



Greetings in Jesus' name. Jesus means Yahweh saves. Indeed God is our Saviour. The name Jesus reminds us that we need



God. We need Divine Intervention. What are our problems? Let discuss one of them – anxiety.

Have you ever had a time in your life when things were so overwhelming that you could not sleep? Have there been times when you were so preoccupied with a problem that you do not seem to be able to function? If so, you have anxiety.

What is anxiety?

Worry or anxiety are different from concern and excitement. You can be excited about something and be thrilled with anticipation. That is not the same as worry. You can be concerned about something and make plans to address these concerns and that is not the same as anxiety. It is when our concerns become overwhelming and uncontrollable that we have become anxious. Chuck Swindoll calls worry the "universal addiction".

Paul understood the natural tendency to become anxious. He knew that anxiety robs us of joy. The apostle Paul wrote,

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:6,7)

We need to recognize and admit that anxiety is not right

Do you hate it when people tell you not to worry? It is so easy for someone to say and a lot harder to do. Do you sometimes feel that the person who is telling you not to worry is one who does not full understand your problem because if they did they would be worried too?

I just returned from a holiday to Korea and Hong Kong. While I was enjoying myself, John was struggling to get this issue of The Vine together.

Many people came up to me and asked if I was stuck in Korea due to the pilots' strike? Well thanks to your prayers and God's favour, we were not even aware there was any strike. We arrived and departed on schedule as if nothing had happened in between. The weather was cool and we had a good time.

When we touched down in HongKong, the pilot announced that we had brought the sunshine because it had been pouring unceasingly for the last few days. Though it was hot, thank God it was not rainy.

Thank God for His protection and providence.

Martin Cheah

In Matthew 6 Jesus says worry is not right and shows a lack of confidence in the person, character, and ability of God.

Listen to the words of Jesus

"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life. "And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. (Matthew 6:25-33)

So why is worry not right? Jesus gives us several reasons.

- ✦ First, It puts the focus on the wrong issues. Jesus said, "Is not life more important than food?" When we worry our perspective gets lopsided. We begin to focus on things that are secondary and in the process lose sight of what is really important. Worry distorts our thinking. When we worry we tend to look at situations through a magnifying glass which makes things bigger than they really are. When we worry molehills become mountains.
- ✦ Second, worry causes us to lose sight of who we belong to. Jesus argues that God is more than capable of taking care of us. He cares for the birds, the flowers, and the animals. When we worry we show that we think that we are less important to God than these things. We are not. God will take care of us. Jesus tells us that God knows what we need. And because God knows what we need He will take care of His children. In another parable about prayer Jesus says, *"Which of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him! (Matthew 7:7-9)*
- ✦ Third, worry is a wasteful activity. Jesus said, "Who by worry can add a single hour to his life." Worry is wasted energy. There is nothing productive about worry. It leads to no where. It is like sitting on a rocking chair rocking

yourself to death. Worry hinders us rather than helps us. Worry paralyzes rather than energizes us.

We need to take the Divine cure for anxiety

Worry is not right. But what do we do about it? How do we combat this very human tendency? Paul tells us to combat worry by prayer. He tells us to pray about everything (no exceptions). In other words, there is no problem, no circumstance, no situation that cannot be brought before the Father. We need hide nothing from Him. Rather than talk to ourselves and get ourselves all worked up. Paul tells us that there are two elements to this prayer. The first is petition.

Petition is asking. James tells us we are not living victoriously because we are not turning to the Lord. We quarrel, fight, kill, covet. We will manipulate, rationalize, and work ourselves to death. We try everything to address our problems except the one thing that can really help . . . prayer! We don't have because we don't ask or because we are asking for the wrong things!

Jesus said :

Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened. - Matthew 7:7,8

When we pray we must be specific. We must ask God for help. But not only are we told to "ask", we are also told to do so with thanksgiving. Let's think to our children. We are eager to help if we feel that our help will be appreciated.

When your generosity is taken for granted, when it is something that is demanded or expected then we resist. I think God is the same way. When we are ungrateful in prayer we act like God owes us! There is a difference between a child who says, "Give me this" and the child who says, "May I have this?" When we pray we must always do so confident that God will provide what is best for us. We present the need and then trust that God knows the best way to meet that need. To combat worry we gratefully give God our problem, confident that He is willing and able to help us.

