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THE W. C. TAYLOR LETTERS

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A Vast Apostasy In Translating The Bible

"Apostasy" does not mean, biblically, the loss of salvation. Salvation consists in **eternal** life and the Savior has said, with a solemn "**Verily, verily**": "He that heareth my word and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life", John 5:24. Sixteen times, in the Gospel of John alone, the Savior calls our salvation "eternal life". It is a question of his veracity. He said that believers "**SHALL NEVER PERISH**".

No. Apostasy means a departure from revealed truth. It is a word used one time, in most modern versions of the Bible, in II Thes. 2:3, of "**THE APOSTASY**", due to come before "the day of Christ is at hand." This is a noun, meaning a **STANDING OFF FROM, AWAY FROM**. The verb is used in I Tim. 4:1, "But the Spirit says distinctly that in latter times some shall **fall away from** the faith; they will yield to deluding spirits and demonic teachings by hypocritical liars, whose own consciences are seared as with a branding iron" (Berkeley Version). The worst possible apostasy is a false, deluding translation of the Scripture itself, so that the very Bible becomes a ministry of falsehood, to deceive the soul. Such an apostasy we now have in the "New English Bible", meant to succeed the King James Version, in England, on its anniversary of 350 years of use. This New Testament is, in its total message to men, perhaps the worst apostasy from the real Bible that was ever published. Let's see.

I. IT IS AN APOSTASY OF DELIBERATE CATHOLICISM (ROMISH AND ECUMENICAL).

1. It announces that it will translate, as a part of the Bible, the Apocryphal books. These are not a part of Holy Scripture. They are Jewish writings, appearing after the close of the Old Testament, which is Malachi's prophecy of John the Baptist's ministry and message as the next step in the divine revelation. The Apocrypha consists in a set of some fifteen interbiblical writings, some of them valuable history of the Jews, in the days of the Maccabees, some of them mere silly fables, others palpable lies. They are

written in three languages, Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek, and gained currency in the Christian era, mainly in Latin Bibles of the Dark Ages. Prof. R. H. Pfeiffer, of Harvard University, summarizes the many types of the contents of these writings, in Harper's Bible Dictionary. For all this stuff to be heralded abroad as part of the Bible, at this late date, is a wicked deceit of the unwary public. The main reason why it is attempted is that in this spurious body of "Scripture" there appears the habit of praying for the dead. That is the basis of the Romish Mass, and the President of our nation was recently quoted as urging Americans to pray for their dead soldiers. That is Apocryphal Christianity. The New Testament denies it utterly. "It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgement", not Purgatory or any second chance. Doctrinaire liars seek lying Scriptures to back them up. This is the apostasy headed our way from overseas.

2. Furthermore, the Catholic's imaginary basis of his religion is invented and inserted for him, right in the heart of our Gospels of Matthew and John. The British translators plank right down the sum of all Romanism, in the heart of our very First Gospel, to be read as coming from Christ himself, a few pages beyond the opening of the New Testament. Listen to this: "And I say this to you: You are Peter, the Rock; and on this rock I will build my church, and the forces of death shall never overpower it," Matt. 16:18. This is a wilful lie. Jesus said no such stuff. These two words, "**THE ROCK**", are an addition to the Scripture as a sort of last hope for imposing Romanism upon the New Testament. This little pro-Catholic plot seeks to give to the name of Peter an etymological meaning it never had.

When Jesus said: "On this **ROCK** I will build my church" he used a very different word from that which is seen etymologically in the proper name **Peter**. Peter comes from the masculine Greek word, **petros**. But Jesus promised to build his church on a **petra**, a feminine word, with a vastly different meaning. **Petros** is used several times in the Septuagint,

the Greek version of the Hebrew Old Testament. The little stone with which the wife of Moses circumcised their baby was a **petros**, sharp for cutting but not big enough for a FOUNDATION of anything. And we have the compound word **petrobolos**, concerning the stoning of criminals. The stones that fell on Stephen were hard, could symbolize firm character in a man, but you could not build a house on one or all of them put together. **Peter**, in Greek, was that kind of a stone. Now to translate him as if he were a feminine word, meaning the kind of rock often spoken of as a foundation of a house or of a city, a ledge of rock, is simply a base and wicked lie, right there in a false Bible, false at that point. It is Romanism, propagated by Protestants.

