

Bible Versions – Which Bible Version is the Correct One to Use?

Jesus condemned the Pharisees and other religious leaders for nit picking on details while ignoring blatant truths. They condemned Jesus for breaking the Sabbath rule of not working but failed to see his exercise of God's mercy in healing the woman or man who had been suffering in their body for decades.

Those who bash other Bibles or churches don't realize they are tearing apart the Bride of Christ.... Jesus said whatever we do or don't do to the least of his brothers, that we do or don't do to Him. The blatant truths in front of us are a world, culture, society gone mad with passions of the flesh, selfishness, profit without moral restraints, and injustice on a massive scale doing in half or more of humanity and the environment.

In the face of these issues, why are we wasting our time failing to simply acknowledge our humanity, the incarnation principle, the simple fact that in the course of the last 4000 years exact records have not been kept with the picky techno obsessiveness with which we look back with such arrogance and contempt on anything old, past, or that has been done before us, as if we were the paragon of Christianity. I don't think so. My vote would rather be with the early Church martyrs, the martyrs of every generation since then, the current martyrs in China, in countries under Sharia law, and in our own time and place.

In the course of transcribing Sacred Scripture, marginal notations to explain difficult passages or to clarify or emphasize an important truth eventually were mistaken for and therefore included in the Sacred Text. In modern times, more expertise has been brought to bear based on earlier manuscripts and so certain verses have been removed or put in the notes. I don't see any scandal. Jesus gave authority to decide to his apostles and their successors; so I go with approved Catholic versions of the Bible, but am no allergic to also using side by side "Protestant" versions, especially ones like the TOB in French, an ecumenical collaboration in which the Roman Catholic Church participated and which version is approved.

I've used the American, English, and Jerusalem Bibles and now have the New American, New Jerusalem, and New English. There was the RSV and now our Lectionary primarily employs the NRSV New Revised Standard Version. Catholic Bibles have the Nihil Obstat (There is nothing here to prevent publication.) and Imprimatur (Let it be printed.) by a pertinent bishop.

Bible Societies have at times oversimplified the Word of God for "simple" people, but they do good work and do help evangelists bring the Word of God to more people in more languages than anyone else. Let's remember Jesus' words to the apostles who wanted to call down fire from heaven to consume the Samaritans who refused to receive Jesus - He rebuked them - and to those who said they tried to stop someone who was driving out devils in Jesus' Name because he was not one of their company - Jesus told them "You must not stop him; anyone who is not against you is for you." Lk 9:54 and 9:50.

It is as infantile for us to be keeping score as it was for Jesus' apostles and disciples. Read the signs of the times. The Holy Spirit is at work to raise up people to proclaim Jesus and repentance and the forgiveness of sins to all who would listen. Most if not all Christian denominations are collaborating in using the Alpha Course as the gift from the Holy Spirit that it is to give people today a practical introduction to the Christian faith, that is, an opportunity to experience for themselves the presence, power to save, light for the understanding, merciful forgiveness, and love of the living God for themselves in a direct personal encounter with the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. So let's get with the program!

Fr. Gilles

Question from a RC disciple of Jesus: What bible would you recommend and why?

We may all have a friend or know of someone who is a bible thumper Christian and it may be that they use it to thump people. In conversation about faith issues they may be inclined to say, 'You're wrong', and set out to try to prove or demonstrate the other wrong.

He might say “Look up Acts 8 and see if your Bible has verse 37 anywhere in there.” Chances are that in our Bibles verse 37 isn't there but the text skips from verse 36 to verse 38. That's odd if you haven't noticed that before, and it could take you by surprise. Our friend might then say, “You see? Your Bible is no good. Your bible is garbage throw it out.’

What do you say to him?

List of Bible verses not included in modern translations:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Bible_verses_not_included_in_modern_translations

This is a list of Bible verses in the New Testament that are present in the King James Version (KJV) but absent from most modern Bible translations completed after 1881 which are based upon the Alexandrian-type manuscripts. The verses are, however, present in the New King James Version, published in 1979.

Most modern textual scholars consider these verses interpolations (exceptions include advocates of the Byzantine or Majority text). In any case, the verse numbers have been reserved even in translations which omit the verses. Apart from omitted entire verses, there are many omitted words and phrases in modern translations such as the Comma Johanneum and the endings of Mark 16 that are not included in this article.

Biblical scholar Bart D. Ehrman notes some of the most known of these verses were not part of the original New Testament text. "These scribal additions are often found in late medieval manuscripts of the New Testament, but not in the manuscripts of the earlier centuries," he adds. "And because the King James Bible is based on later manuscripts, such verses "became part of the Bible tradition in English-speaking lands." [1]

Matthew 18:11

Acts 8:37

We are warned in the beginning, middle, and end of the bible to not remove or add words:

Deuteronomy 4:2 Deuteronomy 12:32 Proverbs 30:6 Revelation 22:18-19

There are more verses missing in most Bibles:

Matthew 12:47, 17:21, 18:11, 21:44, 23:14

Mark 7:16, 9:44, 9:46, 11:26, 15:28

Mark 16:9-20 -- There is a line separating the last 12 verses of Mark from the main text. Right under the line it says: The two most reliable early manuscripts do not have Mark 16:9-20

Luke 17:36, 22:43-44, 23:17

John 5:4, 7:53-8:11

Acts 8:37, 15:34, 24:7, 28:29

Romans 16:24,

1John 5:7