

# *the* **Dean Burgon News**

## **IN DEFENSE OF TRADITIONAL BIBLE TEXTS**

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OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE DEAN BURGON SOCIETY

MAY, 1979

## **Fundamentalists And The Bible Version Issue**

By Dr. M. H. Reynolds, Jr., Editor  
F.E.A. NEWS & VIEWS

It has become crystal clear that major differences do exist among Fundamentalists over the Bible version issue. It will serve no good purpose to ignore such differences, nor to minimize their importance. Using the excuse that "we cannot afford to further divide our forces" is not valid. **Unity must never take precedence over truth!** God can do His work with many or with few. But, if we are not absolutely sure whether or not we have a reliable version of the Bible; or, if we are not sure which of several different versions is the reliable one, then the very foundation of our faith is at stake. There is no more important issue facing Fundamentalists today!

The position we take on this issue is this: "That the King James Version is the only accurate, reliable English Version—and that all modern Bible versions are defective and should be rejected." We believe this position to be correct, regardless of who stands for or against it. We found it to be the only possible Scriptural, logical, honest, consistent position we could hold after looking at the evidence and considering the alternatives. Our espousal of this position only intensifies with every passing day and with each hour of further study and prayer. It seems incredible that Fundamentalists would steadfastly resist the past attacks of Satan upon the Bible (when liberals questioned certain parts of it or when false cults either added to or subtracted from it) and now place their stamp of approval upon modern Bible versions in which whole portions, verses, phrases and words are either questioned, omitted or added to the Word of God. We consider all of the modern Bible versions to be a part of the most direct and deceitful attack Satan has ever launched upon the verbal inspiration, inerrancy and authority of God's Holy Word!

Now, we realize that many of our Fundamentalist brethren disagree with us. They have made their opposing positions clear through recent "official position" papers, editorials and articles. We believe their positions are wrong but the thorough answer which is deserved and required would demand more space than this editorial allows. Hence, we are already preparing a separate report on this important matter

which we hope to enclose in the May-June mailing. Meanwhile, we believe the positions being taken by our Fundamentalist brethren need to be questioned and challenged.

1. We cannot agree that the King James Version, the New American Standard Version and the New International Version are all reliable, accurate versions which should be accepted and used. How could this be when the KJV differs from the other two in nearly 36,000 instances?

2. We cannot agree that both the Textus Receptus and the Wescott-Hort Greek Texts are accurate, reliable and trustworthy. How can two "original Greek Texts" both be accurate when they differ in over 5,000 instances—especially if you believe the Scriptures are verbally inspired?

3. We cannot agree that Evangelical scholarship can be trusted in the area of Bible translation. Many of today's evangelicals do not believe in the inerrancy and verbal inspiration of the Scriptures and even those who do are often found disobeying or twisting the Scriptures, no matter what version they use. Can they be trusted any more than the liberals?

4. We cannot agree that only Greek or Hebrew scholars are qualified to make a decision or announce a conclusion on this issue. We have read what many of the scholars have written. They do not even agree among themselves. In addition, we are finding that many of God's ordinary, Bible-taught, Spirit-led children (even some without any formal education) are able to detect the many inconsistencies of today's scholarship whereas the scholars seem blinded to their own illogical, unscriptural suppositions and conclusions.

5. We cannot agree that one can be a true defender of the King James Version while at the same time undermining its foundation in the Textus Receptus. That should be clear to all.

Beloved, we have no desire to be devious—but we cannot remain silent as some would have us do. Were we to remain silent about so important an issue, we would be unfaithful in our God-given responsibility to be a faithful "watchman". People are asking questions about these new translations. Are Fundamentalists going to tell them "we don't know" or "we don't care" or "we don't have time to look into it" or "we dare not risk the possibility of divisions over it"?

### **Most Frequent Questions We've Been Asked**

**What Is The Evidence Supporting I John 5:7?**

By Rev. D. A. Waite, Th.D., Ph.D.

We have often been asked, not only in various letters coming in to the DEAN BURGON SOCIETY offices, but also from various questioners in meetings where we have been speaking on the DEAN BURGON SOCIETY and its work, "WHAT SHOULD WE DO WITH I JOHN 5:7?" Because of this, I thought it advisable to set forth some of the evidence for I John 5:7 as we have it available at this time, to the best of our information.

**The Verse In Question.** I John 5:7 states: "For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one." This is a clear reference to the Trinity.

