

clear enough that a simple Christian can judge ^{as to} ~~of~~ the correctness of interpretations which may be presented. The necessary truths of ~~salvation~~ ^{salvation} are so clearly stated "that not only the learned, but the unlearned, in a due use of the ordinary means, may attain unto a sufficient understanding of them".

I like the eighth section very much. It declares that the Bible in the original languages is the final authority in all controversies of religion. But it balances this by a declaration that people who do not know the original languages are also commanded to read and search the Scriptures, and that therefore the Scriptures "are to be translated into the vulgar language of every nation unto which they come".

It is to be feared that this declaration of the Westminster Confession is not sufficiently followed today. We have a wonderful translation of the Bible into the English language as it was spoken more than three hundred years ago. No one speaks it that way today. The King James version is not in "the vulgar language" of our nation; it is in a dialect which is rapidly becoming unintelligible to our people. Word after word, phrase after phrase, expression after expression in it is meaningless to the unlearned people of our day. The Confession declares that it is the duty of the learned to study the Bible in the original, which is the only final court of appeal in all controversies. The unlearned are to search through it in a good translation in their common speech. It would be absurd to call the King James version a translation into the common speech of America today.

It is the glory of the King James version that it is the climax of a century of constant effort by many men to discover the best way to translate the Bible into the language of their day. Unless we make similar efforts to attain a thoroughly satisfactory translation into the language of our day, we are failing in one of the great obligations stressed in the Westminster Confession of Faith.