

# CAN THE BIBLE TODAY BE PERFECT?

## A Plea for Common Sense & Final Authority

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### INTRODUCTION

What is perfection? The Bible says in James 1:4:

“But let patience have *her* perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.”

So in James 1:4, the Bible defines perfection as something that is complete (entire) with nothing missing (wanting nothing). Considering the Bible definition of perfection, is it possible for us to have a Bible today that is perfect? Bible-believing Christians contend that we CAN have a Bible today that is perfect; one that is entire and has nothing missing from it. We contend that we have God’s perfect Words in English in the King James Bible and in Spanish in the Reina-Valera Gómez Bible.<sup>1</sup>

There are some who teach that no Bible today can be perfect. Some even go so far as to say that it is heresy or a false doctrine to teach that any particular translation of the Bible today can be perfect. They say that the only perfect Bible that ever existed were the original autographs. Furthermore, they claim that the reason no Bible translation today can be perfect is because men translated the Bible. And since man is not perfect no Bible translation can be perfect due to man’s involvement. But there are several things wrong with this view:

### 1. THE ORIGINAL AUTOGRAPHS MYTH

If the only perfect Scriptures that ever existed were the original autographs than the truth is that there was NEVER a perfect Bible. A complete collection of the original autographs of all 66 books of the Bible NEVER existed. That idea is a myth. In his booklet entitled **A Fresh Look at the King James Bible**, the author Dr. Ralph Yarnell explains:

“Let us look at some undisputed facts about the originals. First: there never was a book of the 66 originals of the Bible. Second: there never was a book of the 39 originals of the Old Testament. Third: there

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<sup>1</sup> Concerning whether the RVG Spanish Bible is perfect, See David Daniel’s article entitled *What Do You Mean When You Say the RVG is God’s Perfect Word in Spanish* at:

<http://www.chick.com/information/bibleversions/perfectwords.asp>

never was a book of the 27 originals of the New Testament. Fourth: no one living or dead ever saw the 66, 39 or 27 originals. Fifth: each of the originals were lost, worn out, destroyed or gone within 100 to 150 years of their writing.”<sup>2</sup>

## **2. THE INCONSISTENCY OF THE IMPERFECT MAN ARGUMENT**

If a translation of the Bible cannot be perfect because of man’s involvement then even the original autographs cannot be perfect because man was involved in those manuscripts as well. Who do you think God used to record His divine words? Perfect men or imperfect men?

Now those who deny Bible perfection for today say that inspiration is a different case altogether because inspiration was a supernatural work of God. But wait a minute! Since when did **preservation** become any less of a supernatural work of God? According to Ps. 12:6-7 and other verses, preservation is providential! That means it is a work guided by God. Preservation is just as much a work of God, in which He utilizes men in the process, just like inspiration was a work of God in which He utilized man. The mechanics may be different, but it is still the same God working through the means of men!

## **3. LACK OF FAITH IN GOD’S ABILITY**

What about the Lord Jesus Christ? Was He perfect? Of course He was (and is)! He is the sinless and perfect Son of God. But how did He enter into this world? Was he not born of a virgin named Mary? Was Mary perfect? Of course not. Though Mary was a virgin and a godly lady, she was a sinner (Luke 2:22) like anyone else. She was imperfect. Yet God used this imperfect sinner to produce the bodily form of the sinless and perfect Son of God! So if it was not difficult for God to use an imperfect human to produce His perfect Son, it should not be difficult for God to use an imperfect man to produce His perfect Words. He is God! He can do that. And THAT is exactly what He did!

## **4. AN IMPRACTICAL & ILLOGICAL ARGUMENT**

God promised to preserve His pure Words. It makes absolutely no sense to say that God inspired His perfect Words, but did not intend to preserve them so that we can have them today. Why else did God give His Words? He gave them so that we can have them for our spiritual well-being (Mat. 4:4)! Yet we have Christians today that want you to believe that God inspired perfect Words that He did not intend for us to have. They want you to believe that what God preserved for us was imperfect and not inspired. Wrong! This is not what the Bible teaches. What they teach makes no sense. Why would God waste His time inspiring perfect Words and moving men to record them if He didn’t plan for anyone other than the original writers to have them?