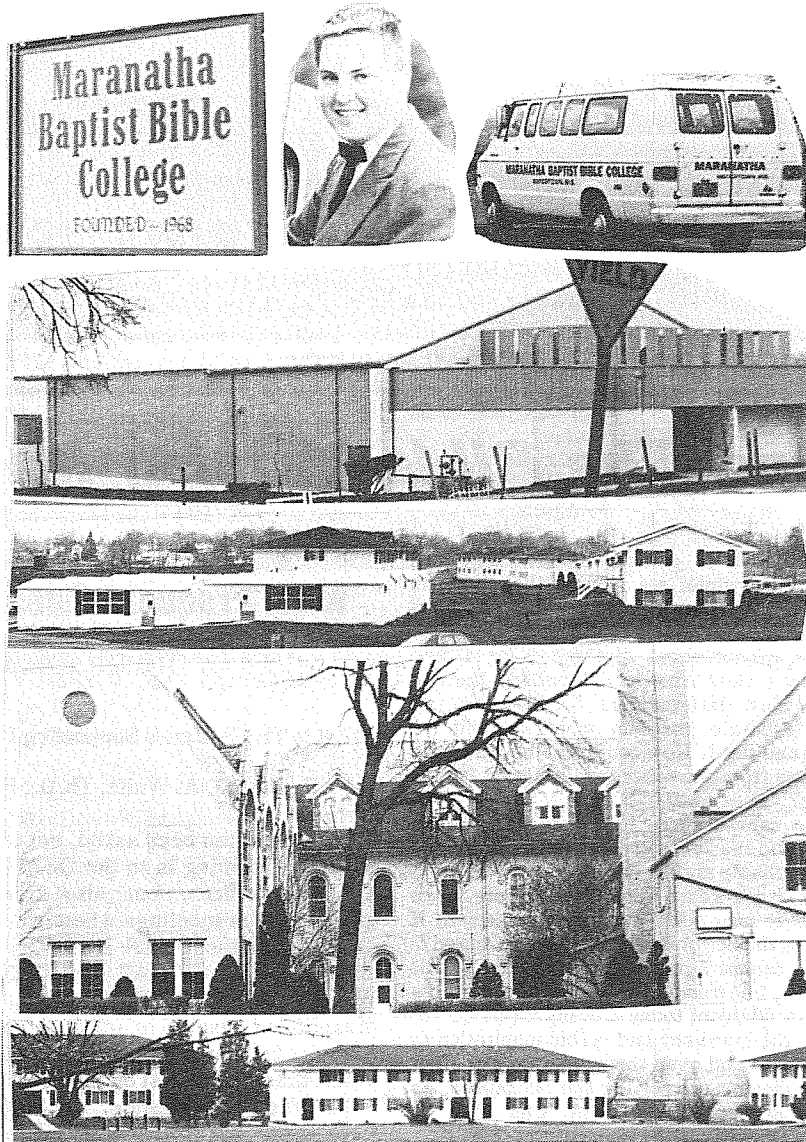
**The Research Of DBS Member, Rev. C. J. Drexler.** One of my good friends who lives in Runnemede, New Jersey, is Pastor C. J. Drexler. He has a vast library of manuscripts, books by Burgon, Miller, Scrivener, Hoskier, and many, many other valuable authors. He

(Continued on next page)

We challenge every fundamentalist to study this important matter carefully and thoroughly. Men can be wrong, including this editor, but the word of God is never wrong. Our continual prayer is that we may always know how to "speak the truth in love". We certainly do not think that we know it all. But we do believe that all Fundamentalists must be willing to accept reproof and rebuke as well as to administer it. We pray that this editorial and our forthcoming report on this issue may be helpful to all of God's people. We are thankful to know that "the word of our God shall stand forever." Isaiah 40:8.

