in *Vaticanus* for Jerome and the subsequent Roman "Bibles" based on his Latin *Vulgate*. In agreement with the Dark Age reading of the Jesuit *Rheims* version are the *ESV* and *RSV*.

15) *Matthew 6:13*. The ending to the Lord's prayer is missing from the corrupt Roman "Bible" as well as the *ESV* and *RSV* of apostate Conservatives and Liberal Protestants.

16) *Mark 13:14*. "**Spoken of by Daniel the prophet**" has been deleted in the Pope's translations. Arm in arm with the Pope here are the *ESV* and *RSV*.

17) *Acts 17:26*. As it stands in the *AV*, the verse will not support racial or religious integration, so the word "**blood**" has been taken out of the Catholic Bibles to make the reader think that all men should be "one." In agreement with this Communistic private interpretation are the usual flunkies: the *ESV* and *RSV*.

18) *John 17:12*. The Catholic *Douay-Rheims* has omitted the words "**in the world.**" Following suit are, of course, the *ESV* and *RSV*.

19) *Acts 7:30*. Once more "**the Lord**" has been booted out of His own Book (see 1 Cor. 10:28, 15:47) by Jerome and the Pope. He has also been evicted by *guess who*. You only get one guess; not two.

20) *Romans 8:1*. This time the *ESV* and *RSV* have cut out more of "**the holy scriptures**" (Rom. 1:2) than the *Rheims* version of the Jesuits. It only removes "**but after the Spirit.**" The apostates on the *ESV* and *RSV* committees got rid of "**who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.**"

As we have seen so far, the "Conservative" revision of the *RSV*, the *ESV*, not only agrees with the Roman Catholic versions of the Bible, but often is *worse* than them. How "Conservative" can one get?

We will continue our examination of this latest Fundamentalist "fad" in corrupt Bible versions in next month's *Bulletin*.

(Editor's note: The material in this article was adapted from chapter ten of Dr. Ruckman's work *The Christian's Handbook of Manuscript Evidence*, 1997, ed.)

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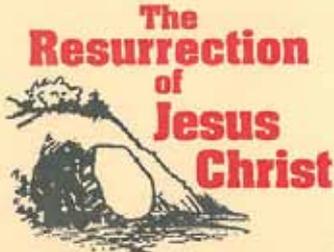
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"He is not here: for he is risen. . ."
 Matthew 28:6

FACT OR FICTION?

by Dr. Terry Watkins, Th.D.

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Dr. Greenleaf, the Royal Professor of Law at Harvard University, was one of the greatest legal minds that ever lived. He wrote the famous legal volume entitled, *A Treatise on the Law of Evidence*, considered by many the greatest legal volume ever written. Dr. Simon Greenleaf believed the Resurrection of Jesus Christ was a hoax. And he determined, once and for all, to expose the "myth" of the Resurrection.

After thoroughly examining the evidence for the resurrection—Dr. Greenleaf came to the exact opposite conclusion! He wrote a book entitled, *An Examination of the Testimony of the Four Evangelists by the Rules of Evidence, Administered in the Courts of Justice*. In which he emphatically stated, **"IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE that the apostles could have persisted in affirming the truths they had narrated, had not JESUS CHRIST ACTUALLY RISEN FROM THE DEAD. . ."** (Ibid., p.29). Greenleaf concluded that according to the jurisdiction of legal evidence, the resurrection of Jesus Christ was the best supported event in all of history!

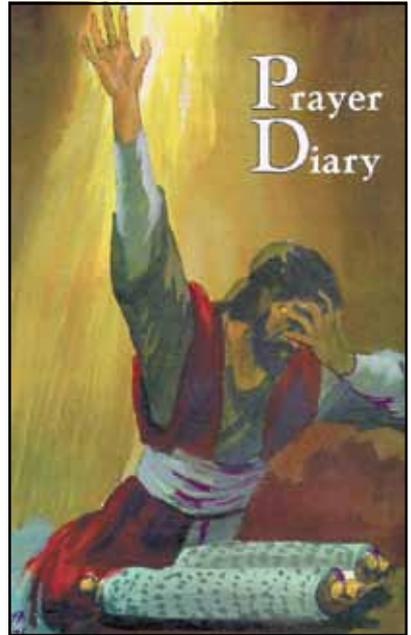
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Does Greek Help?

