

It is fairly well authenticated, though not completely proven that the Pope gave him that right for four years. There is no absolute proof for that, but there is good evidence pointing in that direction. It looks that way because it was not until four years later that he gave his Spanish archbishop the right to publish his Greek NT which had been prepared with much more care. Erasmus was very much disgusted with having to prepare an edition so rapidly. In the second and third editions he made a few changes, but he was by this time interested in other works and he did not take time to try to get another manuscript and prepare a better edition. This edition that Erasmus made then was copied by others with slight changes and was eventually the foundation of the edition of Stephanus in 1551 that became the standard for England and America. And in this edition which ~~max~~ Stephanus made in 1551 he put in numbered verses for the first time. Our numbered verses in the NT begin with this edition of Stephanus. I used to be puzzled, in fact I was up until two or three days ago, about the fact that some verses in the NT seem not to be in early mss, and that would leave a gap in the numbering wouldn't it if the verse is not so? But the reason is that these numbers were not put in until 1551 at all, and they were put into something that is quite similar to the edition that Erasmus got out. There are comparatively few changes from it.

Now there is nothing bad about the textus receptus. There is nothing in it that is in any way anti-Christian, nothing that is harmful. Paul said Jesus appeared to me. Some scribe may have written Christ Jesus without thinking. If Paul said Christ Jesus, a scribe may have written the Lord Jesus Christ. Little things like that do not affect the sense at all. There is hardly anything in the textus receptus that affects any important idea as compared