

Salvation and the NIV & ESV Bibles

This morning I preached about the importance of giving our testimony and sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ and him crucified to the lost. One of the ways that we lead people to the Lord, is by showing them verses in the Bible that demonstrate the need for salvation and how we are saved. Tonight, I want to look at how the NIV and ESV deals with salvation compared to the KJV.

Why did Jesus come?

We know that by Adam, sin entered into the world and man became separated from God because of our sins. However, Jesus Christ came to this earth for a specific purpose, he said he did “not come to destroy men’s lives, but to save them.”

- This was Jesus’ sole purpose to come and to die on the Cross for our sins and any other reason that men give hinders the Gospel message.
 - Jesus wasn’t a pretty good person, because a pretty good person couldn’t die for the sins of the world, only a sinless man could do that.
- In Luke 9, the Samaritans rejected Jesus and his disciples asked Jesus to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them as Elias did?

Luke 9:55-56 But he turned, and rebuked them, and said, **Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of. 56 For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them.** And they went to another village.

- In Jesus’ rebuke and answer to his disciples, he reminds them that Jesus came to save men’s lives, not to destroy them.
 - Religion has done the opposite many times, it destroys lives while giving men a false sense of security.

NIV – Luke 9:55 But Jesus turned and rebuked them. 56 Then he and his disciples went to another village.

ESV – Luke 9:55 But he turned and rebuked them. 56 And they went on to another village.

- He rebuked them because it was ridiculous for them to ask for Jesus to consume them with fire, aren’t you glad God is longsuffering.
- But, the NIV and ESV don’t include Jesus Christ’s mission for coming to this earth, to save sinners! That part of the verse is missing!

That isn’t the only instance of covering up Jesus’ mission to save sinners, look at Matthew 18:11 **Matthew 18:11** **For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost.**

The verse is missing entirely in the NIV and the ESV.

- Who wouldn’t want anyone to know the real purpose that Jesus came to this earth?

- Satan loves to attack this type of truth.

Who must we believe on?

Salvation comes when we believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, plain and simple. In John 6, Jesus is telling the Jews that they must believe on him and that he is the bread of life. This passage culminates with verse 66, "From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked with him no more."

- Those that walked away couldn't believe on Jesus Christ that he was the Messiah and that he held the power to give everlasting life.
- It caused them to have to make a choice, and many walked away in unbelief, but inside of that passage, Jesus says this in John 6:47.

John 6:47 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.

- Jesus made it clear that you must believe on him to receive everlasting life, but look at the NIV...

NIV – John 6:47 Very truly I tell you, the one who believes has eternal life.

ESV – John 6:47 Truly, truly, I say to you, the one who believe has eternal life.

- Who has eternal life? One who believes...believes in what? Or whom?
 - Jesus said, believe on me, but the devil wants us to choose ourselves what we want to believe it to have eternal life.
 - Believe in whatever you want, as long as you believe.
 - Unfortunately, people believe in themselves, believe in rituals, believe in false prophets, but none of those believes, no matter how genuine, can bring eternal life, only Jesus Christ.
 - The devil wants the world confused and misguided on their beliefs so that they don't come to Jesus Christ.
 - He doesn't care which lie you put your belief and trust in, he just doesn't want you to trust Jesus with your life!

What about Baptism?

One of the frequent objections we get when sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ with people for salvation, is that they tell me that they have been baptized. They are trusting in a baptism without anything else for salvation, when we know that the Bible clearly teaches that baptism doesn't save your soul.

- Acts 8 gives the story of Philip encountering the Ethiopian eunuch and it provides a great example of witnessing the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the lost.
 - Philip encounters the eunuch reading Isaiah 53 and he uses that passage to preach Jesus to him.

Acts 8:36-38 And as they went on *their* way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, *here is* water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? **37** And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. **38** And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him.

- The eunuch is lost and he asks Philip what would hinder him from being baptized and Philip answers in verse 37, “if thou believes with all thine heart, thou mayest,” which was referring to the Jesus that he had just preached to him.
 - The eunuch answered “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God” and as soon as he said that, they stopped the chariot to baptize him.
 - The eunuch asked, what would hinder or prevent me from being baptized and Philip answered that you are lost and you cannot be baptized until you are saved and trust in Jesus Christ.

