

REMINDER

BE SURE AND BE BACK TONIGHT AS WE BEGIN A NEW STUDY IN THE -



Book of Titus

Called by many “The Christian’s Handbook For Last-Day Living”, the Book of Titus is an extremely practical book with lessons that are desperately needed by today’s Christian.

Topics covered in this study will include:

- How To Live The Christian Life
- How To Live The Separated Life
- What Happens At The Point Of Salvation?
- The Duties/Role Of The Pastor
- The Importance Of Doctrinal Purity
- The Role Of Mature Christian Men And Women In The Church
- How A Christian Should View His Job/Vocation
- Employer/Employee Relations
- The Sin Of Gossip
- The Actual Condition Of Every Unsaved Person

***JOIN US TONIGHT AT 6:30 O’CLOCK
AS OUR PASTOR BEGINS TEACHING VERSE-BY-VERSE
THROUGH THE BOOK OF TITUS!***



Textual Criticism Fact and Fiction

A fresh look at Bible Inspiration Preservation And Translation

by Dr. Thomas Cassidy, Pastor - First Baptist
Church of Spring Valley, California
(continued from last week)

Section One - Inspiration (continued)

Now comes the problem we face in fundamental circles today. What exactly was it that God inspired? Was it men? Was it manuscripts? Was it languages? One of the greatest failings of fundamentalism today is this confusion concerning the Doctrine of Inspiration. If you were to ask every professedly conservative Baptist Pastor what it was that God inspired, most would reply "*the original manuscripts.*" However, you can search the scriptures forever, and never find a reference to the "original manuscripts." But you will find, over and over again references to the "**words**" that God has spoken. God did not inspire men or manuscripts, **He inspired words!** God did not concern Himself with parchment, vellum, papyrus, and ink, but with words! It was, and still is, the words of God that are inspired. It makes absolutely no difference if those inspired words are written by the hand of Moses, Samuel, David, Daniel, Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Paul, Peter, James, or if they were carefully copied by a copyist in his own handwriting, or if they are scrawled on the rest room wall! If they are the same words, they are God's words, and if they are God's words, they are inspired words!

Unfortunately, many object to this view of Scripture for various reasons. Some say that factual errors in the Bible disprove this verbal and formal view of inspiration. **Now we must ask, does the Bible contain factual errors?**

Yes, it does, but before you get out the tar and feathers, allow me to elaborate!

The pious speeches made by Job's "comforters" contain factual errors. However, **inspiration guarantees the accurate recording of these speeches**, but **not** the truthfulness of the content.

Satan said "*Ye shall not surely die,*" in Genesis 3:4. That statement is a lie, but is accurately recorded by the Holy Spirit. The Bible speaks of "*the four corners of the Earth*" in Isaiah 11:12 and in Revelation 7:1, apparently ignorant of the scientific fact that the earth is round. However, this so-called error is nothing more than using the language of appearance.

We still say today that the sun rises and sets. However, we know that scientifically speaking, the sun neither rises nor sets, but it is the Earth that rotates upon its axis, producing the appearance of the sun rising and setting. Are we in error then to say that the sun rises and sets? No, the sun still appears to rise and set, and I for one will continue to enjoy watching the beauty of the swollen red sun setting in the Pacific Ocean, and even though I may be unscientific in my description of a sunset, it remains just

as beautiful. Besides which, the Bible clearly teaches that the Earth is round in Isaiah 40:22.

Also, we still describe our world as having four directions North, South, East, and West, or some combination thereof. Is it wrong to say that there are four primary directions (corners?), I don't think so.

So then, the honest reader will see that when viewed properly, the Bible is the inspired, inerrant, infallible, and all sufficient Word of God, totally worthy of our full trust and confidence in all matters of faith, practice, knowledge, and understanding, and is able to "make us wise unto salvation", as well as "lead us into all truth."

Section Two - Preservation

The **Doctrine of Preservation** is one that is receiving much attention today, and has become as controversial as the Doctrine of Inspiration was fifty years ago, and will, in all probability have the same effect on Christendom. In the near future, the lines of demarcation will be more boldly drawn, and a new separatism will develop around the proper understanding of the Doctrine of Bible Preservation. Those who decide on a preserved Scripture and believe that the local "*church of the living God [is] the pillar and ground of the truth*" will be the fundamentalists of tomorrow, and those who continue to hold to the idea of a higher "critical" text, and the authority of so-called "scholars" to determine what is, and what is not the Word of God, will go the way of Liberal and Modernistic Christendom, into decline and eclipse. We are already seeing a tendency toward this decline in many of the Christian Colleges that were great preacher training schools in the past, but are now turning out more accountants or other professionals than they are preachers.