But two lies are stronger than one. So we have it again in John 1:42 "He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked him in the face, and said, You are Simon, son of John. You shall be called Cephas (that is, Peter, the Rock)." This is a lie, posing as Scripture. The translators invented it. There is no such verse in any true Bible. The words "the Rock" are a human addition to the Word of God, forever accursed, Rev. 22:18. They affirm a lie. **PETER** does not mean **ROCK**, let alone **THE ROCK**. I read the story of our beloved city of Bardstown this week, site of "The Old Kentucky Home". It describes the building of "St. Joseph's Cathedral" there in these words: "The foundation are of stone, resting on rock." Does anybody misunderstand that? Stone (**petros**) means the smaller stones that are the bottom part of the structure: **ROCK IS THE UNDERLYING** bedrock, close to the surface of the city, wide, deep, strong — foundation of the building above. So these two very different words speak to us of Peter and Jesus. Peter is a **stone**: Jesus **THE ROCK FOUNDATION** on which billions of souls have been built for time and eternity. To transfer to Peter the attributes of Christ is little short of blasphemy. Yet this is brazenly attempted in this Bible, falsely called a translation, at many points.

Here they are conscious of mistranslating, in a minor point. They use "overcome", of the "gates of death". But gates do not stalk out and advance upon you, overwhelming you. They stay put: you enter them, pass on. So it is with death. They put the truth in the margin: "the gates of death shall never close upon it". If you know what is right, translate it. Don't put it in small type in the margin, as this version does countless times. These often show a will to deceive.

But this is just a part of the treachery of the translators of this spottedly false Bible. Here, as they give over Mat. 16:18 to the hordes of Catholicism, they retain the word **church**. But twice in Mat. 18:16, the only other two times the word occurs in the Gospels, they abandon **church** as the translation and we have something different: "If he refuses to listen

to them, report the matter to the congregation; and if he will not listen even to the congregation, you must then treat him as you would a pagan or a tax-gatherer." Turn a page in your Bible and, though Jesus used the very same word, yet you are led to believe he is using a different word, for it is translated something different, inferior. **AND THIS HAPPENS** all along through the New Testament, in countless Scriptures. In utterly arbitrary fashion, the word **church** is retained where it can be construed in favor of the Catholic falsehood that there **IS JUST ONE CHURCH**. But, all too often, though not with consistency — it is hard to find consistency in these translators, even with their own schemes — the word **CHURCH** disappears and **congregation** takes its place. Now in the Catholic system, a congregation is nothing autonomous, self-governing, democratic in nature. It is merely a group, a part of the great **WORLD CHURCH** or **NATIONAL CHURCH**, in a given place, nothing autonomous, independent, and real, in itself. Thus the churches of the New Testament are murdered, in a false New Testament, and mere "congregations" of a false Church are wilfully substituted for true churches. Yet they are inconsistent in this. The Epistles that are addressed to **THE CHURCH OF GOD WHICH IS** at Corinth, the churches of Galatia, and the church of the Thessalonians, are sent merely to "the congregation of God's people" mentioned. They are not classed as **CHURCHES**. But in Ephesians, where the singular of the word is used so much, we have **CHURCH** steadily. Now all this fits into the schemes of those denominations which are, illegitimately and anti-biblically, each a great National Church, and ambitious for the fusing of all these in a vast unionism of **THE WORLD CHURCH**, the ultimate apostasy. But it destroys New Testament Christianity. The language **JESUS** used in Mat. 18:16, and Paul used in his Corinthian Epistles, is a perfect picture of Baptist church life and doctrine. By eliminating the word **church** from all these Scriptures and substituting merely **CONGREGATION**, the structure of New Testament Christianity is destroyed and a false doctrinal basis put in its place. Yet they do not want to give up "Revelation" for church doctrine. So there the word is translated **church**, though there it is plural, and we read: "Hear, you who have ears to hear, what the Spirit says to the churches."