By Dean Hays
(Part Six of Eight)

This series of articles has been on whether a knowledge of the “original Greek” is a help to the Bible believer or not in understanding and knowing what the Bible says. In the last few articles, we have been examining the manuscript evidence used to put together the modern translations. We concentrated on passages, both major and minor, that dealt with the doctrine of Christ; but there are other doctrines, some of them not necessarily considered “fundamentals of the faith,” which are changed in the new “Bibles.”

Interestingly enough, one of these is the doctrine of fasting. Fasting was an Old Testament practice carried over into the New Testament by both the Lord Jesus Christ and the Apostle Paul (1 Cor. 7:5; 2 Cor. 6:5, 11:27). But the modern “Bibles” seem to have something against it.

For instance, *all* of Matthew 17:21 is removed in new versions like the NASV, the NIV, and the ESV. The verse says, “**Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting.**”

The evidence for the KJV reading is:

Uncials: The second corrector of *Sinaiticus*, C, D, E, F, G, H, K, L, M, O, S, U, V, W, X, Y, *Gamma*, *Delta*, *Pi*, *Sigma*, *Phi*, and *Omega*. It is also extant in 047, 055, and 0211.

Cursives: The majority and both families (f1 and f13).

Latin: The Old Latin manuscripts a, aur, b, c, d, f, ff2, g1, l, n, r1, r2; and the entire testimony of the *Vulgate*.

Syriac: The *Peshitta*, Curetonian, and Harclean.

Coptic: part of the Bohairic.

The Armenian and Ethiopic translations.

Church Fathers: The “Pseudo-Clement” of Rome, *Concerning Virginity* (I 8:59). Origen, *Matthew* (I 10:479). Ambrose, *Letters* (III 10:459).

All of that stands against the original writer of *Sinaiticus*, *Vaticanus*, and the *Theta* uncial; a few cursives Nestle doesn’t consider worth listing; the Sinaitic and Palestinian Syriac translations, the Sahidic Coptic, part of the Bohairic Coptic witness, and the Middle Egyptian Coptic. That is the evidence for dropping the verse. Once more, the evidence for the KJV slaughters the new versions’ justification for removing the verse.

The parallel verse in Mark—Mark 9:29—doesn’t fare much better in modern versions. While the whole verse isn’t removed, “**fasting**” is. But once again, there is close to no manuscript evidence for doing so. The new translations are supported by three uncials (the original writer of *Sinaiticus*, *Vaticanus*, and 0274), a few cursives of no consequence, and one Old Latin manuscript (k). Contrast that to the mass of evidence for keeping “**fasting**” in the verse.

Does Greek Help?

Continued from 22

Papyrus: P45.

Uncials: The second corrector of *Sinaiticus*, C, D, E, F, G, H, K, L, M, N, S, U, V, W, X, Y, *Gamma*, *Delta*, *Theta*, *Pi*, *Sigma*, *Phi*, *Psi*, and *Omega*. It is also extant in 047, 055, 024, 0233, and 0257.

Cursives: The majority and both families (f1 and f13).

Latin: Old Latin manuscripts a, aur, b, c, d, f, f2, i, l, q, r1; and the entire *Vulgate* testimony.

Syriac: The *Peshitta*, Sinaitic, Harclean, and Palestinian.

Coptic: Both the Bohairic and the Sahidic.

The Gothic, Armenian, and Ethiopic translations.

Did you notice that both Matthew 17:21 and Mark 9:29 are the words of Jesus Christ telling you how to deal with Satanic oppression? Did you notice the new “Bibles” managed to get rid of fasting from *both* passages?

Picture yourself praying to the Lord, saying, “Lord, I am dealing with an unclean spirit that is oppressing me. What do I do?” Since God speaks to you through His written word, you turn to your Bible to see what God says. If you open a new version, you get *one time* (not two—see Gen. 41:32) that you are to pray about it. You say in frustration to the Lord, “But I am praying about it, and it’s not working.”

