



A
Ministry
of:
**CORNERSTONE
BAPTIST
CHURCH**

54 Brighton Street
P.O. Box 438
Belmont, MA 02478
Tel: 617-489-2498

Pastor
ROLLAND C. STARR
Editor

MUST WE HAVE A PERFECT BIBLE?

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INTRODUCTION: No doubt some who read this will say to themselves, “Why must we have all this fuss about the Bible and bible versions?” Many Fundamentalists have the idea that this is all “much ado about nothing.” However, we believe that it is a very important subject and God’s people need to be clear on the issue. Those who believe that there are some errors in the Bible, but they are nothing to be concerned about, have a very low view of God and His eternal Word. We are told in Jude v.3 to “**earnestly contend for the faith.**” The Bible claims to be the very Word of God thousands of times – that’s right, thousands of times. It claims to be the inspired Word of God. “**All Scripture is given by inspiration of God.**” ~II Timothy 3:16. You no doubt know that the word *inspiration* literally means “*God breathed.*” It is from God Himself. The Scriptures declare that they are perfect! “**The law of the Lord is perfect...**” ~Psalm 19:7. Again we read in Psalm 12:6,7, “**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 forever.**” Now, either we have the perfect, pure, preserved words of God or we do not. Maybe it does not matter to you, but I am sure it does to God. And I may say it matters to me also.

I. THE CHARACTER OF GOD DEMANDS WE HAVE A PERFECT BIBLE! Is God Himself perfect? It almost seems trite to ask. There may be some who have an imperfect god, but then, they do not have the true God. An imperfect God is unthinkable. The Scriptures declare: “**He is the Rock, his word is perfect; for all his ways are judgment; A God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he.**” ~Deuteronomy 32:4. What does it say about the character of God if He claims to be perfect and He said He gave us His Word which He declares to be perfect, if in reality it has errors. Furthermore, He said He would preserve it forever. Do you believe that God was able to give all the Scriptures perfectly, without error, but that He has since been unable to protect those words so that there does not exist today the true, inspired, inerrant Word of God? If you believe that you have a very small God. I believe such a notion impugns the very character of God. Again the Bible says, “**As for God, his way is perfect: the word of the Lord is tried: he is a buckler to all those that trust to him.**” ~II Samuel 22:31 and Psalm 18:30. *The Bible claims to be the Word of God – It claims to be a Revelation from God – It claims to be Perfect – God claimed that He would preserve it!* We believe that He has kept His Word. To believe anything less is to malign the Word and power of God! Yes, God Himself! I think that it can be said with certainty that God is not pleased with those who detract from His Word and who belittle His promise to keep it.

II. WE NEED A PERFECT BIBLE BECAUSE OF GOD’S PROMISE TO PRESERVE IT. God has made many, many promises to His people. Is He unable to keep them? God forbid! We already noted that God is perfect and all His works are perfect. Think of the promises which He has made concerning the preservation of His Word. He has promised to keep it perfectly; all of it, not just some of it. Look at these Scriptures. He said it could not be broken. “**The Scriptures cannot be broken.**” ~John 10:35. He said that His Word (not what men claim to be His

Word), is incorruptible. **“Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the Word of God which liveth and abideth forever.”** ~*I Peter 1:23*. In v.25, he adds, **“But the Word of the Lord endureth forever...”** Many, including a good number of Fundamentalists, believe that God gave His Word perfectly, but left it up to fallible men to transmit it and therefore there are errors in it. They love to say “only the originals are inspired.” How can they stand up and say, “Thus saith the Lord?” Concerning the preservation of the Scriptures He 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 forever.”** ~*Psalms 12:6,7*. Psalm 119:89 says, **“Forever O Lord, thy Word is settled in Heaven.”** Verse 152 states: **“Concerning thy testimonies, I have known of old that thou hast founded them forever.”** Once again in Psalm 119:160 we read: **“Thy Word is true from the beginning: and every one of thy righteous precepts endureth for ever.”** Isaiah 40:8 says, **“The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the Word of our God shall stand forever.”** Matthew 5:18 Jesus states: **“For verily I say unto you, Till Heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law till all be fulfilled.”** We are told elsewhere that the entire Word of God will last forever. Jesus said, **“Heaven and earth shall pass away but my words shall not pass away.”** ~*Luke 21:33*. Quite a few of His words have passed away in modern versions! What will it take to open the eyes of all the Bible correctors who say that God did not preserve His Word. It seems to me their problem pure and simple is unbelief! Where did God preserve His Word? If you really study the facts, you will find that it is in the King James Version in the English language. (We do not have room in this small article to go into it, but we have a 62 page booklet on the subject).

III. A PERFECT BIBLE IS NEEDED BECAUSE THERE MUST BE FINAL AUTHORITY SOMEWHERE. It is obvious, God only wrote one Bible! God’s Word must be in one (or none) of the bibles in existence. God’s Word cannot be in all the modern versions, for while they are all similar, they are not all the same. As we have shown elsewhere, modern versions cannot be the true word of God for they contain errors. The only Bible that can truly be God’s Word is the KJV! In case you are not aware of it, all modern versions come from two corrupted manuscripts both of which were found in Roman Catholic institutions. The King James Version comes from an entirely different source, the Textus Receptus or Received Text (that is, the text widely accepted as the true Word of God by Bible believers. This is God’s final authority for the English speaking world. Do we need a perfect Bible? We certainly do if we are going to have one true authority in spiritual and eternal things. Martin Luther risked his life standing upon the true Word of God. (By the way, all well known Reformers, though they all were all Roman Catholic priests, monks, etc., used the Textus Receptus to translate the Word of God into their people’s languages rather than the Roman Catholic bible). Here is what Martin Luther said almost 500 years ago: “I do not want to know anything of peace and concord when the Word of God is thereby lost... It is not right for me here to draw back and to give way out of love toward you or any other man; but before the Word everyone must give way, whether he is a friend or an enemy. For the Word of God has not been given to us for the sake of external or worldly concord and peace, but for the sake of eternal life... Don’t talk to me therefore, of love and friendship if the Word of God and faith are to be compromised... We certainly desire to maintain external peace with others – we must do so with everyone in this world, even with our angriest enemies... But when doctrine and Christian fellowship are concerned, we do not want to have anything to do with those who teach error and fight against them with our spiritual weapons... It is therefore a devilish, deceptive and fraudulent attack whereby the Evil One seeks to lead us away from the Word... But if you err in such a way that he robs you of this Word, you have lost everything...” Many Fundamental Baptists apparently haven’t learned what Luther knew.

IV. WE NEED A PERFECT BIBLE BECAUSE THERE CAN ONLY BE ONE WORD OF GOD. It only seems common sense to me, along with some others, that there can only be one true Word of God. Two or more that were identical would actually mean there was but one. A Bible that was different than the original, inspired, inerrant, perfect One obviously could not be a true Bible. Today, with all the modern versions, a man can pick a bible he likes best, regardless of the errors in it. It all depends upon what you want. Do you want the pure, unadulterated, preserved Word of God, or do you want a counterfeit bible because it is easier to read (ridiculous) or suits your own taste? You would not want an erroneous history or math book; do you want a false bible instead of the pure, everlasting Word of God? Yes, we must continue to fight over the Word of God and to **“earnestly contend for the faith.”** Someone asked me many years ago when I was going to stop fighting over the Bible. I said when the devil stops seeking to undermine and destroy it! Praise God we do have the perfect Word of God! Yes, we need a perfect Bible and the truth is we have it – in the King James Version!