

# Present Truth

2 Peter 1:12

Dear Readers,

December 2010

“Grace be to you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ” (Ephesians 1:2). As this year comes to an end, please dedicate your life to serving the Lord more fervently than ever before.

**Obituary Notice:** We are sad to report that Brother Everitte Freeman passed away on December 4. He struggled with a cancerous tumor on his neck about the size of a grapefruit. After several months of natural treatment, the tumor shrank to almost nothing. Everitte was a champion for the truth about God in Orlando, Florida. Please pray that his influence in that community will live on. Especially pray for his wife and children who have been left behind.

## Which Bible Should I Use?

by Lynnford Beachy

God loves us so much that He gave up His only begotten Son so that we could be saved from sin. He has not chosen to leave us in darkness but to reveal His love for us through His Word. The Bible is a very precious gift God has given us. God wishes that each of us would be able to have His Word in its most pure form, yet there are many different versions of God’s Word. When we enter a Christian bookstore in search of a Bible, we are confronted with the difficulty of deciding which one to purchase. We find the NIV, RSV, ASV, NASV, The Bible in Basic English, The Living Bible, The Good News Bible, KJV, NKJV, YLT, etc.

With so many different translations, how can we know which Bible is the best for us today? Does it really matter which Bible we choose to read and accept as the Word of God? Are there any substantial differences in the many translations?

Many people have been plagued by these important questions. To find the answer to these questions it is necessary to look at the history of the Bible and the origin of some of today’s translations. By the time you finish this study you will be able to quickly distinguish which Bible is for you.

A newspaper printed an article that expressed the dilemma many face when purchasing a Bible. The article, entitled “Who Has the Last Word?,” begins by stating: “Gone are the days when Protestants could attend church in nearly any part of the

### ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

**Young at Heart**..... page 13

**You May Freely Eat?**..... page 14

by Jim Raymond

**Sin Shall Not Have Dominion**

**(Part 3)** ..... page 16

by Charles Fitch

country and expect to have the sermon text read from King James Version of the Bible” (*Register Herald*, pp. 1E, 2E, Beckley, West Virginia, February 7, 1999, article: “Who has the last word?”).

With many churches using different Bible versions it is difficult to memorize and quote verses when the person to whom you are quoting does not recognize them as being from his own Bible. Tragically this dilemma has caused many to avoid memorizing verses altogether. This is a sad condition, for David wrote, “Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee” (Psalm 119:11).

Rod Carney, who was the owner of Grace Book Shoppe in Beckley, West Virginia in 1999, said he is often confronted with questions about the different versions available. “There are a few versions that I don’t even carry in the store, because I believe there has been too much leeway in how they have translated the Scriptures,... I don’t ever try to convince people that they shouldn’t use the King James. It’s a good translation” (*Ibid.*).

### *What is the Origin of the Bible?*

“Hebrew and Greek were the original languages in which biblical writings first appeared. The Old Testament was written in Hebrew; the New Testament in Greek. The Hebrew language was replaced by the Greek language because of the influence of the Greek Empire from 300 B.C. to 300 A.D.

“About 200 B.C., Jewish scholars translated the Old Testament into Greek in a translation known as ‘the Septuagint.’

“By the second century after Christ, the Scriptures were in demand to be translated into the languages of the known world.

“Although Greek was basically the universal language until the beginning of the fourth century it gave way to Latin, the

official language of the Roman Empire. The need arose to translate the Scriptures into Latin. A scholar named Jerome translated the Septuagint into the Latin Vulgate, which remains the official Catholic version of the Bible. This version includes 14 books known as the Apocrypha, which were later discarded by Protestant scholars and omitted from editions such as the King James Version.

“During the Renaissance (15th and 16th centuries), many scholars sought to study the Scriptures in the original language rather than from a translation. In 1522 a Catholic cardinal in Spain produced the first Greek edition of the Bible. A Swiss printer heard about the new translation and commissioned a Dutch scholar named Erasmus to develop a Greek edition of the Bible. Erasmus completed the task in nine months, but used only six of the manuscripts at his disposal. Some scholars believe he did so to save time; others believe he rejected the validity of the other manuscripts.

“A decade after the death of Erasmus, Robert Stephanus published four editions of the Greek New Testament, using Erasmus’ text, the Cardinal’s text in Spain and about 15 Greek manuscripts. Stephanus introduced the verse divisions. Stephen Langston, Archbishop of Canterbury, had introduced chapter divisions in the 11th century.

“From 1565 to 1604, Theodore Beza, a Protestant scholar, published nine editions of the Greek New Testament. These were similar to the works of Erasmus and Stephanus.

“Between 1624 and 1678, the Elzevir brothers, two Dutch publishers, produced several Greek New Testaments based mainly on the texts of Beza and Stephanus. In the preface of their second edition, which was written in Latin, they told their readers

that they now had the ‘text now received by all.’ That one particular Greek text became known as the ‘Textus Receptus,’ or the received text. It is this Greek text that stands behind the New Testament of the King James Version of the Bible” (*Ibid.*).

Today there are many Greek manuscripts for scholars to examine. “Extant Greek manuscripts of the New Testament—complete, partial, or fragmentary—now number about 5000. None of these, however, is an autograph, an original from the writer. Probably the oldest is a fragment of the Gospel of John dated about A.D. 120-40. The similarities among these manuscripts is most remarkable when one considers differences of time and place of origin as well as the methods and materials of writing” (*Microsoft Encarta Encyclopedia*, 1996 edition, article: “Bible”).

It is amazing how so many different manuscripts can be collected from various parts of the globe at different times and still be almost entirely in harmony with each other. They have all been painstakingly copied by hand. The fact they are so closely in harmony is definite evidence of the Lord’s watch care over His Word.

### *The Waldenses*

We owe a great deal to the faithful Christians who risked their lives to retain the Scriptures in their purity through the Dark Ages (approximately 500 A.D.-1600 A.D.). These dedicated Christians, who often paid for their faith with their own blood, faithfully copied the Scriptures by hand. Among these Christians were the Waldenses (also called Vaudois or Valdenses), Albigenses, Huguenots, Cathari, etc. In later years some referred to all of these as Waldenses.