The general picture, however, of **CHURCH** life given in this Bible is that of Catholicism (whether Romish or Ecumenical), that is, **ONE WORLD CHURCH** and a lot of local congregations as a part of it, subordinate to it, in slavery to it. Now that frame-up is no more New Testament Christianity than the devil is God. Toward that scheme, however, unionist Christianity is fast moving. And when it shall have amassed the great world forces of unionism in an overpowering ecclesiasticism, then they

will suppress all dissent, all liberty, just as was done by Catholic and Protestant State Churches against our Anabaptist forefathers and their yearning to return to New Testament Christianity. Your children or grandchildren may be martyrs of that Catholicism, if you do not openly resist its being formed by unionism now. Wake up and fight!

II. THIS BIBLE IS ALSO A GREAT CAMPBELLITE APOSTASY. You who read my Letter 28 recall its picture of the rise of Campbellism in Kentucky and Tennessee, taking over vast forces of Baptist life by deceit. They pretended to "speak where the Bible speaks". Yet the Bible NEVER ONCE SPEAKS their false gospel, of FAITH AND REPENTANCE. But now "The Campbells are coming." The New Bible is guilty of an amazing Campbellite apostasy. It inserts in the Bible once—that is enough for a false doctrine—the words FAITH AND REPENTANCE, in that order, and as FUNDAMENTAL, the very FOUNDATION of all doctrinal Christianity. That gift of this wicked lie to Campbellism is worth more to their gospel of lies than all the millions of the Rockefellers would be. Listen to this false Bible, in Heb. 6:2: "We ought not to be laying over again the foundation of faith in God and of repentance from the deadness of our former ways . . ." There you have the priceless boon to Campbellism, faith before repentance. The translators know they are lying, so they put the truth in the margin. This is as big a lie as ever disgraced human speech, the utter corruption of the gospel of grace. Such "faith" is not saving faith but mere belief of historical facts about Christ. Such "repentance" is not the Spirit-wrought change of mind and heart, produced by godly sorrow for sin. Campbell translated **repent**, in his New Testament, by the word REFORM, something outward, impotent to save. To put this false gospel as foundational, in the New Testament, is an unspeakable sin against the God of all grace and all men whom he might save through his own gospel of repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ. It is one of hell's master lies.

III. SINS OF OMISSION AND COMMISSION. The N.E.B. has banished forever from its Bible, at least from this part of it, the doctrine expressed in the following words: **adoption, remission, saints.** (Catholicism has a religion of false saints, mediators so classified by decrees of popes. But they have made the word "saint" common everywhere they have churches, even if our Bibles had not made it a part of Christian terminology. Now, with the vague "Christ's people" substituting "saints" in the address of the Epistles and references to Christians in all this New Testament, only Catholicism is left with "saints". You will find that that is an inferiority in such Protestantism that it will never get over—a

religion with no saints. This is one more gift of this version to Rome's Catholicism. Happily, other versions will still make us known as the "saints in light", even "them which are sanctified by faith which is in me" (Jesus). But not only do we have here a Christianity in which the whole doctrine of sanctification is queered and largely omitted from a Bible, but the wider subject of righteousness (objective and subjective) is eliminated, at will, from many Scriptures and left, at will, in others. Strange to say, "righteousness" is retained in Rom. 4, to make up for the loss of "imputed", but in a lot of other Scriptures we have in its place only a vague sort of moralism.

