

LESSON #37

"DANGERS OF MODERN VERSIONS"

TEXTS: Deuteronomy 4:2; Proverbs 30:6; Revelation 22:18, 19

INTRODUCTION:

To me, one of the major problems confronting the truth, as well as the Lord's Church today, is the so-called "Modern Versions" of the Bible. People now are in a position where they not only can have "the church" of their choice, but also may have the "Bible" of their own choice. For example, you can have one that endorses "faith only" or "original sin": you can have one that endorses the theory of Premillennialism, even one that favors the Roman Catholic Church.

The very first thing that we must understand and remember is that God has spoken. He has said what He meant and meant what He said. God's commandments to us today will never change. The pages of God's Word have been sealed by the blood of His own Son.

We may reject it, we may rebel against it, deny it, or we may alter it. But when we stand in the presence of God in judgment, the words He has spoken will judge us (John 12:48).

Three words we need to know the meaning of:

- 1. PARAPHRASED** - A rewording of the meaning expressed in something spoken or written.
- 2. TRANSLATION** - Implies the rendering from one language into another, written or spoken.
- 3. VERSION** - A particular form or variation of something, as modified in a different art form (the movie version of the novel).

I would advise all Bible students to read modern speech translations and to compare them with such translations as the King James and the American Standard. Use more than one translation in your study.

Let's compare a few translations and see the contrast.

LIVING BIBLE	Psalms 51:5	Genesis 6:4
THE AMPLIFIED	Ephesians 5:19	Galatians 2:16
NIV	Romans 10:10	Ephesians 1:13
CATHOLIC	Matthew 16:18 (notes)	Romans 6:4 (notes)
KING JAMES	Acts 12:4	Acts 2:27
REVISED STANDARD	Mark 16:16	

I am not opposed to an honest translation by competent scholars, but I am opposed to paraphrases in which the author weaves his own theology into the text. The unlearned will think they are reading the words of the Holy Spirit and will be led into error. Our world may change, but God's words stays the same.

(CHART)