Benedict wrote, “In the preface to the French Bible the translators say that they

[the Waldenses] have always had the full enjoyment of the heavenly truth contained in the Holy Scriptures ever since they were enriched with the same by the apostles; having in fair manuscripts preserved the entire Bible in their native tongue from generation to generation” (Benedict, *History of the Baptist Denomination*, pp. 32, 33, as quoted in *History of the Sabbath and First Day of the Week*, p. 405, by J.N. Andrews).

The textbook of the Waldensian youth was the Scriptures, and “they were required to commit to memory, and be able accurately to recite, whole Gospels and Epistles. This was a necessary accomplishment on the part of public instructors, in those ages when printing was unknown, and copies of the Word of God were rare. Part of their time was occupied in transcribing the Holy Scriptures, or portions of them, which they were to distribute when they went forth as missionaries.... After passing a certain time in the school of the barbes [Waldensian ministers], it was not uncommon for the Waldensian youth to proceed to the seminaries in the great cities of Lombardy, or to the Sorbonne at Paris. There they saw other customs, were initiated into other studies, and had a wider horizon around them than in the seclusion of their native valleys. Many of them became expert dialecticians, and often made converts of the rich merchants with whom they traded, and the landlords in whose houses they lodged. The priests seldom cared to meet in argument the Waldensian missionary” (Wylie, *History of Protestantism*, book i, chap. vii, par. 4, 5).

The Waldensian Christians cherished the Word of God and diligently copied it out from generation to generation. They preserved the Scriptures that had been written by the apostles and prophets. Yet the papal power was not pleased to allow

God's Word to be available to the common people. With the papacy in power the law of the land prohibited people from possessing a Bible. Those who were caught with a copy of the Scriptures were subject to a martyr's death. The absence of the Bible brought darkness to the hearts of the people. That time was rightly called the "Dark Ages."

### Persecution of the Waldenses

The historian Lawrence wrote concerning this time, "A terrible inquisition was established to crush more perfectly the lingering seeds of heresy. Every priest and every lord was appointed an inquisitor, and whoever harbored a heretic was made a slave. Even the house in which a heretic was found was to be razed to the ground; **no layman was permitted to possess a Bible**; a reward, a mark, was set for the head of a heretic; and all caves and hiding-places where the Albigenses might take refuge were to be carefully closed up by the lord of the estate" (Lawrence, *Historical Studies*, p. 49, as quoted in *Ecclesiastical Empires*, p. 504, by A.T. Jones—emphasis supplied).

The bravery of these Waldensian Christians to copy the Scriptures was met by strong opposition of the papal power. To demonstrate the attitude of the papacy toward the Waldenses, look at one example of the papacy exerting her influence upon kingdoms where Waldenses flourished.

"Through a regular election by the cardinals, Urban V was succeeded by Peter Roger, a nephew of Clement VI, who took the papal name of Gregory XI, Dec. 30, 1371, to March 27, 1378.

"Since the desolation poured upon the country of the Albigenses by Innocent III, Christianity had permeated France, and was specially prevalent in the Province of Dauphine. The local officials would not

execute the decrees of the Church against them. Therefore Gregory addressed to King Charles V of France the following letter:

"Prince, we have been informed that there is in Dauphiny, and the neighboring provinces, a multitude of heretics, called Vaudois, Turlupins, or Bulgarians, who are possessed of great riches. Our holy solicitude is turned toward that poor kingdom, which God has confided to you, to extirpate the schism. But your officers, corrupted by the gold of these reprobates, instead of assisting our dear sons, the inquisitors, in their holy ministry, have themselves fallen into the snare, or rather have found death. And all this is done before the eyes of the most powerful lords of Dauphiny. We order you, then, by virtue of the oath you have taken to the holy see, to exterminate these heretics; and we enjoin you to march, if necessary, at the head of your armies, to excite the zeal of your soldiers, and reanimate the courage of the inquisitors.'" (De Cormenin, *History of the Popes*, Gregory XI, as quoted in *Ecclesiastical Empires*, p. 527, 528, by A.T. Jones).

The attitude of the papacy toward all those who would not agree with her in doctrine is penned on the face of history books around the world.

De Cormenin wrote, "The Church, as the holy Leo saith, whilst it rejects bloody executions from its code of morals, does not omit them in practice, because the fear of corporal punishments sometimes causes sinners to recur to spiritual remedies. Thus the heretics who are called Catharins, Patarins, or Publicans, are so strongly fortified in Gascony, among the Albigenses, and in the territory of Toulouse, that they no longer conceal themselves, but openly teach their errors; it is on that account we anathematize them as well as those who grant them an asylum or protection, and if

they die in their sin, we prohibit oblations being made for them, or sepulture being granted to them. As for the Brabancons, Arragoneses, Navarese, Basques, Cotterels, Triabechins, who respect neither churches nor monasteries, who spare neither widow nor orphan, nor age nor sex, and who pillage plains and cities, we also order those who shall receive, protect, or lodge them, to be denounced and excommunicated in all the churches at the solemn feasts; nor do we permit them to be absolved, until after they shall have taken up arms against these abominable Albigenses. We also declare, the faithful who are bound to them by any treaties, to be entirely free from their oaths; and we enjoin on them for the remission of their sins, to be wanting in faith to these execrable heretics, to confiscate their goods, reduce them to slavery, and put to death all who are unwilling to be converted. We grant to all Christians who shall take up arms against the Catharins, the same indulgences as to the faithful who take the cross for the holy sepulcher” (De Cormenin, *History of the Popes*, Alexander III, par. 10 from end, as quoted in *Ecclesiastical Empires*, pp. 479, 480, by A.T. Jones).

Though the Waldenses were severely persecuted they maintained high moral standards. Though the papacy struggled to exterminate them from the face of the earth they strove to live peaceably with all men regardless of their religious beliefs.

Of the Albigenses, or Cathari, St. Bernard, who was the principal preacher of one of the chief crusades against them, says: “If you interrogate them, nothing can be more Christian. As to their conversation, nothing can be less reprehensible; and what they speak they prove by deeds. **As for the morals of the heretic, he cheats no one, he oppresses no one, he strikes no one:** his cheeks are pale with fasting, he eats not the bread of idleness, his hands labor for his

livelihood” (De Cormenin, *History of the Popes*, Lucius III, p. 101, as quoted in *Ecclesiastical Empires*, p. 487, by A.T. Jones—emphasis supplied).

