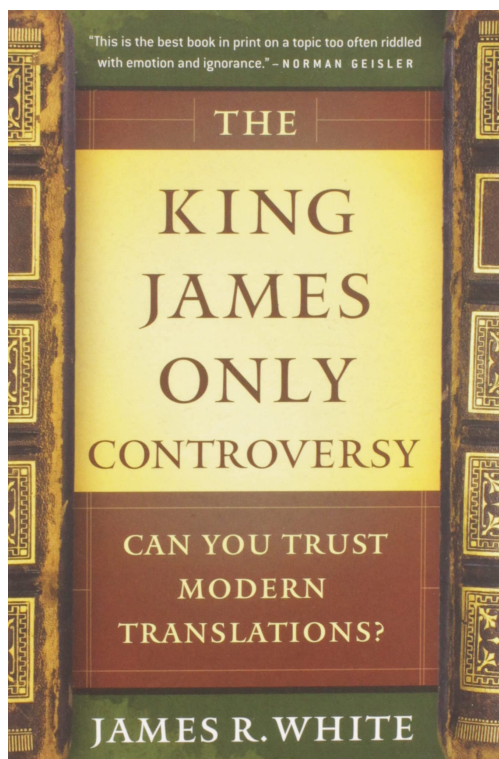


book of the month

The King James Only Controversy – James R. White

The King James Only Controversy: Can You Trust Modern Translations? This sounds like the title to a dry, heady book written about a niche issue that was popularized in a bygone era and for which no one today needs answers. That's what I thought about this book at first, proof that you shouldn't judge a book by its cover. This book is none of those things.

James White writes clearly and convincingly in favor of modern Bible translations that faithfully seek to give God's word to God's people from the best manuscripts available in the original languages. White wrote this book for the sake of peace in Christ's church, stating pointedly, "Our relationship with Jesus Christ is not based upon a particular Bible translation. Men and women had fine Christian lives for fifteen hundred years before the KJV came onto the scene" (p. 16). He accomplishes well his purpose in writing, to provide "a reasoned response to the concept that there is any particular English translation of the Bible that God *requires* the faithful Christian to use" (p. 18).



As White overturns wrong assumptions made by the King James Only camp, recounts a bit of the history of Bible translation, and articulates the process for Bible translation in layman's terms, the reader will be led to marvel at the wisdom and faithfulness of God to preserve His trustworthy word. — Omri Miles, **Pastor/Elder**

QUOTES

"The KJV was neither the first English translation nor the last. Hence, it is perfectly logical to ask, 'Why should I use it as the standard by which I am to test all others?'" (27)

"I believe the historical context of the New Testament not only explains why we do not find the kind of widespread purposeful emendation of the text so often asserted by critics but it also provides us with the firmest foundation for confidence that what appears in the annals of history... represents what was written by the original authors without revision or alteration *outside of normative scribal errors*. How can I be confident of this? I call the concept multifocality. Specifically, the New Testament is written by (1) multiple authors, (2) from multiple locations, (3) directed to multiple audiences, during (4) multiple timeframes." (82)

"The KJV carried by the average KJV Only advocate today looks very different than the edition that came off Robert Barker's press in 1611." (124)

"The first eighteen verses of John's gospel form one long, beautiful testimony to the majesty of Jesus Christ. The apostle works the Greek language with the passion of an artist and the fervor of one deeply concerned that men and women know the truth about his Lord and Master." (250)

"One of the most obvious differences in translation focuses upon the use of the word hell in the KJV...cultic groups such as Jehovah's Witnesses have made great use of the KJV's ambiguous rendering of words in both testaments having to do with the afterlife. Surely any person examining the facts without a vested interest in defending the KJV has to admit this is one place in which many modern translations far surpass the KJV in accuracy." (179)

Suggested One-Month Reading Plan

(Average 11-12 pages per day)

Week 1: Monday June 6th - Sunday June 12th

Forward, 2 pages
Introduction, 7 pages
1. The King James Only, 7 pages
2. "If It Ain't Broke...", 11 pages
3. Starting at the Beginning, 48 pages

Week 2: Monday June 13th - Sunday June 19th

4. Putting it Together, 40 pages
5. The King James Only Camp, 38 pages

Week 3: Monday June 20th - Sunday June 26th

6. Translational Differences, 24 pages
7. Textual Differences, 52 pages

Week 4: Monday June 27th - Sunday July 3rd

8. The Son of God, The Lord of Glory, 33 pages
9. Problems in the King James, 21 pages
10. Questions and Answers, 13 pages
Let the Reader Understand..., 27 pages