The Peace of God

This leads us to the promise that God gives. He tells us what will happen if we stop worrying and instead start turning to God with the trusting attitude of a grateful child. "And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." We are not told that all our

problems will go away. We are not told that we will immediately understand the circumstances we are dealing with. We are not even told that the problem won't seem to get worse before it gets better. We are told that the anxiety will be replaced with peace. If we turn to God worry gives way to faith, anxiety gives way to a calm confidence.

- ✦ When we pray in this way we are reminding ourselves that our God is capable. We remind ourselves that we are in good hands. When we remember what God is able to do it helps us to relax.
- ✦ When we pray we remind ourselves of how caring God is. God knows our need and wants to help us with it. He is not indifferent. He is willing to help us when we ask for His help.
- ✦ When we pray we remind ourselves of how wise God is. In our prayers we remember that God knows what He is doing. What He allows He allows for a reason.

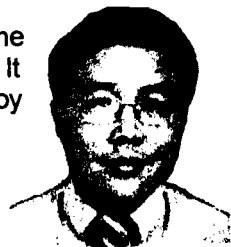
Now if you put these things all together you can see why peace comes.

Conclusion

If so, it is time to do several things. First, it is time to repent. It is time to confess that you have been living as if God doesn't care or isn't capable to help you. Face this issue squarely. Ask yourself, "Do I believe or do I not?"

Second, it is time to pray. It is time to get alone in the quiet and open your heart to the Father. Do not pretend, instead tell Him what you are really concerned about. Be honest. Do not stop with superficial things. Make your requests known to God. And as you pray thank Him for the faithfulness that He has proved in the past. Thank Him for His willingness to help. Thank Him for His wisdom and His grace.

And finally, it is time to serve the Lord with gladness. It is time to rest in His arms. It is time to leave the future with the Lord. It is time to give Him our worries so we can experience the joy that comes from grace.



Pastor Martin Yee

No, I did not get my car because the COE shot up too steeply. But who knows when we can get a \$1 dollar COE, maybe the next round?

Martin Cheah

It Costs To Be A Christian

By J.C. Ryle

It costs little to be a mere outward Christian. A man has only got to attend a place of worship twice on Sunday, and to be tolerably moral during the week, and he has gone as far as thousands around him ever go in religion. All this cheap and easy work: it entails no self-denial or self-sacrifice. If this is saving Christianity, and will take us to heaven when we die, we must alter the description of the way of life (Matt. 7:14), and write, "Wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to heaven."

But it does cost something to be a real Christian according to the standard of the Bible.

There are enemies to be overcome, battles to be fought, sacrifices to be made, an Egypt to be forsaken, a wilderness to be passed through, a cross to be carried, a race to be run. Conversion is not putting a man in an armchair and taking him easily to heaven. It is the beginning of a mighty conflict in which it costs much to win the victory.

It will cost a man his self-righteousness. He must cast away all pride and high thoughts, and conceit of his own goodness. He must be content to go to heaven as a poor sinner saved only by free grace, and owing all to the merit and righteousness of another.

It will cost a man his sins. He must be willing to give up every habit and practice which is wrong in God's sight. He and sin must quarrel if he and God are to be friends.

Christ is willing to receive any sinners. But He will not receive them if they stick with their sins.

It will cost a man his love of ease. He must take heed to his behaviour every hour of the day, in every company, and in every place, in public as well as in private, among strangers as well as at home. He must be careful over his time, his conduct in every relation to life. He must be diligent about his prayers, his Bible reading, and his use of Sundays, with all their means of grace.

It will cost a man the favour of the world. He must count it no strange thing to be mocked, ridiculed, slandered, persecuted, and even hated. He must not be surprised to find his opinions and practices in religion despised and held up to scorn. He must submit to be thought by many a fool, an enthusiast, and a fanatic — to have his words perverted and his actions misrepresented. It is always unpleasant to be spoken against, and forsaken, and lied about, and to stand alone. But there is no help for it.

The cup which our master drank must be drunk by His disciples. They must be "despised and rejected of men" (Isaiah 53:3). Let us set down that item last in our account. To be a Christian it will cost a man the favour of the world.

From Life Indeed.

BEHOLD, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew Him not.

be starting a new outreach programme for the children called Bartimaeus Club. To date, only six children have received parental permission to join. Please pray that in the near future more children will be able to get permission to come. Pray for manpower and transport for this outreach.