*THE DEAN BURGON SOCIETY, INC. proudly takes its name in honor of Rev. John William Burgon (1813-1888), the Dean of Chichester in England, whose tireless and accurate scholarship and contribution in the area of New Testament Textual Criticism; whose defense of the Traditional Greek New Testament Text against its many enemies; and whose firm belief in the verbal inspiration and inerrancy of the Bible, we believe, have all been unsurpassed either before or since his time!*

(Continued from page 1)



## Campus Scenes Of Maranatha Baptist Bible College

### Dean Burgon Society Bible Team Goes To Wisconsin

Our D.B.S. President, Dr. D. A. Waite, and one of our Vice Presidents, Dr. D. O. Fuller, held a week of meetings, April 16-20, 1979, on the campus of the **Maranatha Baptist Bible College** in Watertown, Wisconsin. Here are some pictures of the MBBC campus, and Bob Fall, the student representative who met the speakers at the airport. Both men spoke morning and evening to the entire student body of almost 1,000, as well as speaking in many classes daily as well. Almost 250 became either new DBS members or new subscribers to the **D. B. NEWS**, and the first Dean Burgon Society Chapter on any college campus in the nation was organized at Maranatha as a result of these meetings. Dr. B. Myron Cedarholm is President of the college and Dr. M. J. Hollowood, our DBS Vice President, is one of the professors there. Both men were thrilled with what they found on the campus of this "MIRACLE COLLEGE," and do not hesitate to recommend it

as an independent Baptist, separatist, sound institution (with academy up to graduate Seminary program) with clean-cut students, high standards, standing with the Dean Burgon Society "IN DEFENSE OF TRADITIONAL BIBLE TEXTS," including the Masoretic Hebrew Old Testament Text, the Traditional Received Greek New Testament Text, and the Traditional Authorized King James Version English Text! We rejoice in the tremendous reception our brethren received while visiting with Dr. Cedarholm and his college family! Pray for that school and each of its students, staff, and faculty!

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has been the source for many of Burgon's books which I have in my own library, and we praise God for him! Through the years of his teaching at a local Bible Institute here in South Jersey, Pastor Drexler has researched the evidence, partially at least, for I John 5:7, and has placed it on page 6 of Rev. Terrence Brown's fine paper entitled "NOTES ON VINDICATION OF I JOHN 5:7" which is put out by the TRINITARIAN BIBLE SOCIETY, London, England, as summarized from Dabney's Discussions by Rev. Brown.

**Documents Available For GIFT To DBS Of \$1.50.** We'll send to anyone requesting it for a **GIFT of \$1.50** to DBS, the six-page article by Rev. Brown, plus Rev. Drexler's notes on the citations to I John 5:7, plus a copy of the Complutensian Polyglot which contains I John 5:7. If you want **TWO COPIES**, please send a **GIFT** to DBS of \$2.00.

**Much False Information On I John 5:7.** Just last week, we received in the DBS office from Greek scholars (who should know better) false information on I John 5:7. One said there were only "three Greek Manuscripts" containing I John 5:7, and the other one said there was only "one Greek Manuscript" containing I John 5:7! BOTH of these Greek Scholars were wrong "by a country mile"!! Note the summary of evidence:

**AT LEAST 20 GREEK MANUSCRIPTS CONTAIN I JOHN 5:7.** Drexler has found the following numbered Greek manuscripts which do contain I John 5:7. For understanding as to the dates of each, you are referred to the United Bible Society's Greek Eclectic Text (which we dispute decidedly!) in the Preface, pp. xi-xlix. Drexler makes reference particularly to Gaussen on the "CANON" (pp. 60-61; Nolan on the "GREEK VULGATE" (pp. 305 and 563; and Jeremiah Jones on "THE CANON." The 20 Greek manuscripts then, are: (1) #34; (2) #61; (3) #88; (4) #99; (5) #105; (6) #110; (7) #162; (8) #173; (9) #181; (10) #190; (11) #193; (12) #219; (13) #220; (14) #221; (15) #298; (16) #429; (17) #629; (18) #635; (19) #636; and (20) #918, etc., etc. Drexler put an "etc." following, because he has not yet completed ALL the research. There could be **MANY MORE!** These are **TWENTY** at least which Drexler has found.

**AT LEAST 60 LECTIONARIES CONTAIN I JOHN 5:7.** Drexler also found that "60 Lectionaries" contained I John 5:7. The Lectionaries, you remember, are those portions of the New Testament which have been read in the Greek-speaking churches from the beginning of the New Testament era until the present, and which bear direct testimony to the text of the Greek New Testament.

**THE OLD LATIN VERSION CONTAINS I JOHN 5:7 IN FOUR MANUSCRIPTS.** Drexler found that the Old Latin Version in four separate manuscripts, to have contained I John 5:7: (1) Manuscript R (5th Century); (2) Manuscript F (6th Century); (3) Manuscript M ("Speculum" 4th Century); and (4) Manuscript Q (7th Century).