Some attacks of the Devil and his devils are so bad that prayer is not enough; fasting must accompany the prayer. The *KJV* shows you how to deal with these Satanic attacks; the new versions take away the weapon that will give you the victory

Here is an interesting passage. Acts 10:30—“**And Cornelius said, FOUR days ago I was FASTING until this hour . . .**” Since this is an examination of how the new “Bibles” treat fasting, it shouldn’t surprise you to discover that they change “**fasting**” to *praying*. What is surprising, though, is how versions like the *NIV*, *J. B. Phillips New Testament*, and the *Complete Jewish Bible* change the verse. They go even beyond what the *NASV*, the *New RSV*, and the *English Standard Version* do.

“*Cornelius answered “THREE days ago I was in my house praying . . .” (NIV).*

While there is a little more evidence for the new “Bibles” this time (P74, *Sinaiticus*, the original writer of *Alexandrinus*, uncials B and C, a few cursives of no consequence, the *Vulgate*, the Bohairic Coptic, and the Armenian and Ethiopic translations), the evidence for “**fasting**” is still overwhelming.

Papyrus: P50.

Uncials: The second corrector of *Alexandrinus*, D, E, H, L, P, *Psi*, 049, 056, and 0142.

Cursives: The *majority*.

Latin: The Old Latin manuscripts ar, d, e, gig, l, p, ph.

Syriac: The *Peshitta* and Harclean.

Continued on 24

Does Greek Help?

Continued from 23

Coptic: The Sahidic and Middle Egyptian.

The Gothic translation.

Now here is Paul's advice to Christian couples:

“Defraud ye not one the other, except it be with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to FASTING and prayer; and come together again that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency” (1 Cor. 7:5).

Once more, the new translations have much more evidence than they normally do.

Papyri: P11 and P46.

Uncials: The original writer of *Sinaiticus*, *Alexandrinus*, *Vaticanus*, C, D, Dabs, F, G, P, *Psi*.

Cursive: *only one*—al.

Latin: Old Latin manuscripts ar, d, dem, e, f, g, r1, t, x, z; and all the *Vulgate* testimony.

Coptic: Sahidic, Bohairic, and Fayyumic.

The Armenian and Ethiopic translations.

But the evidence for the *KJV* reading is still impressive.

Uncials: The second corrector of *Sinaiticus*, K, and L. It is also extant in 056, 0142, 0150, 0151.

Cursives: The *majority*.

Syriac: The *Peshitta* and Harclean.

The Gothic translation.

But after what we saw in Matthew 17:21 and Mark 9:29, there should be no doubt as to which reading is right. Once more, we are dealing with how to confront Satan in a difficult situation. Paul is advising fasting to accompany prayer just as Christ did.

I went through the New Testament and picked out the passages on fasting I thought could even remotely apply to a Christian doctrinally. They are:

Matthew 4:2

Acts 14:23

Matthew 6:16, 18

Acts 27:33

Matthew 9:14–15

Matthew 17:21*

Mark 2:18–20

Mark 9:29*

Luke 5:33–35

Acts 10:30*

Acts 13:2–3

1 Corinthians 7:5*

Those passages marked with an asterisk (*) indicate where the new “Bibles” have removed *fasting* from the text. In other words, a *third* of the passages where a Christian could apply fasting to his life for protection, guidance, and spiritual victory have had it *removed*. Is that from God or the Devil?

In the next article in this series, we will look at various passages where there is no contest between the reading in the *King James* Bible and that of the modern versions. Guess which side wins—hands down!

Temple Maintenance

By Robert Militello

“Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil. It shall be health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones” (Prov. 3:7–8).

As a Christian, ought I not to be watchful over my physical as well as my spiritual wellbeing? I am under obligation to maintain my body as best I can because it is the temple of God and the vehicle by which I move about in this present world.

When I was able to purchase my first car, my dad told me to pay particular attention to the brakes and tires because my safety was involved. Mobility is a blessing, and when you lose it, you suffer. You are to concern yourself with those things that affect your mobility, and if you are in Christ, you limit your effectiveness if you don't.

Healthy eating and the need for physical exercise have become hot items in our day because of fear. The more we hear of others we know who are battling cancer of some kind or have heart problems, the more we realize how fragile our health is. This concern usually leads us to be more guarded in our personal eating habits, but not always. Many in Christ maintain a sort of fatalism about the subject, saying, “When it's time to go, you go.” Often, the lost exercise more sense than the saints.