- Our combined camp this year will be held in Singapore on 7th through 10th September with the theme "Take root downwards, and bear fruit upwards". Pastor Robert Lum will be one of our speakers. To date, 34 Malaysians and Singaporeans have signed up for the camp. Please pray that many more blind people will sign up soon. The closing date is on 1st July.
- I will be going to Kuala Lumpur on 2nd June to visit the Agape Services for the Blind. On 3rd June, I will travel to Seremban to attend a five-day seminar on inner healing. I will return to Singapore on 8th June. Please pray for the Lord's protection upon my journeys and that this trip will be fruitful.
- In late March, a social worker called to refer a newly blinded person to us. In April, another medical social worker called to refer a blind lady. These people do not know the Lord yet. Please pray that the Lord will anoint us to be His powerful instruments to bring His love and hope to the many who are depressed.



Prayer Walk on 30th June

If you wish to join us, please call our office to sign up so that we can keep you updated.

*Yours in our Father's service,
Mrs Cheong Cheng Choo*

What time is it?

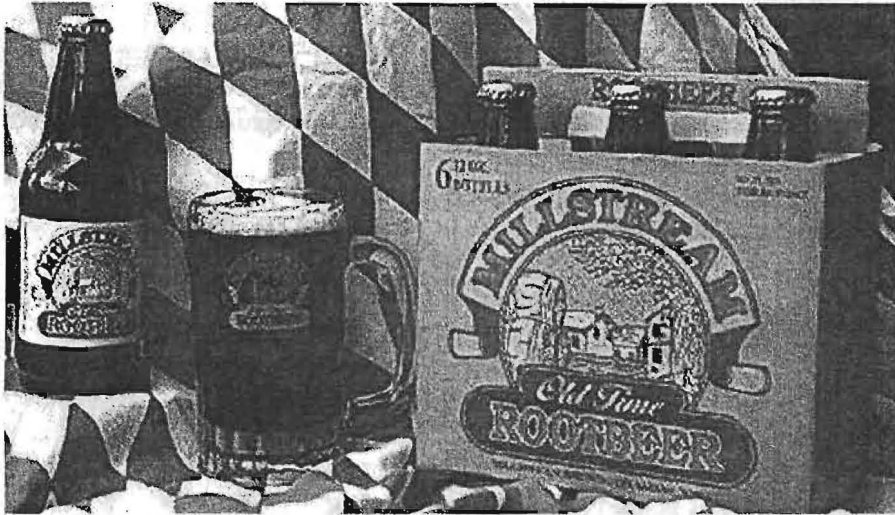
It is time for a beer break at a watering hole. Here comes the waiter.

Waiter: Sir, would you like to have some beer?

John: Oh, sure. Let me have a glass of root beer, please.

Waiter: I beg your pardon, sir, what beer would you like?

John: Root beer. Do you have the Millstream Root Beer of Old Time vintage?



I am used to telling people that I am a teetotaler. Only recently did I realise that I have not been very accurate because I do drink beer – my favourite root beer, that is. Most people are unaware of the fact that root beer does contain an alcohol (ethanol) which, together with carbon dioxide, is a product of yeast fermentation in the brewing process. However tiny the amount of ethanol present, I would

not pass muster that licensing requirement of a particular denomination (as cited in March Vine's Pastor's Word) for abstinence 'from the use of alcohol in all forms'. Horror of horrors: Have I committed a double sin of first telling an untruth about being a teetotaler and secondly for consuming alcohol albeit in a very minute form?

The March Vine's essay on the issue of drinking alcohol was very much reassuring to me that I may be at peace to ignore those 'sin-sniffing' legalists. Well, the issue is all too familiar to me, as I have a relative who never failed to rankle on the ungodliness or sinfulness of alcohol consumption by Christians at every opportune moment whenever we 'had to meet' at a dinner or festive gathering and the issue came naturally into play. I always managed to survive unscathed on every such occasion only because I, not touching any alcoholic drink, was safe from his lecturing nag.

Being a mere root beer-drinker certainly does not make me holier than my wife who is an occasional small social drinker of the common stronger brews and who has also tried health tonics with alcohol content. Before anyone jumps up to shoot off his/her mouth a sanctimonious lecture, I must ask of the person whether he/she finds any offence taking any medications with alcoholic base. It is clear what this says of alcohol consumption as distinct from alcohol abuse. In 1 Tim. 5:23, Paul even encourages the use of a little wine for health reasons.