NIV – Acts 8:36 As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized? **[37 Missing]** 38 And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him.

ESV – Acts 8:36 And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, “See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized? **[37 Missing]** 38 And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him.”

- It seems that Philip ignored the eunuch’s question in the NIV and ESV because Philip never answers his question...or does he?
 - Ignore the KJV, and think about the scenario, the eunuch sees water and asks what would prevent me from being baptized? And Philip orders the chariot to stop, they both get out and Philip baptizes him...it sounds like Philip answered his question by baptizing him...nothing hinders you a Gentile that was confused about Isaiah, but heard truth about Jesus Christ and without belief you were baptized.
 - This is one of the major deceptions that the devil uses and without verse 37, there is no requirement to first be saved by Jesus Christ before baptism.

What about the Blood?

Jesus Christ died on the Cross to save sinners and we must believe on Jesus Christ for salvation and the Bible is clear that it is the blood that Jesus shed that brings redemption. Paul is talking about Jesus Christ in Colossians 1:14...

Colossians 1:14 In whom we have redemption through his blood, *even* the forgiveness of sins:

- Through the blood of Jesus Christ we have redemption, which means that by the shedding of his blood, he paid the ransom in full, he paid the full price of our sins so that he could forgive us of our sins and deliver us from hell.

NIV – Colossians 1:14 In whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

ESV – Colossians 1:14 In whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

- Both the NIV and ESV are identical and they both remove “through his blood” as if Jesus could have paid our ransom and forgiven us of our sins without shedding his blood on the Cross.
 - Hebrews 9:22 says, “without shedding of blood is no remission” when it compares the law of Moses where blood had to be applied in the holy places repeatedly, but Jesus Christ only had to suffer once and he only had to apply his blood once to bear the sins of many!

The when and how of salvation

I read 1 Corinthians 1:18 in the introduction to the message this morning, where we dealt with chapter 2 and the difference between man’s wisdom and the wisdom of God.

1 Corinthians 1:18 For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.

- The preaching of the Cross is vital, just like we learned from chapter 2, that we need to witness Jesus Christ and the Cross and that Paul determined before going to Corinth that he would share nothing else among them.
 - The preaching of the Cross is what brings salvation and it is to them that perish foolishness, but to those that have believed on Jesus Christ and his finished work on the Cross, it is the power of God!

NIV – 1 Corinthians 1:18 For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

ESV – 1 Corinthians 1:18 For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

- This time the NIV and ESV differ slightly in the NIV saying that the “message of the cross is foolishness” and the ESV says that “the word of the cross is folly” they both are a little different, but they both remove the preaching of the cross.
 - Is there any wonder why true preaching is gone in so many churches today?

- Preaching has been replaced by programs, gimmicks, feel good self-help seminars and soundbites, which the lost world doesn't see as foolish.
- Removing preaching the Cross isn't the worst change, both the NIV and ESV add a single word to the last part of the verse, the word "being" is put between "are" and "saved"!
 - That totally changes the meaning, it goes from "US which ARE saved" find power in the preaching of the Cross to "US who are BEING saved."
 - This teaches that salvation is progressive, it is a long process.
 - If I ask at the end of a message, "Are you saved?" it is a yes or no answer in the KJV, you are either saved or you are lost, but in the ESV and NIV, you could answer yes, no or I'm working on it, it is a process.
 - It makes me ask, what are you doing to progress your salvation?
 - The false religions that teach works for salvation, they can't have a verse that says the church is completely saved and knows it!
 - They need it to be unknown until your good deeds are weighed against your bad deeds after you die.

2 Corinthians 2:15 For we are unto God a sweet savour of Christ, in them that are saved, and in them that perish:

NIV – 2 Corinthians 2:15 For we are to God the pleasing aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing.

ESV – 2 Corinthians 2:15 For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing,

- Yet again another attack on the assurance of salvation, that we are being saved and who knows when it ends, what it looks like when it is achieved?
 - I'm glad that God is not the author of confusion!
 - We can know without a doubt that we are saved!

1 John 5:13 These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.