These liars have slaughtered even John 3:16. They falsely translate "only begotten Son" as **only** Son. That is not so. We are all sons of God, but begotten by our human fathers, sons of God by regeneration of the Holy Spirit, not by divine sexual begetting. Thus is thrown to the dogs the great truth of Psalm II, "Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee", with its great missionary promise of his heritage in the nations. You cannot look your baby in the face and say, "This day have I begotten thee". Your begetting was nine months before his birth. But this great truth of the eternal generation and sonship of the Lord Jesus is as carelessly thrown to the dogs as if it were scraps from a kitchen table. And they make John 3:16 lie again in saying, "that every one who has faith in him may not die". That is a palpable lie. All believers die. But they don't eternally perish. That is the issue, which they sidestep by a deliberate lie in translation. Everybody dies: but no believer perishes, going to eternal doom. If they will wickedly tamper with John 3:16, of course nothing is sacred to them!

By a footnote on Mat. 1:16, they give the lie to the Virgin Birth of Jesus, making Joseph his father. You wonder if men capable of that lie have any part in the Virgin-born Savior.

Our Lord's deity is banished from many a Scripture, as Mat. 27:54, for example, where they diminish the centurion's testimony to the crucified Jesus to the meaningless "**Truly this man was A SON OF GOD.**" So is every other man, in the wider sense of the phrase. That is nothing to the credit of Jesus. Yet a similar Greek original is translated: "God's son" in John 10:36 and "Son of God" in John 19:7, and in Heb. 1:2 we have "in the Son" where the Greek has no article. Thus they in one place give an affront to the living Savior, and in others permit the truth, when it is not so distasteful to their alien minds. If they dishonor the Son, of course they dishonor the Spirit, so the new birth is changed from "born of water and the Spirit", of the King James, to mere "water and spirit" in this false version.

There is one great Scripture which is "the Bible's doctrine of itself", II Tim. 3:16, which they mutilate. But they have added to the true Bible their false insertion of inspiration, credited to a lot of **men**. Thus inspiration passes from the Word of God to all and sundry whom they, with this lie, wish to classify as "INSPIRED" men. Weymouth translates Mat. 22:43, "David, in the Spirit" calls the Messiah Lord. But this British Version jumps to an utterly different and false original, translating: "David by inspiration calls him Lord". Time and again they have strewn INSPIRATION of men through their wicked New Testament. Every such translation is a lie, wilfully adding their own pet doctrine to the Word of God. The Bible never affirms the inspiration of **men**. It reserves that great word, "God-breathed", to magnify **the written Word** of God, our guidance in life down the ages.

The **Propitiation** for our sins has been kicked out of the Bible, for those who read this version. In its place we have "remedy for the defilement of our sins", in I John 2:2; 4:10, and **expiation** in other places. In Col. 1:14, "redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins" has dwindled down into merely "our release is secured and our sins forgiven". And so countless other great Bible doctrines, known in familiar Bible words, have now been banished from this Bible of lies, to deceive men's souls.

Many who read this have read my review of the Revised Standard Version, published some years ago in this country. That version is vastly superior to this British scheme of Scripture. This version does not have a lot of the virtues of that translation, which I commented upon in my "THE NEW BIBLE: PRO AND CON". (I cannot supply you, so do not write me for a copy.) It has different virtues and different faults. The best summary I have seen of its faults was written by the "Secretary of the Trinitarian Bible Society", in London (name not given). I quote his titles of criticisms: "More Difficult Than The Authorized Version" (showing an inclination to long and less familiar words, in countless cases, than we have in the King James); "Pedantic; Not Contemporary English; Crude Colloquialisms; Inappropriate; Unseemly; Literary Losses; Poor Substitutes; Important Doctrinal Changes; Punctuation; Retreat From Reformed Faith; Dogmatic Bias; No Acknowledgement of Divine Inspiration; Voices From the Past; and The Manuscripts". Space forbids me to

quote his many criticisms. They are valid.