The Waldenses faced the threat of entire extinction by the hand of the papal power. Although they were constantly under attack, the Lord allowed them to preserve the Word of God throughout the Dark Ages. God never allowed the light of His Word to go out completely. As noted earlier, there are approximately 5000 Greek manuscripts available today. This was made possible, to a large degree, by the work of these faithful Waldenses in copying by hand the sacred pages of Scripture. God designed that His Word would be kept pure from corruption even during the darkest time of this earth’s history.

Satan, however, was not asleep through all of this. He endeavored to corrupt the pure Word of God by altering important verses and deleting phrases and verses entirely. This purpose was accomplished by the production of two Greek manuscripts that stand in variance with all the rest of the Greek manuscripts in several thousand instances. These two Greek manuscripts are said to be the oldest and most reliable, however much of their history is unknown. These two Greek manuscripts are known as the Vaticanus and Sinaiticus (otherwise known as Codex B and Codex Aleph, respectively).

### *The Vaticanus and Sinaiticus Manuscripts*

Regarding the Vaticanus manuscript, *Easton’s Bible Dictionary* states, “VATICANUS, CODEX is said to be the oldest extant vellum manuscript. It and the Codex Sinaiticus are the two oldest uncial manuscripts. They were probably written in the fourth century. The Vaticanus was placed in the Vatican Library at Rome by

Pope Nicolas V in 1448, its previous history being unknown” (*Easton’s Bible Dictionary*, article: “Vaticanus, Codex”).

It is claimed that the Vaticanus manuscript was probably written in the fourth century, but that cannot be proven since there is no known history of that manuscript until 1448 when it appeared in the Vatican Library at Rome.

The Sinaiticus manuscript has a similar history being found in the convent of St. Catherine in 1859; its previous history remains unknown.

Regarding the Sinaiticus manuscript, *Easton’s Bible Dictionary* states, “SINAITICUS, CODEX usually designated by the first letter of the Hebrew alphabet, is one of the most valuable of ancient MSS. of the Greek New Testament. On the occasion of a third visit to the convent of St. Catherine, on Mount Sinai, in 1859, it was discovered by Dr. Tischendorf” (*Easton’s Bible Dictionary*, article: “Sinaiticus, Codex”).

It is very interesting to note the time in which these manuscripts first appeared, especially in light of the fact that they stand at variance with the rest of the Greek manuscripts in thousands of significant places. Just 68 years before the Vaticanus was discovered John Wycliffe translated the first complete Bible into English in A.D. 1380. (See *Revised Easton’s Bible Dictionary*, article: “Version”). The strange appearance of the Vaticanus manuscript has caused some to question its origin and validity.

There are basically two types of Greek Bibles from which we get all of our English Bibles today—those that agree with the two Catholic manuscripts (the Vaticanus and Sinaiticus), and those that agree with the “Textus Receptus” (Received Text). The “Textus Receptus” is the name given to the majority of Greek

manuscripts which are almost entirely in harmony with one another.

Maurice A. Robinson, Ph.D., Department of Biblical Studies and Languages, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary wrote the following introduction for the Online Bible computer software concerning the Stephens 1550 edition of the “Textus Receptus”:

“The Stephens 1550 edition of the so-called ‘Textus Receptus’ (Received Text) reflects a general agreement with other early printed Greek texts also (erroneously) called by that name. These include editions such as that of Erasmus 1516, Beza 1598, and (the only one actually termed ‘Textus Receptus’) Elzevir 1633. Berry correctly notes that ‘In the main they are one and the same; and [any] of them may be referred to as the Textus Receptus.’ (George Ricker Berry, *Interlinear Greek-English New Testament*, p. ii, New York: Hinds & Noble, 1897.)

“All these early printed Greek New Testaments closely parallel the text of the English-language Authorized (or King James) Version of 1611, since that version was based closely upon Beza 1598, which differed little from its ‘Textus Receptus’ predecessors. These early ‘TR’ editions generally reflect (but not completely) the ‘Byzantine Textform,’ otherwise called the ‘Majority’ or ‘Traditional’ text, **which predominated throughout the period of manual copying of Greek New Testament manuscripts.**

“The user should note that the Stephens 1550 TR edition does NOT agree with the Wescott-Hort Greek text nor with modern critical editions such as that published by the United Bible Societies or the various Nestle editions. All those editions follow a predominately ‘Alexandrian’ Greek text, as opposed to

the Byzantine Textform which generally underlies all TR editions. **Note, however, that 85%+ of the text of ALL Greek New Testament editions IS identical**" (*Specialized Introduction: The Stephens 1550 edition of the Textus Receptus*, Online Bible Version 6.13, March 20, 1995, file: Gnt.doc, prepared by Maurice A. Robinson, Ph.D.—bold emphasis supplied).

It may be somewhat comforting to realize that all the Greek New Testament editions are identical 85% of the time. Yet that indicates that some editions vary 15% of the time. The Greek editions Robinson referred to as varying from the Textus Receptus 15% of the time are evidently the two Greek manuscripts known as the Vaticanus and Sinaiticus.

Robinson continues: "One should also recognize that NO printed Receptus Greek edition agrees 100% with the aggregate Byzantine manuscript tradition (Majority/Traditional Text), nor with the Greek text presumed to underlie the Authorized Version. However, **all printed Receptus texts DO approximate the Byzantine Textform closely enough (around 98% agreement) to claim a near-identity of reading between those Receptus forms and the majority of all manuscripts**" (*Ibid.*—bold emphasis supplied). It is amazing how the Lord preserved His Word to such a high degree of accuracy.

### **The 1881 Westcott - Hort Greek Text**

In 1881 Brook Westcott and Fenton Hort produced their *New Testament in the Original Greek*. This Greek text had a considerable influence upon the production of the Revised Standard Version (RSV) and the American Standard

Version (ASV), along with many of the new translations.

Maurice A. Robinson, Ph.D. wrote the following introduction for the Online Bible computer software concerning the Westcott-Hort Greek text: "The Westcott-Hort text presented in the Online Bible database was constructed from a collation published in 1889 by William Sanday. Sanday's collation presents with a high degree of accuracy **the approximately 6000 significant alterations** between the Westcott-Hort text of 1881 and the Stephens 1550 Textus Receptus edition. [See William Sanday, ed., 'Appendices ad Novum Testamentum Stephanicum jam inde a Millii Temporibus Oxoniensium Manibus Tritum,' Part I: 'Collatio Textus Westcottio-Hortiani (jure permissio) cum Textu Stephanico Anni MDL' (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1889), pp.1-92]" (*Specialized Introduction: 1881 Westcott - Hort Greek New Testament*, Online Bible Version 6.13, March 20, 1995, file: Gnt.doc, prepared by Maurice A. Robinson, Ph.D.—bold emphasis supplied).