We must first ask ourselves, **does the Bible teach that God has promised to preserve His Word?** I contend that it does, and does so quite emphatically!

I believe when God promises something, He keeps and performs that promise! In Psalm 12:6-7 God says: "*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.*" Here is a plain and simple statement concerning the doctrine of Bible preservation. Notice that God has not just promised to **preserve** His Word, but has promised to preserve it from "*this generation* (the time of David) **for ever.**" God has promised that every generation from the time of David until the end of eternity will have a preserved authoritative Bible. In Psalm 78:5-7, God states that He has established His testimony and appointed His law for the purpose of teaching each succeeding generation.

Every generation has the promise of a preserved Bible, that they "*not forget the works of God, but keep His commandments.*" "*Forever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven,*" says the psalmist in **Psalm 119:89**. God's Word has been settled, kept pure, preserved, according to this verse. Some have argued that it is settled in heaven, but not on earth! How

foolish! God's Word is a revelation from God to man. It is *man* that needs God's Word - **mankind right here on earth** - not God or the already redeemed in heaven. God has promised to preserve His Word from generation to generation. Those generations are generated right here on earth, not in heaven!

In Matthew 4:4, when Jesus was tempted by the Devil, He replied, "**Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every Word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.**" How can a man live by the Word of God, if he doesn't have it? In order for men and women to live by the Word of God, it must be available to them, God must have preserved it! By the way, I don't want to get too technical with you, but the word "written" is in the perfect tense, meaning that it was written in the past, and has continued right down to the time of Christ, and of course down to this present time also. In other words, God has preserved it!

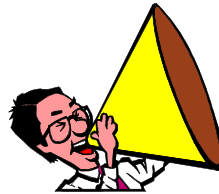
Let's stick to the truth! There have been many strange statements made of late by both sides of this debate that need to be addressed. The proponents of the Critical Text often assert that the Traditional Text originated with the cleric Erasmus. There is a fundamental dishonesty inherent in that statement. The Traditional Text of the Greek New Testament existed in the vast majority of Greek manuscripts back to at least 450 A. D., and Traditional readings existed in the below mentioned versions and lectionaries back to at least 150 A. D. It must also be noted that the adherents to the Traditional Text sometimes attribute the Critical Text to Westcott and Hort, knowing full well that examples of this text existed at about 350 A. D. Both sides ought to be very careful concerning such statements. If we believe that our respective position is so weak that it cannot be supported by the facts, resorting to such deceitful tactics will do nothing to advance either position, and certainly will not honor and glorify God, which ought to be our ultimate goal! The Traditional Text of the New Testament, sometimes called the Textus Receptus, or Byzantine Text, or Syrian Text, is incontestably admitted to have existed virtually unchanged from about 450 A. D. and reigned supreme, without serious challenge, until about 1850 when a copy of the Alexandrian text was discovered in St. Catherine's Monastery at Mount Sinai (another had previously been found in the basement of the Vatican library in Rome in about 1450.) Since 1880, the Alexandrian text has enjoyed a rapid rise to ascendancy in the English speaking Christian world. The Alexandrian, Caesarean, and Western Greek texts were virtually unknown for the fourteen centuries between 450 and 1850.

If God promised to preserve His word unto all generations (Psalm 12), those generations between 450 and 1850 must be included in that promise. The argument of some that the Latin Vulgate (which primarily follows the Alexandrian text) was much more widely published and circulated during these fourteen centuries and, therefore, represents the "preserved text", begs the question: **Does God preserve His Words, or the Words of a translator?** The Latin Version was a translation done by men, and not the original language words inspired and preserved by God. If these men can claim preservation for a Latin translation, then

they have no grounds for objection when others claim preservation for an English translation. **The question is not "which language?", the question is "which text?"** The only Greek text that has been in continuous use from the early second century to the present was, and is, the Traditional Text! The Traditional readings found in the Syriac Version, the Old Latin versions, and the Greek lectionaries provide strong evidence to the open minded and honest researcher as to the existence of the Traditional Text clear back to the mid-second century, or to about 150 A. D.