I close with just a few things more. One is the version's insult to the apostles of Jesus. They are called "laymen", Acts 4:14. If the co-founders of Christianity with our Lord, the authors of our New Testament, the greatest saints of all ages, are mere "laymen", what standing can they have for us in the ministry of the Word?

Then I give you one sample of the loss of dignity and truth by wretched changing of the sentence structure and vocabulary of the Holy Spirit. The classic definition of the Pentecostal power is Acts 2:42, "And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship and in breaking of bread and in prayers". Now this has become, "They met constantly to hear the apostles teach, and to share the common life, to break bread, and to pray." There we have lost both "the apostles' doctrine" and "the fellowship", blessed glory of our church life. They might have added the articles in the Greek original, "THE fellowship, THE breaking of THE bread, THE prayers". But, no. The real betterment of the translation did not interest them, or they were incompetent to see it. So they delete from Christianity "THE APOSTLES' DOCTRINE", a loss greater than would be the loss of the sun out of our sky. The point is not that they had famous men as their teachers, as if I were to boast of having studied unde Carroll, Williams, Newman, A. T. Robertson and John Gresham Machen. THE POINT IS THE CONTENT OF THAT TEACHING, **what they taught**, the substance of revealed Christianity, the apostles' doctrine. What the Word of God says, they discard contemptuously. What appeals to their evil taste, they put in, in its place. And the greater the Scripture, the greater their offense against it, in countless cases.

The British are noted for their sluggish sense of humor. This is apparent in a note on p.286. This time they are a bit lazy in quoting the words of an alternate reading proposed. So they just put: "**Or**, You say, 'it is a good thing . . . women'; . . ." That is the note. Imagine the fun American boys will have over that wisecrack of such sober sires: "It is a good thing . . . women." That can figure in many a drunken jest!!

One is baffled and disgusted with the smearing of the Word of God with a lot of neo-British terminology. Look at these words: "**meal-tub**", p.8; midge,

p.43; **gibbet**, p. 206, etc.; **touched on the raw**, p.206; your bodies are **limbs and organs of Christ**, p.286; **make free with me**, p.286; **not for nothing**, p.274; **partners in payments and receipts**, p.341; **Whitsuntide**, p.302 (Thus the observance of days, which Paul hated, Gal. 4:10, is forced on the apostle as if he were an adept of Anglicanism); **grabbers**, ps.285,286; **loose livers**, p.285; **bailiff**, p.129; **put me in the dock**, p.290; **cropped**, p.293; **spate**, p.434; **speaks true**, p.155; **catch me out**, p.80; our grandmothers' **fetch**, p.80; and so on.

Many translations are disgustingly verbose, in this Bible. In the translation of I Pet. 3:8, there are eight English words that are not translations of any word in the Greek Scripture there. How often is one impressed with the wearisome wordiness of the translations. The translators have a mania for changing the construction of the sentence they are supposed to be translating. If the verb is active in the Greek, they change the phrase to the passive voice often; or **vice versa**. Another mania is to break up the original sentence into two or more sentences. And where they break the original sentence in two, they let a lot of vital meaning slip out, in some cases, or transfer the reference of some words, in others. Look at the classic Eph. 2:8. The one sentence, with 22 words in the Greek has become, in the translation, three sentences of 36 words, verbose, destructive of sublime values in the great classic of salvation by grace, through faith. The tense of the verb **save**, that of the perfect consummation of the divine work, is lost by incompetent translation. "Through faith" becomes a verbal noun, "through trusting him". Those three words, "NOT OF WORKS", banish from Christianity, once and forever, all forms of Catholicism and of Protestantism that trust in sacraments and our own good works. If they were this minute universally believed, there would not be left a single Catholic on earth. But they are tampered with, and we have the weak substitute, "it is not your own doing. It is God's gift, not a reward for work done". The great classic of salvation by grace is wrecked by incompetent triflers, in trivial substitutes for a translation of what the Greek says. And that is just a sample of what you see in Mat. 10:22; Phil. 2:12; I John 3:14; James 1:21; Mat. 26:38; Rom. 3:21-28; Mat. 5:19,22; II Tim. 4:7 (a disgusting cheapening of a majestic Scripture); Rom. 13:7, 8; Mat. 15:2; I Pet. 2:8, 3:19, 20, II Cor. 5:21; Rom. 6:4; I Cor. 6:19; 11:32; Eph. 1:1 and many more. Verbosity, change of