The Westcott-Hort Greek text has approximately 6000 significant alterations. That is very disturbing considering the fact that many of the newer translations are based upon the Westcott-Hort Greek text.

Robinson continues, "Westcott and Hort opted in regard to many orthographical variants to **follow the specific spellings of Codex Vaticanus and/or Codex Sinaiticus even if such manuscripts stood virtually alone in the peculiarity of their spelling....** Westcott and Hort... relied primarily on joint testimony of Codex Sinaiticus (Aleph) and Codex Vaticanus (B) in contradistinction to the assimilation of readings from

manuscripts of other texttypes” (*Ibid.*— bold emphasis supplied).

This statement is extremely important when we consider that these two manuscripts (the Vaticanus and Sinaiticus) stand alone with over 6000 significant alterations as compared to over 5000 other Greek manuscripts which are almost entirely in harmony with one another. That is a ratio of 2 to 5000, and Westcott and Hort chose to side with the two Greek manuscripts rather than using the testimony of 5000 other Greek manuscripts that differed with these two manuscripts.

Many Byzantine readings, or “Textus Receptus” Greek manuscripts, are “(now shown to be ancient by many early papyri)... these supposedly ‘late’ readings (so deprecated by Westcott and Hort) are now proven to be early thanks to their discovery in various early papyrus documents” (*Ibid.*).

It is clear that the Westcott and Hort Greek text strongly follows the Vaticanus and Sinaiticus even though they stand alone with over 6000 significant alterations as compared to the large majority of Greek manuscripts. It is claimed that these two unique Greek manuscripts are the oldest, yet their history is veiled in secrecy and their origin is questionable. The Textus Receptus is the closest Greek manuscript to the original writings of the apostles and prophets.

Within the last 150 years we have seen the emergence of dozens of new translations and paraphrases. Almost every new translation is based on the Westcott and Hort Greek text, which is based on the two questionable, and from the evidence we have seen the two most unreliable, Greek manuscripts (the Vaticanus and Sinaiticus).

## *How Reliable are the New Translations?*

One of the most popular of the new translations is the New International Version (NIV). This version was completed in 1978 by a committee of scholars who consulted many Greek manuscripts but relied heavily upon the Westcott and Hort Greek text which was based upon the Vaticanus and Sinaiticus.

The translators of the NIV inserted a note after Mark 16:8. The note reads as follows: “The two most reliable early manuscripts do not have Mark 16:9-20.” It is obvious where the translators of this new version placed their trust when they made this translation. They claimed that the two most reliable early manuscripts are the Vaticanus and Sinaiticus.

The translators of the New American Standard Version (NASV) inserted a note after Mark 16:8 similar to the note inserted in the NIV. The note reads as follows: “Some of the oldest mss. omit from verse 9 through 20.” The translators of the NASV claim that some of the oldest mss. omit this portion of scripture but they would have been more accurate to state “two” rather than “some.” Two Greek texts in comparison to 5000 can hardly be interpreted as “some.”

Jay P. Green Sr., editor of several Greek-English Interlinear Bibles notes the following concerning Mark 16:9-20: “The NIV says: The most reliable early manuscripts, and other ancient witnesses, do not have Mark 16:9-20 but they are putting their mere opinion before the reader when they say most reliable. Since only 2 Greek MSS. lack these verses, they rest entirely on Aleph and B [Sinaiticus and Vaticanus ] (with 2,877 and 3,455 omissions respectively in the Gospels alone), can they be called reliable? Then lacking no other Greek evidence, they

must bring in other ancient witnesses something they will not allow opposing critics to do. The critics refuse to credit the witness of thousands of Greek MSS. and lectionaries” (*Textual And Translation Notes On The Gospels*, on Mark 16:9, by Jay P. Green, Sr.).

Notwithstanding the questionable nature of the Vaticanus and Sinaiticus Greek manuscripts, many translators today regard them as the final authority regardless of the fact that thousands of other Greek manuscripts disagree with them thousands of times. This should cause us to take serious consideration before we select a translation.

Green continues regarding the questionable nature of the Vaticanus in Mark 16:9: “Codex B [Vaticanus] is written in three columns and upon completing a book it normally begins the next book at the top of the next column. But between Mark and Luke there is a completely vacant column, the only such in the codex, a space that would accommodate the missing verses. Considering that parchment was expensive, the ‘wasting’ of such a space would be quite unusual. Why did the copyist do it?” (*Ibid.*).

“As for Codex Aleph [Sinaiticus], the folded sheet containing the end of Mark and beginning of Luke is, quite frankly, a forgery. Tischendorf, who discovered the codex, warned that those four pages appeared to be written by a different hand and with different ink than the rest of the manuscript. However that may be, a careful scrutiny reveals the following: the end of Mark and beginning of Luke occur on page 3 (of the four); pages 1 and 4 contain an average of 17 lines of printed Greek text per column (there are four columns per page), just like the rest of the codex; page 2 contains an average of 15.5 lines of printed text per column (four

columns); the first column of page 3 contains only twelve lines of printed text and in this way v. 8 occupies the top of the second column, the rest of which is blank (except for some designs); Luke begins at the top of column 3, which contains 16 lines of printed text while column 4 is back up to 17 lines. On page 2 the forger began to spread out the letters, displacing six lines of printed text; in the first column of page 3 he got desperate and displaced five lines of printed text, just in one column! In this way he managed to get two lines of v. 8 over onto the second column, avoiding the telltale vacant column (as in B). That second column would accommodate 15 more lines of printed text, which with the other eleven make 26. Verses 9-20 occupy 23.5 such lines, so there is plenty of room for them. It really does seem that there has been foul play, and there would have been no need for it unless the first hand did in fact display the disputed verses” (*Ibid.*).

It is very sad that people would attempt to make alterations to the Word of God. John solemnly warned against this when he wrote, “For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book” (Revelation 22:18, 19).

Green sums up the evidence, stating, “not only is Mark 16:9-20 vindicated, but codices B and Aleph [Vaticanus and Sinaiticus] stand convicted of containing poison. They also contain the poison (mentioned above) in Matthew 1:7 and 10, Matthew 1:18, Mark 6:22, Luke 3:33

and Luke 23:45, John 1:18 and 1 Corinthians 5:1. Does this not diminish their credibility as witnesses?” (*Ibid.*).

