ON THE HOME FRONT

Gary Colley

It is a pleasure each week to write “On The Home Front.” We desire to be an uplifting source to all who read these lines and to exhort all to faithfully serve in the Lord’s church. On the sign in the front of one church building was this reading: “One week without prayer makes one weak!” This expresses a lot of truth. When we miss the services of the church during the week, or fail to read our Bible and pray regularly, we also become weak.

There are several “life-locks” of which we should all be aware and put into practice daily to make our lives complete. We need to lock in our appreciation for the great sacrifice that has been made for our salvation. This was at the great cost of the love of God and the blood of Jesus shed on the cross (Heb. 2:9; Rev. 5:9). We need to lock in our faithfulness to all of the services of the Lord’s church (Mt. 6:33; Heb. 10:23-25). These services will help us in our daily living, our homes, our jobs, and our eternal welfare. We need to lock in our sights on Heaven! We can trust the promise of our Saviour (Jn. 14:1-6). We should be looking for that “city which hath foundations whose builder and maker is God” (Heb. 11:10). But, if we do not add the Christian graces daily to our lives, our vision is blurred and faulty (please read II Pet. 1:5-11). We need to lock in our interest in lost souls. Our Saviour gave us His mission “to seek and save the lost” and also made it ours (Lk. 19:10; Mt. 28:18-20). Let each of us “Lock in” our unwavering love for our God, and His Son, the Saviour of the world, by doing His commandments (Jn. 14:15; Mk. 16:15-16).
New Translations
“What Is Wrong With Them?” (V)

Gary Colley

For the past several weeks, the above title has been our theme. The Bible should be protected, defended, and transmitted to the future by its friends. The following item was used in a recent sermon at Southwest and has been requested by many; therefore, we have incorporated it into this last offering concerning the neo-translations.

The Eulogy of the Bible

An unknown author represented the Bible as a great temple with many rooms and each division or department in the Bible as a room in that marvelous temple.

Many years ago I entered the wonderful temple of God’s Revelation. I entered the portico of Genesis and walked down through the Old Testament art gallery, where pictures of Adam, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, Joshua, Samuel, David, and Daniel hung on the wall.

I entered the music room of the Psalms where the Spirit swept the keyboard of nature and brought forth the dirge-like wail of the weeping prophet, Jeremiah, to the grand impassioned strains of Isaiah, until it seemed that every reed and harp in God’s great organ of nature responded to the tuneful touch of David, the sweet singer of Israel.

I entered the chapel of Ecclesiastes, where the voice of the preacher was heard, and passed into the conservatory of Sharon, where the Lily of the Valley’s sweet scented spices filled and perfumed my life.

I entered the business office of Proverbs, and passed into the observatory room of the prophets, where I saw many telescopes of various sizes, some pointing to far-off events, but all concentrated upon the Bright Morning Star which was soon to rise over the moon-lit hills of Judea for our salvation.

I entered the audience room of the King of kings and saw the viewpoint of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

I entered the room of Acts of the Apostles, where the Holy Spirit was doing his office work in the formation of the infant church. I passed into the correspondence room, where sat Paul, Peter, James, Jude, and John penning their epistles. I stepped into the throne room of Revelation, where all towered into glittering peaks. I saw the King seated on His throne in all His glory—and I cried: “All hail the power of Jesus’ name, let angels prostrate fall; bring forth the royal diadem and crown Him Lord of all.”

The Bible has always had one relentless enemy, Satan! His attacks upon the Book have been many and varied. His helpers have been legion! Some lately have evidently tried with the “translations” to transform “themselves into the apostles of Christ” (II Cor. 11:13-15). Some attempts have been made to promote the “translation question” to be only a matter of judgment or expediency for which “toleration” is suggested, regardless of the many doctrinal errors advanced! But, in matters of doctrine, conviction is the question, not opinion! There is really no question as to where lovers of the Bible will take their stand!

This brief study has not been exhaustive. Predestination, Calvinism, modernism, infidelity, and mistranslation have been sufficiently exposed for those who are seeking help. Enough has been given to cause us to ask why anyone should leave the old tried and reliable translations. The King James with its 47 Greek scholars have not been challenged with any improvement by the modern “translations”!

The list of these seems endless—perhaps as endless as man’s many doctrines.

We will not take space to discuss fully the errors of the following:

1. The Kosman Bible—Oahspe, which says the “battle of Armageddon is called off” or “the Holy Bible . . . belongs to times past.”
2. The Olive Pell Bible, which explains that she took out “all that was not important to man.” Results? . . . 1/5 of the Bible.
4. The Cotton Patch Version, which renders Acts 2:36-38: “the BOSS said to my BOSS, Be my right hand man while I put even your opponents under control: Therefore let all America know beyond any doubt that God has made the same Jesus whom you LYNCHED, both PRESIDENT and leader . . . Rock said to them, Reshape your lives and let each of you be INITIATED into the family of Jesus Christ so your sins can be dealt with; and you will receive the free gift of the Holy Spirit.”
5. The Satanic Bible, with a take-off from the Sermon on the Mount: “Hate your enemies with a whole heart, and if a man smite you on one cheek, smash him on the other! Smite him hip and thigh for self preservation is the highest law! He who turns the other cheek is a cowardly dog!”
6. The Phillips Translation, in which Mr. J. B. Phillips in the forward states, “I am convinced that they [the New Testament Testament writers] had no idea they were writing Holy Scripture.”
The heart grows sick, not only that these exist, but more so that more voices are not being lifted in horror! None of the representative “New Translations” exposed in this tract meet the three fundamental rules predominately necessary for Bible translating:

1. They must be accurate translations of the original text.
2. They must be clear without doctrinal contradiction or confusion.
3. They must possess the dignity that befits the inspired Word of God.