**THE COMPLUTENSAN POLYGLOT OF XIMENES CONTAINS I JOHN 5:7.** Drexler, who has the complete COMPLUTENSAN

## Analysis Of: "The Chicago Statement On Biblical Inerrancy"

By: Rev. D. A. Waite, Th.D., Ph.D.  
President, The Dean Burgon Society

(Continued From Last Month)

### III. BRIEF ANALYSIS OF "THE CHICAGO STATEMENT ON BIBLICAL INERRANCY" (CSBI) BY THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON BIBLICAL INERRANCY (ICBI)

A. **The CSBI Preface.** The Preface of the Chicago Statement On Biblical Inerrancy (CSBI), stated: "We invite response to this statement from any who see reason to amend its affirmations about Scripture by the light of Scripture itself, under whose infallible authority we stand as we speak." We certainly wish to avail ourselves of such a "response" as an organization which was organized around the same time as the ICBI, and for the reasons given in last month's issue of the DEAN BURGON NEWS.

B. **The CSBI "Short Statement."** The "Short Statement" or "Summary Statement" is the first part of the CSBI.

#### 1. The CSBI's "Short Statement"

DEAN BURGON SOCIETY  
Annual Meeting  
October 2, 3, 4, 1979  
CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH  
Watertown, Wisconsin

POLYGLOT of Ximenes, found I John 5:7 therein. The page containing it in Greek (as well as the parallel Latin in the opposite column) is part of the documentation which will be sent upon request.

AT LEAST FOUR CHURCH FATHERS QUOTE I JOHN 5:7. Drexler found that I John 5:7 was quoted by four Church Fathers, namely: (1) Tertullian; (2) Cyprian; (3) Augustine; and (4) Jerome.

Let's Leave I John 5:7 Alone Until ALL The Evidence Is In!! We must guard very much against moving too swiftly in matters of the text of our Bibles! It is so easy to panic, and to be stampeded by the "Greek scholars" who only believe either "ONE" or only "THREE" Greek manuscripts contain I John 5:7, isn't it?! Let us be patient, however, and let us not be so hasty in these matters! Let's publish the INDEX TO THE SCRIPTURE QUOTATIONS OF THE CHURCH FATHERS by Dean John William Burgon, which contains over 86,000 quotations from the Bible by these early Church leaders, so that all of the evidence of the "FATHERS" is taken into account before making sweeping and unwise changes in the Traditional Received Greek Text of the New Testament! We all have need of patience!

Omits "PLENARY, VERBAL" Inspiration. The "Short Statement" stated: "1. God, who is Himself Truth and speaks only truth, HAS INSPIRED HOLY SCRIPTURE IN ORDER THEREBY..." (Presbyterian Guardian, 1/79, p. 6). In this short statement, we are not told, as we should be told, that "God... has PLENARILY AND VERBALLY INSPIRED HOLY SCRIPTURE..." These concepts are pointed out later, but to one who merely looks at the "short statement" in this place, there could be confusion as to the METHOD and TYPE of "INSPIRATION" which is set forth. The simple word, "INSPIRED," could indicate mere "conceptual" or "thought" "INSPIRATION," or "naturalistic" "INSPIRATION," or the proper kind—that is, PLENARY, VERBAL INSPIRATION. It is not clear here.

2. **The CSBI's "Short Statement" Limits The Scripture's "INFALLIBILITY" Merely To Being "OF INFALLIBLE DIVINE AUTHORITY" Rather Than Being Itself "INFALLIBLE."** The statement says: "2. HOLY SCRIPTURE, being God's own Word, written by men prepared and superintended by His Spirit, IS OF INFALLIBLE DIVINE AUTHORITY..." (Presb. Guardian, op. cit., p. 6). To say that the Scripture merely has "INFALLIBLE DIVINE AUTHORITY" is not the same as saying it is indeed *per se*, in and of itself, "INFALLIBLE." Though this is made clearer in other parts of the CSBI, for those who have merely the "Short Statement," great confusion and error could arise. This as it stands is a very WEAK statement. It is akin to saying what many confessions of faith say, when they call the Bible "the only INFALLIBLE RULE of faith and practice." It is MORE than merely an "INFALLIBLE RULE," it is indeed "INFALLIBLE" in and of itself!

