

DANGER OF MODERN TRANSLATIONS (NIV) #2

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In our previous article (June/18) we pointed out that all the words of the Bible should be left intact and unaltered. Deuteronomy 4:2, “*Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.*” Proverbs 30:5-6, “*Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him. Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar.*” Galatians 1:7, “*Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ.*” We further noted that the New Testament is the last will and testament of Christ, and just as we would not want one single word modified in our personal wills, in like manner the Lord will not hold one guiltless who tampers with His last will and testament.

In this second article on dangers present in modern translations, we will focus on the **New International Version**. The preface of the NIV is truly enlightening to one who carefully studies modern translations. Here are some points gleaned by reading the preface:

1. The NIV claims to be “a completely new translation of the Holy Bible.”
2. The Old Testament Hebrew Masoretic text is altered by using other sources (Dead Sea Scrolls, etc).
3. The New Testament text is based on what they call an “eclectic text” which means they used a text based on the fallacious reasoning of two theologians by the names of Westcott and Hort who lived in the 1800s.
4. The preface indicates that they did not believe in plenary, verbal inspiration — “to achieve clarity the translators sometimes supplied words not in the original texts — have striven for more than a word for word translation.” Remember, the Bible specifically condemns those who “add words” (Prov. 30:5-6; Rev. 22:18-19).
5. As translators, they operated on the faulty idea of thought trans-

lation — “fidelity to the thought of biblical writers.” This technique of translating would result in nothing more than a paraphrase.

I don’t know of anyone who has influenced modern theology more than John Calvin. One of his fundamental tenets was the doctrine of “total hereditary depravity.” This false doctrine asserts that: 1) man is born a sinner from the womb, 2) he has inherited the sin of Adam, 3) his will is not free, it is in bondage to his evil nature, 4) he cannot choose good over evil without the direct power of the Spirit of God. Clearly these concepts are not in harmony with plain Bible teaching, and yet the NIV translates Psalm 51:5: “*Surely I have been a sinner from birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.*”

We further note the infamous renditions of the word for “flesh” in Romans chapters 8 and 9 and Galatians 5 as “sinful nature.” Edwin H. Palmer was the executive secretary of the New International Version and the general editor of the NIV Study Bible. He wrote a book entitled “The Five Points of Calvinism” defending and explaining the doctrines of John Calvin. It is not surprising therefore to find the NIV laced with Calvinistic error.

Here are some additional critical issues and glaring errors found in the NIV:

1. With reference to the marriage and divorce passages, the generic phrase “marital unfaithfulness” is used in place of the specific word “fornication” (Matt. 5:32; 19:9). Also, the last part of Matthew 19:9, “*whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery,*” is completely omitted.
2. Because the translators used the Critical Text (Westcott/Hort basis), entire paragraphs are deleted or relegated to a footnote (Mark 16:9-20; John 7:53-8:11).
3. By rewriting the Bible, these translators have essentially inserted modern denominational doctrines into the text of God’s Word. For example:
 - a) the NIV has people saved at

the point of *hearing* (Eph. 1:13) and *faith only* (Rom. 1:17) without any further acts of obedience. I’m sure the Calvinists and Methodist preachers love this.

- b) Premillennialism is inserted into the text with the phrase “at the renewal of all things” (Matt. 19:28).
- c) Neo-pentecostalism is promoted in the phrase “but when perfection comes” (1 Cor. 13:10), thus opening the door for the continuation of miraculous powers even unto today.
- d) The NIV omits “only begotten” in John 1:14,18; 3:16,18; 1 John 4:9, undermining the *virgin birth* and *deity of Christ*.

These examples could be multiplied, but these are sufficient for one to discard the NIV as an accurate and reliable translation.

As with essentially all modern translations that have attained any prominence, the problem is two-fold with the NIV.

First, the NIV uses a faulty text base for the New Testament and alters the Old Testament by using spurious sources (these are noted in the preface);

Second, the translators employed the dangerous dynamic equivalence technique in the translation process which allows them to add and delete words and insert theological errors at their whims. The very first thing Satan did was to alter what God said, thus resulting in the deception of Eve and the tragic consequences that followed (Gen. 3:1-6). Our Lord said that the devil would continue to use this method: “*then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved*” (Luke 8:12). We maintain a primary way that our adversary has done this is through the massive production and widespread acceptance of pseudo-translations. John describes Satan as our arch enemy “*which deceiveth the whole world*” (Rev 12:9).

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