

Underlying Unaddressed Issues in the *KJV Only* Debate

THE GREAT ISSUE OF *SOLA SCRIPTURE*.

The Scriptures and only the Scriptures are the foundation for truth and belief in any matter! If it is clearly stated in the Bible we believe it. If it is not clearly stated, we then attempt to understand it.

THE GREAT ISSUE OF CONSCIENCE BEING SUBJECT ONLY TO THE WORD OF GOD.

The true nature of the debate:

We must define the true nature of the debate. The great disagreements of the day are not about those statements the Scriptures make about their own inspiration, inerrancy or infallibility.

Rather, they are about matters of historic research, manuscript evaluations (textual criticism), etc.

The nature of the evidence – two kinds:

Inspired therefore inerrant, infallible, without error or omission – ON THIS WE ALL AGREE.

Complete, totally adequate to determine all that God wants us to know.

Complete agreement on every truth because of the common inspiration of the Holy Spirit in all of the writings.

Human in origin, therefore fallible, subject to error – ON THIS WE WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO COMPLETELY AGREE.

Extra-biblical – totally outside the scope of the clear statements of Scripture.

Fallible, errant, limited.

Views are colored by the philosophy, experiences, prejudices etc. of the writer.

Various sincere and highly qualified historians and linguists present opposite views of the same matters.

The relationship of evidence to the Bible itself:

What the Scriptures clearly reveal – ON THIS WE ALL AGREE WITHOUT EXCEPTION:

The inspiration of the original writings – plenary and verbal.

The words are the very words of God.

The message, the content is the message of God.

The inerrancy of the original writings.

The infallibility of the original writings.

The authority of the original writings.

The enduring nature of the words and the truths revealed in the original writings.

Will never pass away.

Will all be fulfilled.

Will endure forever.

What the Scriptures do not address at all – ON THIS WE WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO COMPLETELY AGREE:

How or by what methods God would preserve His Word.

Copies and copyists – the issue of manuscripts.

In what languages and which translations God would preserve His Word – the issue of translations.

The issue of availability to all generations or to all in a generation.

General revelation is available to all in every generation.

The matter of scriptural revelation is not addressed as to its availability.

God is silent on these issues. Question: Is the revelation of Scripture sufficient for every certainty God intends for us to have? Then, why is He silent on matters we think are so important? Is it because He doesn't concur with us?

There is nothing in the Scriptures themselves to settle the arguments, therefore the arguments do not carry the weight of spiritual authority, only the weight of scholarship and personal opinions.

The manuscript and translation debate is NOT based on Scripture BUT other human writings and on reasoning based thereon.

These materials however trustworthy are not inspired or inerrant in any sense of the word.

Therefore, any conclusions, logical or otherwise, drawn (using these as a basis) are subject to error and therefore cannot be binding on others.

It is wrong to elevate conclusions and arguments based on these materials to the same level of certainty or authority as inspired Scripture. There are tragic consequences in so doing:

Equating a rejection of their manuscript and translation opinions with an outright rejection of the word of God. One who does not fully accept their extra-biblical conclusions is accused of rebellion against divine authority.

Somewhere there must of necessity be a form of divine leading or inspiration in their research and opinions that sets them apart from those who differ with them on these extra-biblical matters. If this is not so, then one educated opinion is just as valid as another educated opinion.

Claims are made bordering on infallibility, inerrancy and divine inspiration; soundly condemning as heretics all who draw different conclusions. Books and historic documents are quoted as being just as infallible as the Bible itself with a demand that one must accept the information and conclusions drawn or be guilty of attacking the Word of God itself.

It is wrong to attach meanings to statements of Scripture that the Scriptures themselves do not attach. Our business is not to preach truth *into* the Scriptures, but *out* of the Scriptures. It is presumptuous to put words into God's mouth – *Add thou not unto His words lest He reprove thee and thou be found a liar.* (Prov. 30:6)

Materials subject to human weaknesses, errors and other limitations can never become the basis of unity among Christians – and should not. The clear statements of the Word of God and only the clear statements of the Word of God are the true basis for biblical unity among God's people.

N.B. Doctrinal correctness does not make one factually inerrant in everything he believes and writes in matters not addressed clearly in Scripture.

THERE IS NO FINAL AUTHORITY UPON WHICH THE ISSUES IN THE PRESENT DEBATE ABOUT MANUSCRIPTS AND TRANSLATIONS CAN BE SETTLED WITH FINALITY. THOSE WHO DEMAND THAT THESE ISSUES BE SETTLED BASED UPON THEIR PERSONAL RESEARCH AND OPINIONS ARE ARROGATING TO THEMSELVES AN INFALLIBILITY THAT BELONGS TO GOD ALONE!!!

HAVING AN OPINION ON THIS ISSUE IS PERFECTLY ACCEPTABLE. BUT IT IS WRONG TO REQUIRE ANYONE TO BELIEVE ABOUT THE BIBLE THAT WHICH THE BIBLE DOES NOT CLEARLY STATE ABOUT ITSELF!!!