For balance, however, it must be said that alcohol, though useful to the body in temperate amounts, is very powerful in effect. So, just like a potent drug, it has to

be given due respect in the way we administer it for our body's benefit. The warnings in the Bible against intoxication by wine are unequivocal in highlighting the beverage's immense potential for harm and the ease with which one may be (even if unwittingly) carried away. Have you forgotten the recent heartbreaking case of a talented Bible-carrying young senior Army officer losing his whole bright career future due to the ugly criminal consequence of a moment's celebratory indulgence with alcohol? How about the latest tragic news from Nepal's royal household arising out of an inebriated Crown Prince? Now read the following sobering reminder about alcohol as a great remover:

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*"Alcohol will remove smiles from the faces of wives and mothers. Or husbands and fathers. It will remove laughter from the lips of innocent children. It will remove even the joy of playtime.*

*Alcohol will remove heat from the home, furniture from its rooms, and food from its table.*

*Alcohol is a great remover. As a remover of things alcohol has no peer.*

*It removes fine homes and leaves hovels. It removes plenty and leaves*



*poverty. It removes fame and leaves shame. It removes honor and leaves humiliation. It removes self-esteem and leaves disgust.*

*But removing things is not all that alcohol will do. It not only removes stains, but also creates them.*

*Alcohol can quickly stain a reputation. Worse, it can gradually stain and deform a character. It can mar the potential of any man or woman who indulges. And it can ultimately ruin the person caught in its deceptive snare.*

*Alcohol can mark a man for life with its cursed stain. And it can remove from one's experience everything, great or small, that makes life worthwhile."* (Source: Internet)



As Solomon wisely said in Prov. 20:1 (NIV), "Wine is a mocker and beer a brawler; whoever is led astray by them is not wise."

Aware of the devastating potential of alcohol abuse, we should exercise restraint in the consumption of alcohol. Those who have any problem of self-control ought to be extra vigilant, better with the help of companions, against the ecstasy of an initial cup getting a grip on their resistance to the temptation of a second cup, then a third, ... Parents, regardless

of their personal approach to drinking, should know how to advise their impressionable teens and guard them from the pitfall of entrapment by partying euphoria or by the delusion of alcohol as a "panacea" for all ills ranging from stress to adolescent problems.

"Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him; for God's temple is sacred, and you are that temple." (1 Cor. 3:16, 17 NIV)

Do you always ponder the question: "What time is it?" Whatever your answer, tell yourself it is not time to be drowned in a watering hole. No harm, though, having a drink in moderation provided that you are always in control to remain sober under all circumstances.

*CHEERS!*



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*An alternative response to the question:*

*What time is it?*



### Harvest Time

Psalm 22:27 - "All the ends of the world shall remember and turn unto the Lord: and all the kindreds of the nations shall worship before thee."

Isaiah 52:10 - "The Lord hath made bare his holy arm in the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God."

### Time to Pray for the Harvest

Romans 11:25 - "For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in." (KJV)

Luke 10: 2: "Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest." (KJV)



### The 21st Century Harvest in China (World's most populous)

Genesis 22:18: "And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice." (KJV)

Acts 26:18: "To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me." (KJV)



*Now, the next question:*

**Are you slumbering in bed  
or hard at work in the fields?**

# KJV vs. NIV

In recent articles published in the Vine, mentions were made of the KJV vs. NIV issue.

May I share with you my experience in encountering with the above issue and some of my thoughts. I wish to emphasise that the purpose of this sharing is not to add to the debate or to take sides. There is nothing new that I can add on, and I sincerely believe this is not what our Lord wants to see happening among Christians. It

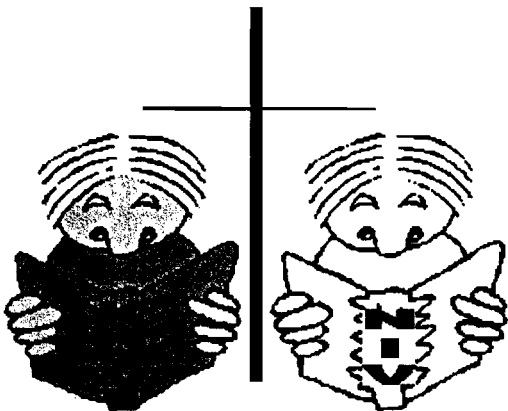
is my hope that this article will help some of us to see the issue in perspective, and to accept the situation and be at peace with it.

