

Teaching Sound Doctrine

Bible Translations Pt.2

D. Continual copying.

1. As copies became worn, they would make more copies from the copies.
2. They would take the old copies and reverently destroy them.
 - a. Putting them in a large wooden box called a Genuzim, Gheniza, or Genizah which when filled they would bury or burn.
 - b. Most of the copies were now possess were those which had been worn to the point of no longer using.
 - c. These copies are now called manuscripts.
3. Presently we possess over 5800 Greek manuscripts catalogued.
 - a. Few of these contain the entire New Testament; some are only small fragments.
 - b. The different categories.
 - (1) Papyri (written on papyrus).
 - (2) Uncials (written in all capital letters).
 - (3) Minuscules (written in cursive and small letters).
 - (4) Lectionaries (lessons developed from the gospels and epistles which contain portions of the Bible text).
 - (5) Ostraca (broken pieces of pottery which contain bible verses).
 - (6) Talismans (good luck charms).

E. Variations.

1. In copying any long document, errors are going to creep into the copy. These are variations.

2. Two categories.

a. Unintentional.

(1) Most scribes worked for long hours at a desk with poor lighting, copying a long manuscript, which was handwritten.

(a) Early manuscripts were written without spaces, punctuation, and all letters were capitalized.

(b) Consider these examples:

(i) HEISNOWHERE.

a) He is no where.

b) He is now here.

(ii) BUTGODBETHANKEDTHATYEWERE
THESERVANTSOFSINBUTYEHAVE
OBEYEDFROMTHEHEARTTHAT
FORMOFDOCTRINEWHICHWAS
DELIVEREDYOUBEINGTHENMADE
FREEFROMSINYEBECAMETHE
SERVANTSOFRIGHTEOUSNESS

a) The above

b) Rom. 6:17-18 “17 But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. 18 Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.”

(iii) FORIKNOWNOTHINGBYMYSELFYETAMINOTHEREBYJUSTIFIEDBUTHETHATJUDGETHMEISTHELORDTHEREFOREJUDGENOTHINGBEFORETHETIMEUNTILTHELORDCOMEWHOBOTHWILLBRINGTOLIGHTTHEHIDDEN THINGSOFDARKNESSANDWILLMAKEMANIFESTTHECOUNSELS OFTHEHEARTSANDTHENSHALLEVERYMANHAVEPRAISE OFGODANDTHESE THINGSBRETHRENIHAVEINAFIGURE TRANSFERREDTOMYSELFANDTOAPOLLOSFORYOURSAKESTHATYEMIGHTLEARNINUSNOTTOTHINKOFMENAB

OVETHATWHICHISWRITTENTHATNOONEOFYOUBEPUFFEDUPFORONEAGAINSTANOTHER

a) The above:

b) This is 1 Cor. 4:4-6 “4 For I know nothing by myself; yet am I not hereby justified: but he that judgeth me is the Lord. 5 Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God. 6 And these things, brethren, I have in a figure transferred to myself and to Apollos for your sakes; that ye might learn in us not to think *of men* above that which is written, that no one of you be puffed up for one against another.”

(2) Sometimes one would dictate to others—think of all the times you thought a person said one word when they actually said another.

b. Intentional.

(1) A scribe or corrector trying to correct what he perceives to be a mistake by a previous scribe.

(2) Trying to harmonize a passage with:

(a) Other readings

(b) A common practice.

(c) A false doctrine.

F. Translations.

1. They would immediately translate the books into foreign languages.

2. These greatly help in determining the text of the Bible.

3. Some translations are older than some of the major manuscripts.

G. The writings of the “Church Fathers” as they quoted from the Bible also helps in determining the Bible text.