Green concludes, “Only a cultic belief in the value of the Egyptian manuscripts can explain the willingness of the critics and new versionists to cast out words contained in all other manuscripts. Yet these manuscripts which they have elevated to the role of supreme judges of authenticity have no known history. Who wrote them? Under what conditions were they written? What was their motivation for leaving out thousands of words (a total ejection of some 8 pages of Greek), and for adding, transposing, and otherwise altering passages contained in all of the other manuscripts? Without such a cultic belief, any unbiased, thinking person must reject the Egyptian manuscripts [Vaticanus and Sinaiticus] which fly in the face of all the manuscript, version, and patristic evidence. For a full and complete discussion of all the evidence, and all the attempts to discredit these precious verses, see *Unholy Hands*, Vol. I, pp. C-1 to C-177, a complete book by Dean John W. Burgon” (*Ibid.*).

### *How to Test a Bible Translation*

As before noted, there are two types of Greek texts. One type agrees with the majority, or “Textus Receptus” Greek manuscripts, and one type that agrees with the two questionable Greek manuscripts—the Vaticanus and Sinaiticus. Every translation of the Scriptures comes from one or the other of these types of Greek manuscripts. (Translations of the Aramaic New Testament exist today, but there is overwhelming evidence that these Aramaic manuscripts were translated from Greek. For further information on this, please read the December 2005 edition of *Present Truth*, available on our website or by

request.) There are a few verses you can use to determine whether a version is reliable or not. This is a very simple test and can be applied to any Bible translation.

In this test we will simply compare the NIV with the KJV. We will use Romans 8:1 for our test. The KJV reads: “There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, **who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.**” The NIV reads: “Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.” Notice that half the verse is missing. The translators insert a note for this verse which reads, “Some later manuscripts *Jesus, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit.*” They would be more accurate to have said, “5000 manuscripts” rather than “some manuscripts.” The NASB note on Mark 16:9 calls the two corrupt Greek manuscripts (Vaticanus and Sinaiticus) “some,” and the NIV calls the remaining 5000 Greek manuscripts “some.” This usage is very misleading.

It is easy to determine if a Bible version follows the two corrupt Greek manuscripts (the Vaticanus and Sinaiticus) or the remaining 5000 Greek manuscripts collectively referred to as the “Textus Receptus.” If the Bible version you are examining contains only half of Romans 8:1 you know it is following the Vaticanus and Sinaiticus manuscripts, and it has thousands of other errors in it. We have a list of over 200 of these significant alterations which you may obtain by contacting us and requesting the *200 Omissions* pamphlet.

Another easy test is found in Revelation 22:14. Again we will compare the NIV with the KJV. The KJV reads, “Blessed are they that **do his commandments**, that they may have right to the tree

of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.” The NIV reads, “Blessed are those who **wash their robes**, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city.” There is a vast difference between doing God’s commandments, and washing robes. This alteration conveniently eliminates the requirement of doing God’s commandments to enter into the holy city and eat of the tree of life. Each of these translations of Revelation 22:14 are true to a type of manuscript, the KJV follows the “Textus Receptus,” while the NIV follows the two corrupt manuscripts known as the Vaticanus and Sinaiticus.

Another easy test is found in John 1:18. In this test we will compare the NASV with the KJV. The KJV reads, “No man hath seen God at any time; **the only begotten Son**, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.” The NASV reads, “No man has seen God at any time; **the only begotten God**, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him.” The translators included a footnote stating, “Some later mss. read, *Son*.” Again, the translators refer to the testimony of 5000 manuscripts as “some” in comparison to the two corrupted Greek manuscripts the Vaticanus and Sinaiticus. They also state that these 5000 manuscripts are “later.” Later than what? Later than the supposed date that the Vaticanus and Sinaiticus were written, which date we cannot be sure of due to their questionable origin and unknown history.

It is a serious thing to remove Christ as “the only begotten Son of God.” This fact is the believer’s assurance of overcoming the world. John wrote, “Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?” (1 John 5:5).

The translators of the NIV have attempted to hide the fact that Jesus is “the only begotten Son of God.” (John 3:18) The phrase, “only begotten” cannot be found in the NIV, in its place we find the term, “one and only.” It is sad that this version is so misleading, yet they are not alone in their attempt to hide the fact that Jesus Christ is “the only begotten Son of God.” The NASV rightly uses the term “only begotten” referring to Christ, but the translators have inserted a note in John 3:16 referring to the term “only begotten.” The note reads, “Or, *unique*, only one of His kind.” Notice they do not give the Greek text as the authority for this assertion. This is quite appropriate because, even though the NASV translators rely heavily on the two corrupt Greek manuscripts (the Vaticanus and Sinaiticus) they do not even have them to fall back on in this case. All of the “Textus Receptus” manuscripts contain the Greek word *μονογενη*<sup>3459</sup> (only begotten). The Vaticanus and Sinaiticus also contain the exact same word with the same spelling in this verse.

Yet some will still claim that the Greek word *μονογενη* actually means “unique.” However, this assertion is not accurate, which we will see as we examine the Scriptures. The Greek word *μονογενη* is made up of the two Greek words *μονος*<sup>3441</sup> and *γενος*<sup>1085</sup>. The Greek word *μονος* means, “alone (without a companion), only” (*Thayer’s Greek Lexicon*). The vast majority of times the New Testament writers wanted to indicate “only,” or “alone,” they used either the Greek word *μονος* or its companion *μονον*. The Greek word *γενος* means, “born, country(-man), diversity, generation, kind(-red), nation, offspring, stock” (*Strong’s Greek Dictionary*).

The Greek word μονογενη was never used in the New Testament to merely indicate “only, or unique.” Every time μονογενη was used in the New Testament it refers to children. This Greek word was used nine times in the New Testament, five times it refers to Christ, and the remaining four refer to other children. Some people maintain that since μονογενη is used in Hebrews 11:17 referring to Isaac that it cannot possibly mean “only begotten” because Isaac was not Abraham’s only son. This argument would hold some validity if the thought ended in verse 17. However, verse 18 continues the thought making the intention clear. The verses read, “By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up **his only begotten son, Of whom it was said,** That in Isaac shall thy seed be called” (Hebrews 11:17, 18). It is not true that Isaac was Abraham’s “only begotten Son,” but it is true that Isaac was Abraham’s “only begotten Son, **of whom it was said,** That in Isaac shall thy seed be called.” As you can see, the use of this verse to disprove the fact that Jesus is “the only begotten Son of God” has no foundation.