Several years ago, by God's mercy and grace, I became a Christian.

When my colleague Bro BP who came from a church that uses only the KJV Bible, learnt of my conversion, he was pleased. When he learnt that JCC uses the NIV Bible, he tried very hard (an understatement) to convince me that NIV is a corrupted version, and that I should use KJV instead. He also invited me to his church.

I was confused. Here was a very young Christian who had zero knowledge on the teachings in the Holy Bible, looking forward to learning from his Pastors and mature Christians (including Christian colleagues) on the Word of God, being told instead to be wary of the Bible that his church is using!

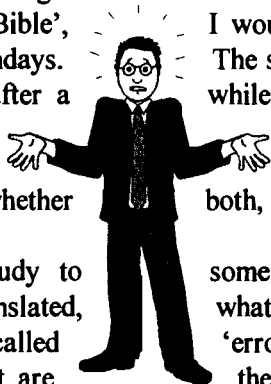
For a while, Bro BP talked and supplied me with articles written by KJV-only authors to prove his point that if I continued to learn from a corrupted bible, my understanding of God's Word would be corrupted and you know what he implied the consequences would be. Being new to Christianity, I was really confused. I believed what he said. I believed the articles he showed me. But if this is



the case, why are there many churches using NIV? Bro BP's answers were convincing but there were still some question marks in my mind.

Naturally, I sought clarifications from Pastor Yee and other mature Christians whose churches use NIV. Their answers were convincing too! I also received more articles, this time from NIV-only authors. Did it clear my confusion? NO.

To be honest with you, for the next few months after that, my mind switched between believing that KJV is The Bible, and NIV. In the week that I believed KJV is 'The Bible', I would read only KJV and would bring KJV to JCC on Sundays. The same went with NIV. To some extent I was mentally tired after a while, and found myself going around in circles. I began to pray for God's help. I wanted to put a stop to this confusion and decide once and for all which Bible, or whether both, could be used.



I began to study to some level of details how both KJV and NIV Bibles were translated, and what ancient texts they were based on, compared the so called 'errors' found on both versions and more importantly, what are the unique characteristics of each version. I read many (not all, for this is impossible) articles from both KJV-only and NIV-only authors.

Let me stress here that what I have learnt do not make me knowledgeable enough to advise those facing the same 'confusion', on what to do, but it helps me solve my problem and I want to thank God for this knowledge and share with you with the hope that you will find it helpful:

- 1) Both KJV and NIV texts are similar more than 90% of the time, some would say more than 95%. Both are consistent in their teachings on fundamental biblical doctrines that lead people to salvation. I do not wish to point out so-called 'errors' from both versions because I believe that these errors do not affect salvation of Christians. Therefore, I believe both KJV and NIV Bibles can be used. A point to note is that NIV is based on older ancient text, not KJV.

