

Corrupting the Word of God

Harmony M.B.C., July 12, 2009 (Morning)

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2Cor. 2:17 For we are not as many, which corrupt the word of God: but as of sincerity, but as of God, in the sight of God speak we in Christ.

Isa 1:22 Thy silver is become dross, thy wine mixed with water:

With only a small introduction, I want to get right to the heart of our subject this morning. We live in a world where religious scholars have become dupes and slaves to one of the greatest conspiracies of all time; the global scale effort to corrupt the Word of God. Religious teachers and writers across the planet are engaged feverishly in this work. It disturbs me, (but doesn't surprise me) that the apostle noted that in his day there were already "many" who did this. As we consider the facts of our message this morning, we will be able to see that this activity would be expected to be widespread and be a huge program.

Today, we want to look at how they do it, why they do it, and what the purpose of it all is. When we can see these things, we have personal and organizational defenses against them.

I. Some men corrupt the Word of God by personal interpretation

- In teaching it (or writing about it) they put their own would-be scholarly spin on it: I call this "corrupted exegesis" (explanation or critical interpretation)
 - > Example: 1 Cor. 12 and the doctrine of the church
 - > Through scholarly explanation men have made the institutional church into a universal invisible organization. In doing that they have created two kinds of churches (universal invisible and local visible), they have taken scripture out of context, put a non-scriptural interpretation to it and corrupted the meaning of it. (They have totally ignored the 37 times in the New Testament that the Lord's assembly is referred to in plural form [i.e. "Churches"] and the other scriptural references to a specific church in a specific locale as being independently the Lord's church).
 - > The results are at least these:
 - Led religious people (and probably many Christians) to undervalue the local church
 - Led multitudes down a path of confusion about what the Lord's church in time is
 - Created controversy and schism in the Lord's churches
 - Set the world up for a universal religion within the framework of a universal church governed by a universal messiah
- Here is why it is corrupted exegesis: 1Cor. 3:18-19 Let no man **deceive himself**. If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise. 19 For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He **taketh the wise in their own craftiness**. (Answer: trying to be sharper than God starts with self-deception. These brilliant minds devoid of true faith have become ensnared by their own craftiness).
- This method hopes to destabilize the confidence of bible students in the established doctrines of God

II. Some men corrupt the Word of God by translating it through a method I will call “Agenda Driven Translation”

- There has been a very active program of bible translation, using agenda driven translation methods, since the beginning of the 20th century and the results are well on their way to achieving the above goals.
 - > Example of how extensive the influence might be:
 - By 2008, there were over 300 million copies of the New International Version of the bible sold
 - > Example of agenda driven translation: Acts 16:31
 - KJV: And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus **Christ**, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.
 - NIV: They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household."
 - > In this and many more verses in the bible, new translations leave out the Greek word “kristos” (Christ) which is in the Greek manuscripts in plain sight.
- Agenda driven translations? Agenda in this deviant translation is to eliminate the specific identity of Jesus as Christ
- Here is why it must be identified as corrupting the Word of God: 2Tim. 3:16 **All Scripture is given by inspiration of God**, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:
- This method hopes for an end-product called “confusion” and ultimately elimination of all certainties about fixed truths of God and establishment of universal acceptance of any viewpoint about biblical truth.

III. Some men corrupt the Word of God by intellectual dissection in order to discredit it

- This usually aims at debunking the entire bible
- Using human logic and reasoning they will claim that the Word of God is full of errors and contradictions
 - > They may attempt to prove that the miracles of the bible did not happen and could not happen
 - > They will attempt to appeal to human reasoning and by that they will convince those who only have the mind of a natural human
 - > If enough people with only a natural mind (those without the renewed mind of a true believer) are identified with the Christian community, before long the bible has no credibility in the “Christian community.”
 - > It’s not that the Christian community has rejected Christ, or God...they have just rejected the Christ of the Word of God and the God of the Word of God (keep this thought in mind when I bring the next point of this message)
- By this “intellectual dissection” and criticism, such men corrupt the Word of God in the minds of millions

Summary Statement: Men who corrupt the Word of God in any of these 3 ways have one thing in common. It is found in 2Peter 3:16: As also in all *his* epistles, speaking in them of these things;

in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable **wrest, as *they do* also the other Scriptures, unto their own destruction.**

IV. All corrupting of the Word of God are actions supervised by Satan

- If you look at the outcomes of all the efforts at corrupting the Word of God, they all have a common goal: to discredit the truth and to usher in something else as the truth...a substitute truth...a lie in the place of the truth
- Doesn't this fit with Jesus assessment of the devil's character? John 8:44 Ye are of *your* father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.
- We need to know why he considers this one of the most important outcomes on earth.
 - > Because he must alienate mankind from the Gospel of God
 - > Because he must neutralize the power and authority of the true church
 - > Because he must nullify the witness of Christians
 - To do this he must nullify the faith, commitment, stability and holiness in people's lives
 - To do this, he must build doubt or distrust of the bible in Christian's minds
 - Here's how it works:
 - If you have no sure Word of God, where do you place your faith?
 - If you have no sure word of guidance what do you build your body of beliefs upon?
 - If the Word of God is not the sure guide of life, how do you make any commitments to its precepts?
 - If you are led to doubt the Word of Truth, where will you find spiritual stability?
 - If the bible, which is supposed to be the Word of God, is just another book which has no absolutes, what do you use as a guide for Christ-like behavior (which is the essence of holiness)
 - Which bible? Which translation?
 - > Because he must discredit the Christ of the bible (remember that I reminded you in my third point to keep in mind that it's not that the Christian community has rejected Christ, or God...they have just rejected the Christ of the Word of God and the God of the Word)
 - > Because he must prepare mankind for acceptance of a false Christ - the man of sin.

Conclusion: We must hold fast to belief that God has provided us with His word. Then we must realize that there is a vast effort to nullify the Word of God in this world; and remember that this effort is far larger than the men who imagine themselves to be enlightened saviors of the human race. Last, we must make a commitment to the God of the Word, and to ourselves, to learn what He has said to us and be able to apply it to our lives.