

FROM WHICH TREE DO YOU EAT?

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With the multitude of Bible translations available today – there are over 100 English New Testaments versions alone – one should be educated in how to best select a version.

We take for granted the believer in Jesus Christ wants an accurate and “Holy” Bible, not a corrupt, evil version.

The New Testament reveals that even in the first century there were those who corrupted the Bible for their own gain. That evil principle continues today. One would have to be extremely naïve to think the devil – who has been tireless in corrupting anything Godly – would not corrupt the Holy words of God.

In addition, God is not the author of confusion (I Corinthians 14). In fact, it is the devil that confuses the immature believer with so many versions. With so many bad versions of the Bible, it is likely an ignorant person (ignorant of the facts, not stupid) will choose a bad version.

How to Know?

The best method of identifying the right Bible and the wrong “bible” is to compare the translation with the perfect version, making sure the verses should be there, and that the verses read correctly.

You see, men of corrupt minds and not under Holy Ghost leadership, will rewrite the Bible, adding and taking away words they do not like. In contrast, men under Holy Ghost leadership will be careful not to add or take away – they will copy exactly the righteous text delivered unto them.

From the time the word of God was given, by speaking or by writing, there have been (and are) faithful men who copied each word perfectly. As the copies wore out from use, other men faithfully copied the same words. They were driven by reverence and fear of God and his word.

At the same time, there were (and are) men of corrupt minds who have taken the good text and perverted *or corrupted it* by adding man’s word, taking away God’s word, or changing words; all for the purpose of making it more palatable to the people (easy to read, not as offensive, promoting a particular agenda, etc.). Since *the truth shall make you free*, there are those who would hide the truth and prevent people from finding the key of knowledge.

If we are to compare the unknown with the known, the question arises, of course; Which text is the perfect text and where do I get it?

The answer is that God has provided *a multitude of witnesses* to the truth. In the mouth of two or three witness the truth shall be established.

As you look at the many versions of bibles, you will find that most do not match each other. But, if you look at the manuscripts from which the versions are translated, you find the truth is prominent.

You see, there are over 5,000 extant (existing) Bible manuscripts. A manuscript can be anything from a small piece of papyrus paper with scripture on it (P66) to a complete book (Codex Vaticanus). As one compares the multitude of manuscripts, he will find that many of them record the same verses. Of those manuscripts that record the same verses, most agree and only a very few do not agree. That means, through *textual comparison*, we can identify which verses are correct by the number of witnesses. The “experts” at this work have concluded that 94 – 99% of all manuscripts agree (percentage changes based depending on the verse compared) on how a verse should read, and only 1 – 6% of manuscripts have alternate readings – and many times they do not agree even among themselves. The lion’s share of manuscripts that agree are referred to the *Majority Text*. The much smaller of manuscripts that generally do not agree with the larger share, or among themselves, are referred to as the *Eclectic Text* or *Minority Text*. I contend the *Minority Text* is the corrupt text.

The *Minority Text* includes some well know manuscripts that are generally used to provide *alternate readings* in *critical apparatus* – or said plainly, when someone wants to look for an odd rendering they go to the *Minority Text*. The notable manuscript in this *Minority Text* is *Codex Vaticanus* (or Codex B – Hebrew Bet). That manuscript is held by the Vatican. The Old Testament of *Vaticanus* is in Greek, and is referred to as the *Septuagint*. Corrupt translators do not reveal that the *Septuagint* is found in Vaticanus, because they know Bible-believers would reject it straight out.

A second notable manuscript in this corrupt family is *Codex Alexandrinus*, and it comes from the Library in Alexandria Egypt. This manuscript is a very corrupt rendering of the New Testament that was re-written by Greek philosophers. The Library in Alexandria was a place where all great literature was gathered from the entire world. The Greeks would translate or re-write the works into classical Greek (they seek after knowledge – Romans). Generally the Greeks were pagan and not Bible-believers. This paganism and bias against God influenced their “translations.” A man by the name of Origen was a key person at this library. He is known for translating various works. Six of his “great works” were combined into a collection called Origen’s “Hexalpa.” The fifth column (fifth book) in this work was his Greek translation of the Hebrew Old Testament. This translation was taken by Eusibius in the fourth century and provided to Constantine (the first “pope”) and then declared the word of God. That copy of the Vaticanus Old

Testament is that same Origen's fifth column. Needless to say, Origen was pagan and did not believe in the God of the Bible, did not believe in the miracles, the resurrection, etc.