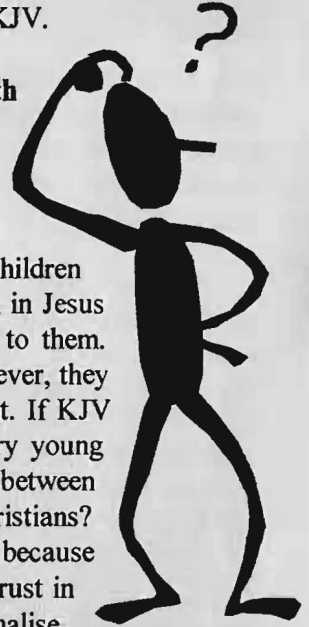


- 2) It is interesting to observe that Dr. Henry M. Morris, a scientist and staunch supporter of KJV and who authored the commentaries in the KJV 'The Defender's Study Bible', honestly acknowledging that *No* English translation of the Bible is perfect. (Italics mine). He must have included KJV. (I wish to mention here that the above-mentioned study bible is one of my favourites). Similarly, the committee on NIV Bible translation also acknowledged their imperfection in translating NIV. These are very highly educated Christians who had spent many years studying and know what they are talking about. Who are we to say that this bible version or that bible version is THE UNCORRUPTED BIBLE? Where is the humility?
- 3) KJV Bible uses the literal approach in translation; i.e. word for word translation from ancient texts. If you like to know how the ancient texts were worded, use KJV.
- 4) Also, since KJV is a word for word translation, the impact of the message may not be apparent unless we are careful. For example, in the narrative where Lord Jesus feeds five thousand people, KJV faithfully quoted Peter's remark that 200-penny (or denarii) worth of bread may not feed all of them. In NIV, the words were 'eight month's wages would not buy enough bread for each one of them'. For KJV reader, you will need to do some conversion into today's equivalent to feel the impact of our Lord's great love and great miracle in feeding the five thousand.
- 5) For KJV readers, you may need to be aware that some of the English words used in the Bible are either no longer in use, or the meanings have changed over time. For example, 'Thou' and 'Thee' are no longer in use, and the word 'communicate' may mean 'share' or 'fellowship' instead of the modern day meaning. There are other examples, and I am only quoting a few.
- 6) NIV, on the other hand being a newer version, uses paraphrase in translation and uses the modern day English that we know today.
- 7) From the above, you'll realise that we cannot really compare KJV with NIV and force ourselves to a conclusion. They were translated using different approaches. One is an apple and the other orange. Just like before you start using an electronic gadget, study the operations manual and know its features. Then you can get more joy out of using it.



8) If you are like me who knows little about God's Word, use your time to learn. Earnestly seek wisdom and divine guidance through prayers. Use KJV or NIV as appropriate. Currently, I spend 60-70% of my time reading the Bible using NIV and the balance using KJV and I am at peace with it. My experience helped me to minimise misinterpretations when using KJV.

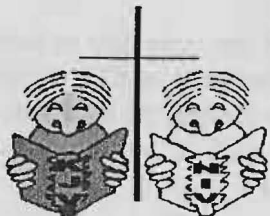
9) **Do not confuse a non-believer or young believer with KJV vs. NIV or other Bible versions. Your priority is to point him to the Lord Jesus and see that he is spiritually cared for.**



10) For believing-old folks who are illiterate, and young children who cannot read and understand the Bible, their faith in Jesus Christ is through hearing the Word being preached to them. Therefore, KJV or NIV is not an issue for them. However, they are still saved by Grace through faith in Jesus Christ. If KJV and NIV is not an issue for these very old and very young Christians, why should it be an issue for those 'in-between adults'? Are we the 'in-between adults' better Christians? No. In fact, young children make better Christians because their trust in God is simple and total, just like their trust in their parents or guardians. Adults tend to rationalise, analyse, argue about words, and think carefully before they finally decide to trust God. But our Lord said that "unless we receive the Kingdom of God like a little child, we will never enter it". Unless a man receives the Kingdom now, simply and naturally as the children received Him, he will not enter into it when it is finally established in the consummation. Period.

11) We have to be careful that this KJV vs. NIV issue is not carried to the extreme, for however good the intention is to show the inadequacies of either version, we may indirectly be sowing divisions within the body of Christ, building ourselves into a sect, or worshipping the Bible instead of our Lord. Our Lord said that if a kingdom (or church) is divided against itself, it cannot stand. Apostle Paul also gave repeated warnings in the book of 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy and Titus on the need to learn and teach sound biblical doctrines and not to be involved in unnecessary controversies about the law and words. It will only ruin those who listen, Paul wrote.

Both the KJV and NIV have their unique qualities.

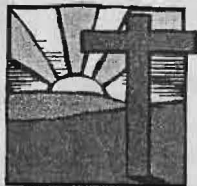


may be more confused than *comfort* means *strengthen*, means *prevent*, and *prevent* examples of perplexing 1:5,6, 1 Kings 11:1, &



helped. In KJV, *suffer* means *let*, *let* means *precede*. Some verses are: Psalm Ezekiel 27:25.

The NIV is an excellent translation by scholars from a wide variety of church backgrounds contemporary English British spellings makes of church backgrounds contemporary English British spellings makes it very well received by evangelical churches worldwide. It is very suitable for reading aloud and for teaching. It has served its intended purpose effectively.



Whichever version you use or recommend to someone, satisfy yourself prayerfully that you or the person you recommend it to will derive benefits from it to grow spiritually. Be wary of anybody who runs about with a crusading zeal to pit one Bible translation against another!

If you are perplexed about the choice of Bible, you should not abstain from consulting your pastor even as you "ask of God, that giveth [wisdom] to all *men* liberally, and upbraideth not ..." (James 1:5, KJV) Discernment comes to those who are humble. "He guides the humble and teaches them His way." (Psalms 25:9, NIV)



From the editor's pen

