

Bible-believing men. It is true that the publicizers of the Revised Standard Version have declared that there was criticism of the doctrine of the King James Version when it was issued, but the only actual evidence that I have ever known them to give of any such claim is the fact that the editors of the King James Version stated in advance that they supposed that their doctrine would be criticized. I know of only one outstanding man of that time who attacked the King James Version. He was one of the best scholars of the day, but had such peculiar personal characteristics that it was very difficult to work with him. Although he criticized it roundly it is not my impression that he ever questioned the loyalty of its editors to belief in the absolute inerrancy of God's Word.

The Modernism of the present day, with its denial of dependability of Scripture, is a recent development. At the time of King James most Christians accepted without question the absolute inerrancy of God's Word. Consequently they were not as careful about stating the doctrine as we have to be today when it is so blatantly attacked in many quarters. I have seen attempts made even to claim that Calvin and Luther did not believe in inerrancy, because of the rather confused interpretations that they sometimes made of particular verses of Scripture. However, from each of them we have many clear statements of their thorough going belief that God's Word is true, and that when we find in it statements that we do not understand we can be sure that if we knew all the facts we would see that the Word of God is absolutely dependable.

The question as to whether the Gideons should continue to distribute the King James Version or to substitute some other version is to quite an extent a practical problem, and its determination requires examination of certain facts to which only you have access. [The correspondent was an Executive Director of Gideons International.] Only you can decide whether the copies in the hotel rooms are having the same life-giving effect upon casual guests as was the case forty or fifty years ago. If the proportion of such results is the same, we can safely conclude that the King James Version will still be an effective instrument for Gideon work for some time to come. If, however, your evidence should prove that these results, while still very impressive, are definitely inferior to those of the past, it is very possible that this may mean that the substitution of a version which is almost