It is quite clear then to the honest, open minded researcher that the Traditional Text is the **only** text that has been in constant, uninterrupted usage from the first century until the present time, and therefore is the only text that qualifies for the term "preserved."
- more next week

STARTING TODAY -



FINANCIAL FREEDOM CLASS

Starting this morning in Sunday School, our Teen and Young Adult Class will begin going through the Basic Principles For Financial Freedom Seminar. Taught by Jim Sammons, this video seminar is the best and most thorough class on this subject available.

Learn Biblical Principles For Finances That Will Free You From The Bondage Of Debt!

This class, though designed for our young adults, is open to all from high school age and upward. Every Christian needs to learn how to handle their finances God's way!

***Class begins promptly at 9:45 each Sunday morning
in the Conference Room.***

LISTEN TO -



ABIDINGRADIO.COM

NURSERY MINISTRY WORKERS FOR THIS WEEK

10:50 a.m. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Caryn Quinnelly
 Cradle Roll 2: Derek Quinnelly
 6:30 p.m. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Rebekah White
 Cradle Roll 2: Nathaniel White
 Wed. Evening Service ---- Cradle Roll 1: Shirley White
 Cradle Roll 2: LeAnna White

AND THE PEOPLE CAME...

Week of April 03, 2011

Sunday School -----21
 Sunday Morning Service -----40
 Sunday Evening Service -----32
 Wed. Evening, 04/06/11 Service -----27

AND THE PEOPLE GAVE...

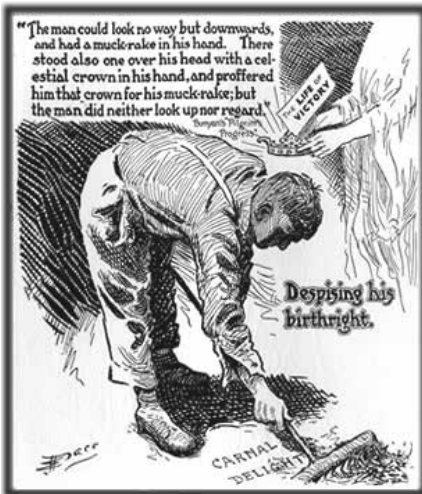
Week of April 3, 2010

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings ----- \$ 960.64
 Insurance Fund ----- \$ 23.00
Total Received for Week of 04/03/11: \$ 983.64

Average amount of Undesignated Offerings needed to operate the church EACH WEEK, as a minimum = \$ 1,400.00

INSURANCE FUND REPORT FOR MARCH:

Monthly Requirement ----- \$ 273.08
 Amount Received during March, 2011 ----- \$ 125.92
Amount Short: \$ 147.16



WHAT IT MEANS TO BE SAVED

1. **Admit that you are a sinner.**
2. **Admit that God says all sins must be paid for.**
3. **Accept the fact that Christ took upon Himself the suffering necessary to pay for all your sins.**
4. **You must change your mind about sin and sinning (God calls this repentance).**
5. **By an act of your will, accept by faith the Lord Jesus Christ, who can save you from the penalty of sin. Then, tell God about this in a simple prayer. Believe that God keeps His promise to save you, and thank Him for His salvation.**

Please Remember To Be Faithful to Give!



As with everything else, the costs of keeping a church going never go down - they always go **up**. Bills wait for no one, and churches are no exception to this. An extra, sacrificial gift today by everyone present would go a long way...

We encourage all of our membership to practice obedience to God by being faithful every payday to give back to Him His tithe (10%). *If every family in our church would practice this one simple discipline, we would never have weeks where we have to put off paying some bills until the following week!*

Everything is expensive, especially for a small church like ours, but ours is a BIG God, and He LOVES to bless His children when they are obedient to Him!

If you are already a tither, we thank you, and encourage you to also give offerings as well. If you're currently not tithing, won't you please start **today - OK?** Thank you.

Church Directory

Todd W. White ----- Pastor
 Mickie Shatwell ----- Pianist
 Dickie Eberle ----- Greeter, Custodian
 Larry Mathews, Caryn Quinnelly, Todd W. White ----- S.S. Teachers
 Larry & Mary Byars, Brian & Charity Crawford,
 Dwayne English, Lou & Vicki Martin ----- Outreach
 Flowers ----- Hannah and Shirley White