“And the lord commended the unjust steward, because he had done wisely: for the children of this world are in this generation WISER THAN THE CHILDREN OF LIGHT” (Luke 16:8).

Jews in our Lord's day understood handicaps, leprosy, and sickness to be connected with sin and the failure to observe the teachings of the Torah. After healing a crippled man, Jesus said to him, **“Behold, thou art made whole: SIN NO MORE, lest a worse thing come upon thee”** (John 5:14). Clearly, sin can wreak all kinds of havoc in your life and then invite death to put an end to your beating heart. Fearing the Lord is not only **“the beginning of wisdom”** (Psa. 111:10; Prov. 9:10), but also very sound medical advice, amen?

Again, we see in John's gospel the disciples' mindset concerning the understanding of sin affecting birth defects.

“And as Jesus passed by, he saw a man which was blind from his birth. And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind?” (John 9:1–2).

There is a generational connection here because an infant can't sin. Jesus resolves the matter by ruling out sin as the cause of this man's condition.

“Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him” (John 9:3).

So it is not clear as to how much of a role sin plays in our physical condition and the onset of various ailments. Nevertheless, Paul was very direct when writing the Corinthian believers as to why many of them were weak, sickly, and in their graves. Concerning their spiritual state when coming to the Lord's table, he said,

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“But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord’s body. FOR THIS CAUSE MANY ARE WEAK AND SICKLY AMONG YOU, AND MANY SLEEP. For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged” (1 Cor. 11:28–31).

Now there’s something to chew on, brethren. I take this failure to discern **“the Lord’s body”** as going beyond the communion table. As we are all members of Christ’s body, allowing sin to get the better of us jeopardizes the entire body. If we allow our sin to become a pathway to spread spiritual infection, the Lord may move quickly to put us on our back, or worse, to take us home. Fearing the Lord and living clean is healthy for body, soul, and spirit, amen?

Some years ago, I dealt with a physical-fitness freak who claimed to be saved. His passion for exercise was remarkable. The devil is an expert at taking things not inherently sinful and turning them into some form of idolatry. Using the scripture **“bodily exercise profiteth little”** (1 Tim. 4:8), I asked him how much of God’s word he was able to hide in his heart. In other words, are you memorizing any scripture?

Paul tells us to **“work out your own salvation with fear and trembling”** (Phil. 2:12). A workout designed to make one sweat and burn calories won’t help a Christian who will not lay aside his (or her) besetting sin. Believers in Corinth found out the hard way that the Lord who bought them with His blood is holy, so it behooves all believers to live clean lives.

Paul loved Timothy dearly, like a father loves his son. His advice to Timothy was not only spiritual, but physical.

“Lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be partaker of other men’s sins: KEEP THYSELF PURE. Drink no longer water, but use a little wine for thy stomach’s sake and thine often infirmities” (1 Tim. 5:22–23).

Was Timothy carrying too much of a load in ministering? Was his stomach problem a result of a weak constitution or a poor diet? Given what Paul wrote in verse 22, was there a need for Timothy to increase his spiritual awareness and discernment?

Everything the Lord permits to come into the life of a believer is turned to his good, or Romans 8:28 would not be in our Bible. Thank God this is true, but does that scripture comfort us if our sickness is the result of sin, as was the case with certain Corinthian believers?

Paul’s admonition to examine and judge ourselves is, in my opinion, the Holy Spirit’s way of calling our attention to Romans 12:1. There we are exhorted to give our bodies over to holy living.

“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service” (Rom. 12:1).

Have we complied? If not, should we see each illness as unrelated to our

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spiritual state? There is a great benefit in fearing God and living a holy life. We Baptists sometimes fail to emphasize this strongly enough. Look again at what Paul writes Timothy in the last part of 1 Timothy 5:22—“**KEEP THYSELF PURE.**”

Spend some time in profitable study. If you have an 1828 Webster Dictionary, look up the words *sickness* and *disease*. Note the difference. Sickness, according to Webster, is first nausea and squeamishness, as sickness of the stomach. In his definition of disease, Webster starts off with pain. Sickness is first mentioned by the Holy Spirit in Exodus 23:25. God promises to remove the sickness of the Israelites if they will keep themselves pure of the idolatry of the heathen in the promised land (see Exod. 23:24).

