

I think that a great part of the credit for that goes to Dr. J.I. Packer who spent the greater part of two nights working on the wording of it. There were others who made real contributions too.

I'd better not take more time on that right now. I maybe better go on to mention a question that was turned in to me that I think is very important. So I want to read it to you.

It's called a practical question: Dan. 7:10. The judgment was set or the court sat. What do you suggest we do about preaching this passage? Is it possible to bring out an interpretation such as yours without bewildering and distracting the audience? Do we simply mention the problem and our opinion, or add remarks about the difficulties of translation, etc. It has been my experience that people have been very touchy about any change in what their version says. Here a difference of meaning seems to be involved.

This, I think is a very important question. Because the spokesman for God has two very important duties. One is to be sure what God says. The other is to say it in a way that will get the truth across. Well now, a person can be sure that God has said that whosoever believes in the Lord Jesus Christ shall be saved. He can be sure that there is only one God. He can be sure there are three persons in the Godhead. There are many things of which we can be absolutely sure.

The vital task of the Christian interpreter is to get these things across which are absolutely clear in Scripture. Therefore God sometimes uses people with no education who read a few simple truths and present them. It's far better to present a few simple truths and have them -- people get them, than to have a great deal of truth presented in such a way that nobody gets any of it.

So this is a very very vital part of the work of every one of us, and we do not want to confuse people. If a person says, Some say this and some say that.... I remember hearing of a minister one of whose congregation brought him a big sack of potatoes. He said, I surely appreciate this, but why did you bring me these potatoes? She said, I've so often heard you say that the common taters (commentaters) disagree with you! I think she had no idea what he was talking about, and there is no point in that. We have to have some idea of the people to whom we talk how much they can understand.

At the same time God gave his Word not simply to ~~the~~ deal with a few simple truths, or He would have given us two or three chapters-- for the whole Bible. His Word gives us a great deal that is absolutely clear and a great deal that has tremendous relevance at one time and is difficult to understand at another time. There may be parts of the Bible that we have great difficulty in understanding today that have just exactly the truth God's people will need 10 years from now, if the Lord tarries. New problems arise all the time, and the answer to the problems is in the Bible.