sense and sentence structure, banishing of priceless classic language of Holy Writ, additions and subtraction at will, perverseness and irreverence for the holy Word!

This version has Jesus killed three different ways. 1. Acts 5:30 affirms that Jesus was "hung on a gibbet." The dictionary defines **gibbet**, "An upright post with a projecting arm at the top, from which the bodies of criminals were hung after execution." Same in Acts 10:39; 13:29. 2. I Pet. 2:24 says he "carried our sins to the gallows". The dictionary defines "gallows", "a wooden frame made of a crossbar on two upright posts, use for hanging criminals". 3. And they admit the crucifixion on a cross. Now which of the three ways you allege was really the way Christ died, gentlemen? Better decide that before you start translating the second edition of this New Testament, and the Apocrypha!

The use of capital letters in this Bible looks like a child playing with blocks. Here in Acts 5:31 Jesus is called "leader and savior". And yet a godless hypocrite is called "the High Priest", v. 28. And the context gives us "Council" repeatedly, "Controller", and "Temple". The great Greek verb **euaggelidzo**, which King James has meaning **preach** 48 out of 53 passages, **preach the gospel, glad tidings, good tidings**, is translated in this version: "preaching the gospel of the Kingdom", "announcing the good news of the Kingdom", "the Gospel of God", and it varies all through the New Testament from gospel to Gospel, with no sense whatever in the confusion. We read of the Book of the Law, and generally of Sabbath, but "sabbath" in Col. 2:16 and elsewhere. Out of 51 times that we have the word **scripture** this version has **Scripture** 24 times and the other times scripture. The King James version always has "scripture". Would that these translators could show some respect to the scriptures in better ways than spelling it Scriptures half the time. And so on, **ad infinitum**.

We almost lost our "Christ" in the Gospels of this version. The Hebrew name Messiah, much less precious to Christians, banishes the word countless times. Then suddenly you find it again in many other passages. How confusing to those who have no Greek. And that confusion applies to countless other words of the Word.

At times the translators are in utter confusion. They translate the Greek word for "seed" (shocking

to their modesty) in the following manners: "issue, germ of a nation, offspring, descended, posterity, sons, stock, line and child." That is mental fertility, without "seed". So with many other words.

The British Weekly has a picture of the three head men in this Translation. The main man is a Congregationalist (but with **congregations** that are not called churches, for the most part). The other two gentlemen have their collars buttoned the wrong way. Our converted priests in this nation say that when a man buttons his collar in the wrong direction, it is because he knows he's going the wrong way. They are welcome to the sign. It tells the truth on them, if we may judge by this version.

What pains me unutterably is to see in the list of those religious organizations that "planned and

directed" this vile apostasy, right at the very head of the list: "The Baptist Union of Great Britain and Ireland." What a calamity. No wonder the Baptists of that group lost 3060 members last year, and 13,360 from their Sunday School rolls, according to the "British Weekly" of May 4, 1961. They will grow less and less. Presently they will be absorbed in this Neo-Catholicism, in its fusion with the older Catholic sects. Then Southern Baptists, unless wiped out in blood by the New Catholicism, will be sending missionaries to England. Open your eyes, my friends, to what this world is headed for. There may yet be time to save it from another such divine judgment as was visited on an apostate race by the flood.

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