Now check out the word *disease*. It first appears in the singular in 2 Kings 1:2 (and in the plural in Exod. 15:26). In 2 Kings 1:2, it is tied to King Ahaziah who had an accident: he fell. The king was sick from the fall, and the sickness became a disease. A disease can be a lot worse than a sickness: a disease can be chronic. Ahaziah's disease was going to result in death, according to Elijah.

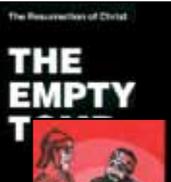
“Now therefore thus saith the LORD, Thou shalt not come down from that bed on which thou art gone up, but shalt surely die. And Elijah departed” (2 Kings 1:4).

When Adam and Eve fell, we contracted a deadly disease. Sin is now at work in our bodies, and it aims to kill us. Why should any Christian yield to that disease and leave this world before the Lord has gotten the last bit of mileage

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out of His child?

Jesus was moved to anger when He saw how polluted the temple had become. He moved quickly to drive out the pollutants. Do you have His zeal?

“Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry” (Col. 3:5).

Christians sometimes have a tendency to go too long without an “oil change”; this neglect will be costly down the road. God’s people who have fallen out of the race are almost always those who would not present their bodies as a holy offering to the Lord. You believe the *King James Bible*, fine. You rightly divide the word, fine. You give out tracts and tithe your income, fine. Are you guarding carefully the entrance to your temple: the eye gate? Remember the last-days Laodicean church had an eye infection and needed drawing salve to get the pus out (Rev. 3:18).

Find ways to keep your body from breaking down before its time. What you eat and drink shows how seriously you take the responsibility of maintaining **“the temple of the Holy Ghost”** (1 Cor. 6:19). The physical maintenance of God’s temple requires an elementary knowledge of what is good for you and what is not.

I prefer Jews when it comes to getting advice. A Jewish Rabbi gave me eternal life; and Jewish doctors, lawyers, and businessmen have been blessings to me and my family through the years. Thank God for them. A Jewish doctor told my dad, many years ago in New York, to stay away from carbonated drinks except ginger ale. This doctor said ginger ale will keep your digestive system in good order, and all other sodas will wreak havoc over time with your stomach and teeth.

Also, I discovered that Jews had a particular liking for nuts, especially almonds. Almonds are believed by some to be a strong preventative against cancer. When Aaron’s dead wooden rod budded, it was almonds that appeared. I bet there’s more to that than I presently have been able to find out.

“But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection” (1 Cor. 9:27). For America’s Christians in 2016, such behavior is praiseworthy for sure, but very difficult to emulate. We are spoiled and live with abundance. Preaching against gluttony or expanding waistlines is an exercise of immense bravery for the average Baptist pastor. Eating heartily is a lawful pleasure, and for most Christians, to tamper with that blessing is worse than listening to the Pope pray for world peace. The physical body in which we live belongs to the Lord, and we are expected to function as wise stewards with all that has been committed to our care. Spiritual neglect sends souls to hell, and physical neglect puts a soul in an early grave. Take heed.

“Honor thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee” (Exod. 20:12).

The hope of a long and healthy life has been a staple for Jews going back

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to Abraham. Living to see your children have children, and to see them grow and marry, is a prayer that is fixed in the heart of every descendant of Jacob. When a Jew makes a toast, it is usually "*L'Chaim*," which means "To Life." It's a Yiddish expression urging the hearers to live life fully and zestfully.

To give life to His hearers was our Lord's desire. "**I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly**" (John 10:10). Good health is a precious gift from God, and one can never properly estimate its worth until one no longer has it. Treasure it, for it can suddenly take wings and fly.