It is a sad day when Christians will try to prove that Jesus Christ is not “the only begotten Son of God.” Yet it is even more sad when Bible translators take it upon themselves to twist the Bible and make it say something it does not say.

God wants His people to have His Word in its most pure form. With every translation there are difficulties due to the language barrier, yet if the translation you are using begins by using corrupted Greek manuscripts there are bound to be many errors contained therein.

It would be nice to study the Scriptures in the original languages in which

they were written. However, to most people this is not practical. Yet the Lord has provided tools whereby we can examine the Scriptures in their original languages without the need of knowing those languages. The first and most important tool is the *Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance*. This valuable tool allows you to discover the original Greek and Hebrew root words behind each English word in your Bible and find a brief definition of each word. This book is based on the “Textus Receptus,” and is most commonly found for the KJV. This book is available in most Christian bookstores. It is also available in many free Bible programs for a computer, such as [www.onlinebible.net](http://www.onlinebible.net), or [www.e-sword.net](http://www.e-sword.net), etc.

Please be aware of the Bible version you choose to read. Using the tests outlined in this paper I have determined several translations that follow the “Textus Receptus” Greek manuscripts. Here are some of them: KJV (also known as AV-Authorized Version), NKJV, 1898 Young’s Literal Translation, Green’s Literal Translation, Green’s Modern KJV, the Spanish 1909 Reina-Valera, 1995 Revised Webster’s Bible, 1833 Webster’s Bible. This does not mean there are no translation errors in these versions, but at least they start with the right manuscripts.

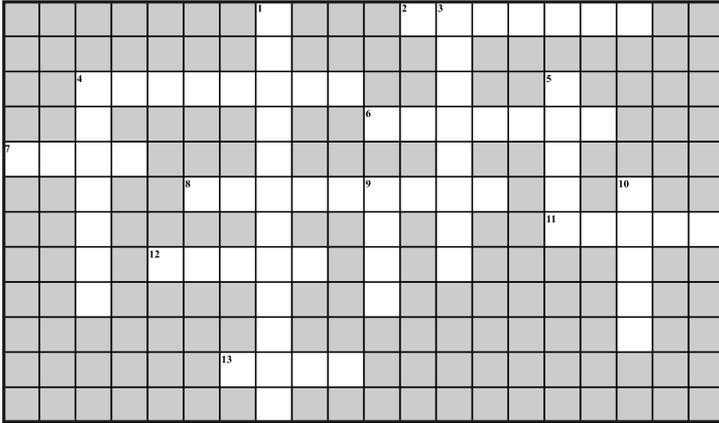
Here is a partial list of translations that follow the two corrupt Greek manuscripts, the Vaticanus and Sinaiticus: NIV, ASV, Bible in Basic English, Darby Translation, RSV, NASV, the Spanish 1989 Reina-Valera Actualizada, 1912 Weymouth NT, the Living Bible, the Good News Bible, Greek Westcott-Hort, Greek Nestle.

I pray that this study has been a blessing to you so that you are more informed about Bible versions. 

*Present Truth*  
**Something for the Young at Heart**

This month we are beginning a series of crossword Bible studies based on the book, *Bible Handbook*, by Stephen Haskell. In order to maintain the flow of the study, this crossword puzzle is not split into Across and Down sections—Across or Down is indicated at the end of each line. (The KJV is required.)

*Magnifying the Word of God*



Answers will be printed on the back page of next month's issue

- At the name of \_\_\_\_ every knee should bow. Philippians 2:9,10—**5 Down**
- Thou hast magnified thy \_\_\_\_ above all thy name. Psalms 138:2—**13 Across**
- For how long is God's word settled? \_\_\_\_, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven. Psalms 119:89 (2 words)—**4 Down**
- The words of the Lord are \_\_\_\_\_. Psalms 12:6—**7 Across**
- The words of the Lord are as silver tried in a \_\_\_\_\_. Psalms 12:6—**4 Across**
- They are \_\_\_\_ seven times. Psalms 12:6—**3 Down**
- Man shall not live by \_\_\_\_ alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. Matthew 4:4—**12 Across**
- If any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the \_\_\_\_ of the wives. 1 Peter 3:1—**1 Down**
- The sincere milk of the word will help us to \_\_\_\_\_. 1 Peter 2:2, 3—**9 Down**
- The best place to hide God's word is in your \_\_\_\_\_. Psalms 119:9—**10 Down**
- Order my \_\_\_\_ in thy word: and let not any iniquity have dominion over me. Psalms 119:133—**11 Across**
- Jesus' defense for Satan's temptations was, "It is \_\_\_\_\_." Matthew 4:4—**6 Across**
- You are declared to be the \_\_\_\_ of Christ to others. 2 Corinthians 3:1-3—**2 Across**
- Being \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever. 1 Peter 1:23 (2 words)—**8 Across**

# You May Freely Eat?

by Jim Raymond

(Brother Jim Raymond has been a food scientist for many years, and has agreed to share some of his knowledge with us. **This month Jim has decided to share an article written by another author. We pray it will be a blessing.** *Editor*)

## Health Risks of Drinking Soda

by Bozena Premec, RD, LD.

Researchers from Boston University studied data from more than 6,000 middle-aged adults participating in the large-scale Framingham Heart Study. These participants were all free of metabolic syndrome (a cluster of symptoms such as excessive fat around the waist, impaired fasting glucose, high blood pressure, low levels of “good” HDL cholesterol, and more) when the study started. After four years of follow up, researchers found that adults who drank one or more sodas a day (diet or regular) had about a 50% higher risk of metabolic syndrome. The results of this study were published on the Internet on the Circulation Journal website on July 23, 2007.

### Diet Pop is not a Healthy Alternative:

Prior studies have linked consumption of regular pop and its high levels of sugar with multiple risk factors for heart disease. The Framingham Study is the first to find that the link extends to low-calorie diet pop. The most intriguing fact researchers found was that participants who drink one or more per day — again, regular or diet — had a 31 percent greater risk of becoming overweight.

