

# The Christian Arsenal

[www.christianarsenal.com](http://www.christianarsenal.com)

## KJV Only Debate

It is with some degree of hesitation that we address this issue. This has turned into a bitter debate that has caused more problems that it has cured. It has caused friends to break friendships, confused babes in Christ, and repulsed sinners from ever wanting to darken the doors of a church. I have friends on both sides of the issue and as I have kept contact with them over the years, I find what seems to be a seed of bitterness that lingers on. This is a sad spoil of war for a soldier of the cross.

In the tale of Don Quixote, you read of a well intentioned Conquistador whose escapades included battling a wind mill who he believed to be a giant as well as battling a flock of sheep all because of his poor eye sight. I submit that sometimes we as Christians are somewhat blind to what really matters.

Am I blind to the debate? NO! I have studied Biblical languages and read several books on both sides. My response is: Matthew 28:19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen. While so many are giving so much time and energy, there is a lost and dying world that needs Jesus. A couple of years ago someone had put a few signs up around the city that said, " The NIV...Satan's Masterpiece" The real masterpiece is that Satan has Christians fighting over Bible translations as the world is going to Hell! He couldn't be happier. Taking this to the streets, building churches on a 1611 translation of the Bible, and loudly condemning those who do plays right into Satan's master plan for the church. "What plan is that?" you may ask. Any activity that takes the Church's focus off of the business that Jesus said we are to be about.

At this point you may wonder if we believe that any translation will do? NO! We do not hold translations in esteem where the translation committee holds a liberal bias. By that we mean that they do not accept God's word as the final authority for rule and faith. They do not believe in the inspiration of scripture. They do not believe in miracles. They reject the deity of Christ. The Revised Standard Version and The New English Bible are two with liberal translation committees. The New World Translation is a product of the Jehovah's Witness cult. The errors in this translation are easy enough for a first year New Testament Greek student to catch.

- **A demon behind every translation.**
- **Reading KJV English is not a sign of superior knowledge of English.**
- **It is a real problem for those who aren't used to it.**
- **What is inspired?**

These are just a few notes in defense of some translations of the Bible other than the KJV, particularly the NIV and the NASB. We have no intention of defending all modern translations or paraphrases. In fact, we agree that many of them are bad (just as many older translations are bad). Nor do we wish to attack the KJV or label it as a bad translation. However, it is not perfect - no translation is. For this reason we will be making reference to some problems with and mistakes in the KJV - not to tear it apart, but to show that it (like the NIV and the NASB) has problems.

Two more things should probably be understood before we continue. Firstly, there is no doctrine (large or small) that is at stake. So far we have not been able to find or have shown to us anything that is taught in the KJV but not taught in the NIV or NASB and vice versa. This is not said to belittle verbal inspiration but it is said to point out that perhaps this issue has been blown out of proportion. It is odd that if (as some claim) Satan is behind the NIV and NASB he has neglected to change any of their teachings.

Secondly, the subject of translations is a pretty difficult subject. It involves things like textual

# The Christian Arsenal

[www.christianarsenal.com](http://www.christianarsenal.com)

criticism (the process by which the correct copies of the Greek New Testament we have are distinguished from the incorrect copies), methods of translating, knowledge of Greek and Hebrew, etc. and many other fields of knowledge. All of these are certainly far beyond the capacities of most of us so we should avoid speaking as authorities on them. John Darby wrote a lengthy preface to his translation explaining about the difficulties involved in producing a translation in order "that persons not versed in the matter may not hazard themselves in forming conclusions without any real knowledge of the questions."