

RUSSELL SANDERS

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MODERN BIBLE TRANSLATIONS – LESSON 4

TWO VERSIONS WITH DISTINCT FLAWS

We have examined the “critical thinking scholarship” which has resulted in a plethora of modern versions of the bible. I am tempted to call them “modern perversions” since they have eliminated parts of the Bible that are essential to our faith and doctrine, but I will call them “versions” so as not to upset a lot of people.

Today we will begin to look at some of those changes, although we may only be scratching the surface of the alterations. We will focus on the changes found in two popular versions although there are many others. I will give a more comprehensive list at the end of this series, but for now we will consider the New International Version (NIV) and English Standard Version (ESV).

Why these two? The New International Version (NIV) has been formally adopted as the official version of many denominational churches, including the Pentecostal Bible college from which I earned my bachelor’s degree in Bible. The English Standard Version (ESV) is included because the highly respected bible distribution organization known as the Gideons International has officially adopted it as an alternative to the King James Version (KJV).

The most important flaw of these two versions is the elimination of the word **“begotten”** in John 3:16. To review Lesson 1 of this series (6-3-22) [click here](#). It is absolutely essential to read “only begotten Son” as that alone is the unique identity of Jesus Christ.

The NIV says that God gave **“his one and only son”** which makes it a corrupted verse. Satan delights in this perversion. God has millions of sons (including me) but only **one begotten** Son. It corrupts Jesus’ true identity and denies that God has multitudes of created sons and/or adopted (through Jesus’ blood) sons. It sets the stage for a radical change in doctrine.

The English Standard Version says that God **“gave his only Son”** which is also perverted. If you read another version, always check John 3:16 for “begotten” and if it is missing you have a bible that has been compromised.

A second verse that I personally use as my “litmus test” is Colossians 1:14 where the KJV reads of Jesus, **“in whom we have redemption through His blood, even the forgiveness of sins.”** We can have no redemption or forgiveness apart from the shed blood of Jesus Christ.

The NIV says, **“...in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.”** The ESV also says, **“...in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.”** Both versions eliminate the blood of Jesus as a factor in our salvation. How much more perverted can the doctrine of our redemption be? Without His shed blood there would be no salvation. Folks, we are only scratching the surface. Over the next couple of days, we will look at examples where entire verses or passages are eliminated from these modern bible versions, so stay tuned.