The results surprised the researchers, who expected to see a difference between regular and diet pop drinkers. Researchers observed a few possible reasons for their findings — one being that people who drink any kind of pop on a regular basis tend to have similar diet patterns: a diet with higher calories, saturated and trans-fat, lower fiber and dairy, and a sedentary lifestyle.

### What was Considered Pop/Soda?

- Regular and diet pop
- Commercially canned or bottled Ginger Ale
- Commercially canned or bottled Iced Tea, Green Tea, White Tea (diet or regular)

### Typical Contents of Diet Pop:

- Calories: 0
- Caffeine: varies from 0 to 55 mg per container
- Carbonated Water
- Caramel
- Sodium Benzoate
- Artificial Sweeteners (Aspartame or Acesulfame Potassium)
- Natural Flavor
- Artificial Flavor
- Sodium Citrate
- Malic Acid



## The Bottom Line? There are Lots of Better Options:

When you need some refreshment, try any of these natural alternatives for a much healthier pick-me-up:

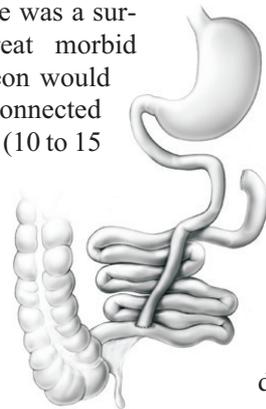
- Calorie-free water, plain or bottled [The best between meal choice!]
- Real juicy fruit
- Low fat (1%) or skim milk
- Or, for a special summer treat, make your own crisp and refreshing lemon-lime drink, by squeezing some real lemons and limes in plain or sparkling water.



*Bozena Premec*

When I first read Bozena's article (which she so graciously allowed us to reprint here), I was reminded of a wonderful learning experience I had around 1976. I was privileged to attend a lecture at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee. The lecture was an informal affair for a small audience. It was given by one of the few surgeons qualified to perform jejunoileal (or ileojejunal) bypass surgery. This procedure was a surgical method used to treat morbid obesity. Basically the surgeon would modify the way the bowels connected to "bypass" a relatively long (10 to 15 feet) nutrient-absorbing segment of the small intestine, leaving only 14 inches of intestine in continuity.

As you can imagine, these people lost weight rapidly. When their weight began to approach the



**Jejunoileal Bypass Surgery**

planned target weight, he would have his patient drink more soda pop. He said this always worked. Guess what! It did not matter whether the patient drank caloric (sugar-sweetened) or non-caloric (zero-calorie artificially sweetened) sodas. Either type would always slow the weight loss.

His theory (after all these years his is still as good as anybody else's) is that the reactive part of the sweet molecule that fits the sweet receptor site on taste buds also fits the receptors that stimulate insulin production. Insulin is one of the most potent anabolic (building) hormones and tends to retard weight loss. He is not surprised (nor even puzzled) by the researchers finding that both the drinkers of regular and diet sodas shared the same increased risk of becoming overweight. In addition, most non-diet sodas are sweetened with high fructose corn syrup (HFCS) instead of sugar which can lead to diabetes. There is one other caveat. At this time, all brands of canned soda are currently lined with BPA-containing compounds. (For more on BPA and HFCS see "You May Freely Eat," in the April and August 2010 issues of *Present Truth*.)

The take-away? Whether or not we are surprised or puzzled by this finding, it is what it is. Now let's do some math to determine our degree of risk: If one or more sodas a day increases your risk of moving toward Metabolic Syndrome (including weight gain), how many sodas per day can you drink and be free of this risk?

*Blessings! JR*

## Sin Shall Not Have Dominion Over You (Part 3)

by Charles Fitch

(Charles Fitch was a pastor of the Free Presbyterian Church of Newark, NJ. In 1840 he wrote a series of letters to the headquarters of his church defending his belief in God's power to save us from sin. Here are those letters. *Editor*)

### II. I am now to inquire whether Christians can avail themselves of this provision of the grace of God, so as to be saved from in sin in this life.

In the first chapter of Luke, I find that Zacharias, being filled with the Holy Ghost, prophesied, saying – “Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for He hath visited and redeemed His people; and hath raised up an horn of salvation for us, in the house of His servant David, as He spake by the mouth of His holy prophets which have been since the world began, that we should be saved from our enemies, and from the hand of all that hate us; to perform the mercy promised unto our fathers, to remember His holy covenant, the oath which He swear unto our father Abraham, that He would grant unto us, that we being delivered out to the hand of our enemies, might serve Him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before Him **ALL THE DAYS OF OUR LIFE**” (Luke 1:68-75).

Now I believe, that he who “serves God without fear, in holiness and righteousness before Him all the days of his life,” is saved from sin, all the days of his life. I believe that God “swore unto Abraham our father, that He would grant unto us, that we being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve Him without

fear, in holiness and righteousness, before Him, all the days of our life;” and that He hath raised up an horn of salvation for us, to perform this mercy promised to our fathers, to remember this holy covenant, this oath which He swore. I believe all this, on the testimony of a man filled with the Holy Ghost. Since, therefore, I believe that God's oath can be relied on, especially since Christ came on purpose to fulfill that oath, and since that oath does pledge the grant of walking before God in holiness and righteousness all the days of our life, I am bound to believe it. I dare not sin against God, by believing that God is not ready to be faithful to His oath; an oath, too, which Christ came on purpose to fulfill. I read that “he that believeth not God hath made him to be a liar” (1 John 5:10). I must not make God a liar by saying he is not true to His oath.

Again, when the disciples of Christ said, “Lord teach us to pray” (Luke 11:1), He directed them to pray, “Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven” (Matthew 6:10). If God's will is done in heaven by sinless obedience, we are taught to pray for the same thing on earth; and I cannot believe that Christ has taught us to pray for a thing which He is unwilling to grant. Again, we are taught to pray that “the very God of peace will sanctify us wholly, and preserve our whole spirit, and soul, and body, blameless unto the coming of Christ;” and we are assured that “He who hath called us is faithful, and will do it” (1 Thessalonians 5:23, 24). Again, “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9). As faithful, I suppose, in the

one case as in the other. I know of no reason for waiting for forgiveness or cleansing till death.