The quantity of volumes continues to grow though the quality remains stagnant! Brother Robert R. Taylor in his fine articles states: “the latest figures of English versions and translations . . . adds up to at least three hundred and forty (340) . . . either in part or in whole.”

The late venerable Guy N. Woods states in the book *Open Forum*, page 348: “We are prepared to affirm that not one ‘modern speech’ version which has attained to any publicity in our day is in harmony with the Greek New Testament; and that if these documents continue to gain acceptance in the churches of Christ, the Cause, as we know it, cannot continue. These changes are but the prelude to more sweeping ones soon to engulf us. The Versions which our fathers and mothers knew and loved, believed and obeyed, will enable all who so embrace their truths to go to heaven. Such is not true of many of the so-called ‘Bibles’ which people are now becoming increasingly enamored with. Too late many of them will discover they have taken a serpent into their bosoms!”

The late magnanimous scholar Foy E. Wallace, Jr., wrote in “An Evaluation of the New International, A Supplement to 'A Review of the New Versions,'” “After extensive examination of the errors and evils of this New International Version, and of its predecessors in pseudo-translation, due deliberation leads me to the inevitable conclusion that they are all the diabolical devices of the devil to destroy the Bible as the inerrant Word of God. The comparison of the New International Version with the New Testament yields evidence that it is a worthless ecumenical farce. First, as a translation, it ignores the Greek Text, and is therefore not a version. Second, as a classic, it is totally lacking in literary quality and reads like a second-rate fiction, an inferior, poorly written novel. Third, in doctrine it is a promiscuous mixture of Calvinism, Neo-Pentecostalism, and Premillennialism. Fourth, true to its title, it is an ecumenical product of an international conglomeration of religionism—it is not ‘The New Testament of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.’

Not only can one now “choose the church of your choice” as the Devil has long deceived, but now one can “choose the Bible of his choice” with any teaching or doctrine he may desire! Again, we strongly believe that friends of the Bible will put them where they belong—Acts 19:19!

(These articles are excerpts from the tract, “New Translations, What Is Wrong With Them?” These tracts can be ordered from Gary Colley.)

Creation Fact #74
Evidence from the Fossil Record

Stories claiming that fossils of primitive apelike men have been found are extremely overstated. Consider the following sad and sordid history:

1. It is now universally accepted that “Piltdown man” was a hoax. After appearing in textbooks for over 40 years, it was a scientist outside the field of paleontology who exposed the fraud in 1953.
2. “Nebraska man” was based on a single tooth that turned out to be a pig’s tooth.
3. “Java man” was based on a skull fragment and leg bone found 39 feet apart.
4. The evidence for “Ramapithecus” was a handful of teeth and jaw fragments that were pieced together incorrectly by Louis Leakey and others to resemble a human jaw. Ramapithecus was an ape.
5. A growing consensus is coming to acknowledge that “Homo Habilis” is really bits and pieces of many different creatures and never really existed.
6. “Australopithecines” have an even more apelike appearance. Detailed computer analysis has shown that their body proportions are not intermediate between man and ape.

It would seem that the family tree of man is a very slippery tree—whenever a supposed ancestor to man is placed there, it ultimately drops out as a fraud, mistake, or misinterpretation.

— A Closer Look at the Evidence
by Richard & Tina Kleiss
Addie Nelms is in Room 3407 at Baptist Hospital Memphis.

Please also remember with your cards, calls, and prayers those of our number who are confined at home or in nursing homes: Hazel Bizzell, 356 Calle Escada, Santa Rosa Beach, FL 32459-3698; Buddy Brandon, 11714 Macon, Eads, TN 38028, 853-4720; Nell Brandon, Quince Nursing and Rehab Center, 6733 Quince Rd., Room 2006A, 38119; Emma Brotherton, Landmark of DeSoto, 3068 Nail Rd. W., Room 310B, Horn Lake, MS 38637; Frances Collins, 4779 Amboy Rd., 38117, 682-6917; Mary Haynes, 274 S. Highland, Apt. 808, 38111, 327-2127; Addie Nelms, 4007 Dunn Ave., 38111, 743-7554; Skipper Schulz, 139 Magnolia Dr., 38117, 683-3049; and Minnie Wayne, Gallaway Healthcare Center, Room 106, 435 Old Brownsville Rd., Gallaway, TN 38036, 317-4590.

THANK-YOU NOTES
Notes of appreciation from Marie Street and Maxine Ward are posted on the bulletin board.

SPIRITUAL SWORD GIFTS
A gift for THE SPIRITUAL SWORD has been received from Larry and Brenda Pike in memory of Carolyn Shappley.

Donations have also been received from Mrs. W. J. Dunn (TX), M/M Mark Lytle (AL), and Margarite Meeks (TN).

PICTURE BOARD UPDATES
During the month of March pictures to update our hallway picture board will be made in the large meeting room each Sunday following our morning worship service.