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<sup>2</sup> *A Fresh Look at the King James Bible* by Dr. Ralph Yarnell, pg. 33/

## 5. DISREGARDING THE FINAL AUTHORITY

The Bible itself teaches that it is perfect.

Ps 19:7 "The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple."

So if the Bible itself says that God's Word is perfect, and God promised to preserve His Word from generation to generation (which includes **today**), do you really believe that what God preserved for us today is something less than what the Psalmist had?

Where do these Christians get the idea that the Bible today cannot be perfect? They certainly did not get it from the Bible. They got it from unbelievers who don't believe the Bible. They got it from modernists and apostates who set themselves up as the authority over the Bible.

The Bible is our final authority. And IT says that it is perfect. It also says that God promised to preserve His perfect Word (as we have already seen). Are we so foolish to believe that what God promised to preserve for His people is something that is not perfect and not inspired? Nonsense!

De 32:4 "He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he."

The Bible is a work of God. And God's works are perfect. To say that the Bible we hold in our hands is not perfect is to say that it is not a work of God.

### **BIBLE PRESERVATION IS SUPERINTENDED BY GOD**

Someone might respond, "But is not man also a work of God? And yet we are not perfect!" That is true. We are not perfect because God gave us the ability to choose right and wrong. And when man chose to disobey God, sin entered in and man became imperfect. God was not involved in that process. That was totally man's doing. God could have stopped man from sinning if He wanted to. But instead He chose to allow man the ability to make that decision (to obey or disobey God) on his own. But when it comes to Bible preservation, God has been involved in that process from the beginning and for all eternity (Ps. 119:89). God did not promise to preserve man sinless. But He did promise to preserve His **pure** Words (Ps. 12:6-7) from generation to generation. How can those preserved Words be **pure** if they are anything less than **perfect**? Preservation is a work of God in which He has personally superintended and controlled since the beginning.

### **GOD HAS NOT CHANGED!**

These Christians today who do not believe in the perfection of God's Words act as if God retired after He inspired His Words. But the truth is that the same God that

inspired His Words is the same God that preserved those Words. God said in Mal. 3:6, "For I am the Lord, I change not". God has not changed since the days that He breathed His Words. He is just as powerful today as He was back then. And if man's involvement did not stop His Words from being perfect in the process of Inspiration, why should we think that man's involvement would stop God's Words from being perfect in the process of Preservation? Preservation is just as much a work of God as Inspiration.

### **GOD'S POWER OVERRIDES MAN'S LIMITATIONS**

Furthermore, when a man of God faithfully and accurately translates the exact Words that God inspired, that man is being used of God to preserve His Words. And that is not "Double Inspiration". That is what the Bible calls PRESERVATION (Ps. 12:6-7). The doctrine of Preservation guarantees the *perfection* of God's Words. Preservation is a work of the Holy Ghost that involves man just like inspiration did.

God is omnipotent, immutable, and infallible! An imperfect Bible contradicts the very nature and character of God. The involvement of man cannot stop God's power or His promises. The involvement of man cannot stop God from preserving His perfect Word so that we can have them today. Jesus said:

Mt 19:26 "With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible."

### **DENIAL OF BIBLE PERFECTION IS A HUMANISTIC PERSPECTIVE**

Those who don't believe in a perfect Bible today have focused so much on the involvement of man that they forgot to think about the involvement of God in the preservation process of His Word! And that really is the heart of the problem! They are so focused on the limitations of man that they have lost sight of the limitless power and ability of God (see Eph. 3:20)! A godly preacher named Lester Roloff said one time, "The heart of every problem is the heart." Those who deny Bible perfection for today have put God in a box and limited the Holy One of Israel.

### **CONCLUSION: GOD IS FAITHFUL!**

If we do not have God's perfect Word today than God failed to fulfill His promise to preserve His pure Words. That would make God a liar. And if God did preserve His Words but He did not preserve His Words **perfectly** then that would make God's abilities no better than imperfect man. Both thoughts are blasphemous! It is impossible for God to lie. And it is impossible for a perfect God to do an imperfect work.

God DID preserve His perfect Word! And we DO have His perfect Words today, all of them, in English in the King James Bible and in Spanish in the Reina-Valera Gómez Bible!

We can say with the Psalmist:

Ps 119:140 "Thy word is very pure: therefore thy servant loveth it."