"And the time drew nigh that Israel must die" (Gen. 47:29). **"To every**
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THE CREED OF THE ALEXANDRIAN CULT

1. There is **no final authority** but God.
2. Since God is a Spirit, there is **no final authority** that can be seen, heard, read, felt, or handled.
3. Since all books are material, there is **no book on this earth that is the final and absolute authority** on what is right and what is wrong, what constitutes truth and what constitutes error.
4. There **WAS** a series of writings one time which, **IF** they had all been put into a **BOOK** as soon as they were written the first time, **WOULD HAVE** constituted an infallible and final authority by which to judge truth and error.
5. However, this series of writings was lost, and the God who inspired them was **unable to preserve their content** through Bible-believing Christians at Antioch (Syria), where the first Bible teachers were (Acts 13:1), and where the first missionary trip originated (Acts 13:1-52), and where the word "*Christian*" originated (Acts 11:26).
6. So God chose to **ALMOST** preserve them through Gnostics and philosophers from Alexandria, Egypt, even though God called His Son **OUT** of Egypt (Matthew 2), Jacob **OUT** of Egypt (Genesis 49), Israel **OUT** of Egypt (Exodus 15), and Joseph's bones **OUT** of Egypt (Exodus 13).
7. So there are two streams of Bibles. The most accurate—though, of course, there is **no final, absolute authority** for determining truth and error; it is a matter of "preference"—are the Egyptian translations from Alexandria, Egypt, which are "almost the originals," although not quite.
8. The most **inaccurate translations** were those that brought about the German Reformation (Luther, Zwingli, Boehler, Zinzendorf, Spener, et al.) and the worldwide missionary movement of the English-speaking people: the Bible that Sunday, Torrey, Moody, Finney, Spurgeon, Whitefield, Wesley, and Chapman used.
9. But we can "tolerate" these if those who believe in them will "tolerate" US. After all, since there is **NO ABSOLUTE AND FINAL AUTHORITY** that anyone can read, teach, preach, or handle, the whole thing is a matter of "PREFERENCE." You may prefer what you prefer, and we will prefer what we prefer. Let us live in peace, and if we cannot agree on anything or everything, let us all agree on one thing: **THERE IS NO FINAL, ABSOLUTE, WRITTEN AUTHORITY OF GOD ANYWHERE ON THIS EARTH.**

This is the Creed of the Alexandrian Cult.

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thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die" (Eccl. 3:1–2). There is a set time for a saint of God to die. If our Lord tarries, that time will arrive, and Satan's messenger, Death (Heb. 2:14), will pay us our wages for the sins to which we yielded (Rom. 6:23).

Jesus knew He had an appointed time. All attempts to kill Him before that time were futile. When He left the upper room and went up the Mount of Olives with His eleven apostles, He was ready to surrender Himself to the suffering and death His Father had arranged for Him. The devil will be given his time to touch you with an icy cold hand. That hour is known to God only. Prepare for it, but why hasten it?

"When I was daily with you in the temple, ye stretched forth no hands against me: but this is YOUR HOUR, and the POWER OF DARKNESS" (Luke 22:53).

Before physical death comes, we may be called **"to quench . . . the fiery darts of the"** devil (Eph. 6:16). Fear, anxiety, and doubt may assault our souls. God alone knows what we may have to face. John the Baptist, filled with the Holy Spirit from birth, went into spiritual battle while waiting in Herod's prison for death to show up.

"And John calling unto him two of his disciples sent them to Jesus, saying, Art thou he that should come? or look we for another?" (Luke 7:19).

John knew Jesus was the Christ from the day he baptized the Lord. So what happened here? Brethren, the flesh faints, and we fail at times because we are sinful humans up till our last breath. John needed a last-minute recertification, and he got it.

"Then Jesus answering said unto them, Go your way, and tell John what things ye have seen and heard; how that the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, to the poor the gospel is preached" (Luke 7:22).

John and Jesus were cut short in the midst of their years, for it pleased the Lord to do so. John the apostle lived to a good old age, and when writing to Gaius in Third John, he wished him health (3 John 2). I believe the Lord wants us healthy. His care for us is not limited to things spiritual. I'm sure Luke the physician served the Lord well in looking after Paul, who endured much more than American Christians will ever face.

We, as **"the elect of God"** (Col. 3:13), have a holy obligation to keep the temple clean and well maintained. The will of God for us is shown clearly by Paul's prayer in 1 Thessalonians 5:23.

"And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Let us labor in the time remaining to us to get that prayer answered and serve Him with joy.

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