In the further proof of the position, that Christians may avail themselves of God's grace, so as to be saved from sin in this life, I will here speak directly in reply to your questions, "who besides Christ, mentioned in Bible history, were free from sin?" I have quoted the words of one, who exclaimed in view of his bondage to the law of sin and death, "O! wretched man that I am, who shall deliver me?" In reply to his own interrogation he answers,

"I thank God, through Jesus Christ my Lord" (Romans 7:24, 25). He says moreover, "There is therefore, now, no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the spirit. For the law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus, hath made me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God, sending his own son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh, that the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the spirit" (Romans 8:1-4). Paul, therefore, found out a way, whereby to be free from the law of sin and death and to have the righteousness of the law fulfilled in him. This could be nothing less than loving God with all the heart and his neighbor as himself; for he who does less than this is a transgressor. The law could not do this, in consequence of the weakness of the flesh, but God did it through Christ – fulfilled in him the righteousness of the law, and thus made him free from that law of sin, under which he had before groaned in condemnation. He was now free from condemnation, but how those can be free from condemnation who are continually sinning against God, it is impossible for me to

understand. He had found, that to those in Jesus Christ there was no condemnation, and John tells us, that those who abide in Christ sin not.

Paul also says in another place, that "he that is dead is freed from sin. Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe we shall also live with Him" (Romans 6:7, 8). If we die unto sin after the likeness of Christ's death, we shall walk in newness of life, after the likeness of His resurrection. "Christ, being raised from the dead, dieth no more, death hath no more dominion over Him" (Romans 6:9) – neither if we be dead to sin, will sin any more have dominion over us. Hence, the injunction of the Apostle "Likewise ye also [i.e. as well as I], reckon yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Christ" (Romans 6:11). Reckon yourselves to be dead unto sin, by trusting in Christ to keep you thus alive. It may perhaps be said, that a person may reckon himself dead to sin, who has once repented, though he now continues to sin every day. But if I should find a man every day intoxicated, I should not regard him as dead to that sin, whatever he might say respecting past repentance – and the same is true of every other sin in thought, word, or deed. No man is dead to sin who commits sin – and as Christ who died once, dies no more, so he who is dead to sin sins no more. If he falls into sin, he is no longer dead to sin. Such were the sentiments of Paul, and as I cannot accuse him of the gross inconsistency of preaching what he did not practice – I must believe that he was dead to sin and alive unto God, and that being free from condemnation in Christ Jesus, he did so abide in Him that he sinned not.

Again we hear this Apostle saying in another place, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live, yet not I, but

Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh, I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me. I do not frustrate the grace of God for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain” (Galatians 2:20, 21). I cannot conceive that a man could use such language as this, who was living day by day in sin. If a man is crucified with Christ, he must be dead to sin, and such a one the Apostle has already told us “is freed from sin” (Romans 6:7). No man can say, I am fully persuaded, “I live, yet not I, but Christ liveth in me,” who knows himself to be living in sin. Nor can one who lives in sin say, “The life I now live here in the flesh, I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me” (Galatians 2:20). Paul says, “I do not frustrate the grace of God” (Galatians 2:21). I do not expect to work out a righteousness by my own unaided efforts to obey the law. I rely on the faithfulness of Christ who loves me, to keep me.

Peter also learned, that “the divine power of Jesus our Lord had given unto us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue; whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises, that by these we might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust” (2 Peter 1:3, 4). I cannot doubt that Peter had experienced in his own heart what he wrote, and I believe, therefore, that in being made a partaker of the divine nature, through the exceeding great and precious promises of God, and “having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust; he did so abide in Christ, that he sinned not” (1 John 3:6).

John also declared in his First Epistle unto those to whom he wrote, “that which

he had heard – which he had seen with his eyes – which he had looked upon, and his hands had handled of the Word of Life” (1 John 1:1). He wrote that, therefore, which was to him a matter of experience. He had seen and felt in himself, “that in God was light, and in Him was no darkness at all” (1 John 1:5); and that when any man walked in the light – in fellowship with God, “the blood of Jesus Christ his Son” cleansed him “from all sin!” (1 John 1:7). John had also seen and felt that “if we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9). John had also learned from his own experience, that “Christ was manifested to take away our sins,” (1 John 3:5) – he had heard, and seen with his eyes, and handled this truth (1 John 1:1). He had also learned that “whoso abideth in Him sinneth not” (1 John 3:6), – that “whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin that his seed remaineth in him; and that while this is true, he cannot sin, because he is born of God” (1 John 3:9). I cannot doubt that John was a man who reduced his own principles to practice, especially as he wrote only what he had heard, and seen, and handled of the Word of Life, and therefore that he did so abide in Christ, that he sinned not.

Thus, dear brother, I have shown you, conclusively, to my own mind, at least, that in the economy of God’s grace there are provisions available to enable the Christian to walk before God “in holiness and righteousness all the days of his life,” and so “to abide in Christ that he sin not” (Luke 1:75; 1 John 3:6). In doing so, I have given you my views in full respecting the attainableness of holiness in this life, and the question whether any have actually attained it.

### III. I am to consider how the provisions of the grace of God become available to the Christian.

Our Saviour's prayer was, "Sanctify them through thy truth; thy Word is truth" (John 17:17).

By what truth is the Christian sanctified?

1. Not by any precepts of the Bible, through his own unaided efforts to obey them. So long as any man attempts to become sanctified by this means, he will surely "find a law in his members, warring against the law of his mind, and bringing him into captivity to the law of sin;" and will constantly find occasion to say, "O, wretched man that I am, who shall deliver me?" (Romans 7:23, 24).

2. The Christian may be sanctified through the promises of God's truth. "Having, therefore, these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God" (2 Corinthians 7:1). "According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him that hath called us to glory and virtue; whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises, that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having

escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust" (2 Peter 1:3, 4).

3. Let me be fully understood, then, that no man is ever sanctified, who relies on his own efforts to obey the law. Such an one frustrates the grace of God. He would indeed be holy, if he loved God with all his heart, and his neighbor as himself; but this he surely will never do, by and unaided efforts of his own. It must be done by the grace of God, and he most surely frustrates that grace, who does not live the life he now lives in the flesh, by the faith of the Son of God (Galatians 2:20, 21).

We are, therefore, to cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, by the promises of God. These contain the truth, through which we may be sanctified, according to our Saviour's prayer.

To be Continued...

(This article was taken from pages 9-14 of the book entitled, *Sin Shall Not Have Dominion Over You*, by Charles Fitch. Editor)

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Answers to Last Month's Crossword Puzzle

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