A third notable manuscript in the *Minority Text* is *Codex Sinaiticus* (Codex A – Hebrew Aleph). This was rescued from being burned as trash from a monastery, by a man named Tischendorf. The monks themselves knew it was trash, but Tischendorf wanted some popularity. I have read that the quality of Sinaiticus is very poor with mistakes, correction, crossings out, etc.

In contrast, the *Majority Text* is consistent. Until 1881 when Westcott and Hort issued their Greek “New Testament” using the *Minority Text* as their basis, nearly all non-Catholic versions of the New Testament used the *Majority Text*. One can safely assume when checking a Bible version translated before 1881, that there is good chance it was translated from the *Majority Text*. In contrast, all Catholic versions use *Vaticanus* as their basis.

The *Majority Text* of the New Testament was referred to as the *Received Text* or *Textus Receptus* later in its history. The *TR* is the basis for all good translations. It is called the Received Text because translators and editors of Greek New Testaments used the text as they received it – not changing it. Today, most people refer to the *Majority Text* as the *TR*.

My intent is not to give a lengthy history of the Bible. Better men have already written great works on the subject. This author invites and encourages the reader to do further study on the matter. My purpose in writing the above is to give the novice some background on the two lines of Bible manuscripts – the pure line (the *TR* or *Majority Text*) and the Corrupt Line (the *Minority* or *Alexandrian Text*). This way, it will be easier to identify which versions should be used for textual comparison.

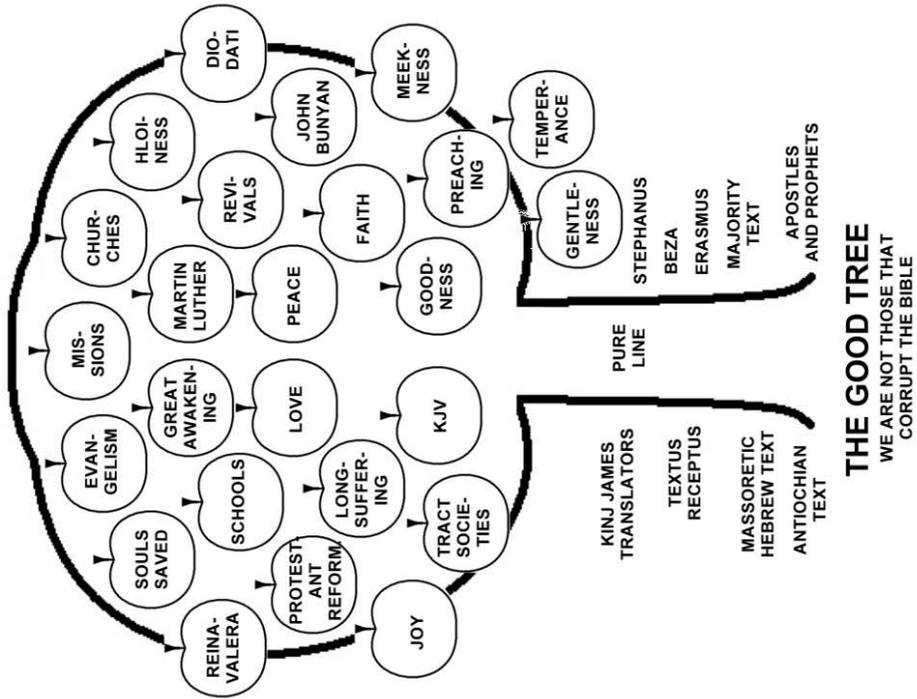
A Tree is known by its Fruit

After a few times comparing version against version, one quickly finds that there are a number of regular passages that are deleted, changed, or corrupted. This is because the translators or editors who follow the same corrupt manuscripts will tend to follow the corrupt manuscript in those verses. Keep in mind the *Minority Text* represents only a small percentage of the extant manuscripts. Translators do not have too much to choose from when seeking alternate readings. Sometimes a translator or editor will switch from one text to another, thereby mixing good and evil in the same version.

These regularly changed passages are listed in our *Verse Comparison List*. One can compare these verses in various versions against the *KJV* or other *TR*-based versions and quickly see the difference.

The following illustration will help the reader to better understand that there are basically two lines of manuscripts – the good and the corrupt. The fruit of each line and the associated persons are shown. This chart is not an original. Variations have been used to show the same basic truth for many years. Be careful from which tree you eat.

FROM WHICH TREE DO YOU EAT?



A corrupt tree cannot bring forth good fruit