3. **The CSBI's "Short Statement" Is Clear In TOTAL INERRANCY In All Matters.** The statement says: "4. Being WHOLLY AND VERBALLY GOD-GIVEN, Scripture is WITHOUT ERROR OR FAULT IN ALL ITS TEACHING, NO LESS IN WHAT IT STATES ABOUT GOD'S acts in creation, about the events of WORLD HISTORY, and about its own literary origins under God, than in its witness to God's saving grace in individual lives." (loc. cit.) This is a sound and clear statement on TOTAL INERRANCY of the Bible without limitation of any kind. For this

#### "Valid Reasons For Controversy For The Sake Of The Bible"

Dean Burgon Said It—"If all this does not constitute a valid reason for descending into the arena of controversy, it would in my judgment be impossible to indicate an occasion when the Christian soldier is called upon to do so:—the rather, because certain of those who, from their rank and station in the Church, ought to be the champions of the Truth, are at this time found to be among its most vigorous assailants." [Revision Revised, pp. xxxi—xxxii]

## An Answer To "What Is The 'Inspired' Word Of God?"

By: Rev. D. A. Waite, Th.D., Ph.D.  
President, The Dean Burgon Society

### II. THE ANSWER ITSELF (Continued From Last Month)

#### 4. ITEM #4.

A. **Faith For The Family's Statement.** "Because some otherwise good men have become authors of confusion concerning translations and versions of the Holy Bible, ..." [From February, 1979, issue, lines ##1-4, of the magazine.]

B. **The Issue.** Does The DEAN BURGON SOCIETY wish to be or become "authors of confusion"? What constitutes a "translation" or a "version" "of the Holy Bible"?

#### C. My Comment.

1. **"Authors Of Confusion."** Far from wanting to be or become "authors of confusion," the DEAN BURGON SOCIETY wishes to put a stop to "confusion" by the dissemination of various facts and truths which will permit people who are presently "confused" to become clear on these matters. We wish to dispel "confusion," not to create it or become "authors" of it. Our 13 "objects" [Cf. DEAN BURGON NEWS, January, 1979, p. 4] use such terms as "to re-print and circulate as widely as possible... to collate, publish, and circulate as widely as possible... to defend... to expose and publicize the defects, deficiencies, errors, and mistakes both in the Texts used and in the Translation process and results of any and all modern translations of the Bible... to analyze carefully and critically... to revive interest in the firsthand study of the Hebrew and Greek Texts of the Bible... the sale and distribution of... to acquire, print, sell, and distribute other sound books... to encourage articles, research, books, and other materials devoted to the study of the history, canon, text, authority, inspiration, and translation of the Bible... to inform believers... to organize, write, edit, publish, and circulate widely a 'NEWSLETTER'..." These terms make clear our purpose as a DEAN BURGON SOCIETY to shed light on these matters with all the facts and specific facets of the truth at our disposal. Sometimes, however, it is true that "FACTS" and "EVIDENCE" and "TRUTH" tend to

we are grateful.

C. **The CSBI "Articles Of Affirmation And Denial."** This is the second division of the CSBI.

1. **CSBI Denies Any "NORMATIVE REVELATION" After The New Testament.** They wrote: "Article V... We further deny that any NORMATIVE REVELATION has been given since the completion of the New Testament writings." (op. cit., p. 7). This is a good point, and refutes the entire CHARISMATIC MOVEMENT'S false claims to continued "REVELATION."

[to be continued next month]

"confuse" some individuals. Especially is this true of those who, say, with the current proverbial statement: "MY MIND IS MADE UP, DON'T CONFUSE ME WITH THE FACTS!" If the TRUTH and the EVIDENCE and the FACTS tend to "CONFUSE" people—whether pastors, educators, or laymen alike—and we are of the opinion that they do NOT, as a rule, then, perhaps, "confusion" might follow. But, if such be the case, this is a GOOD sort of "confusion." There is no one so UN-CONFUSED as one whose mind has never heard the facts in the case. This is why so often we describe the condition of "ignorance" on the part of some of our acquaint-

ances in jest as being "BLISSFUL." They have a euphoria about them which makes them oblivious to any problems in their lives at all. This is "good" from one standpoint, but is very "bad" from God's Word, which commands us to "prove all things; hold fast that which is good." (1 Thessalonians 5:21).

(TO BE CONTINUED)

**OUR READERS RESPOND**

**PENNSYLVANIA:** Enclosed is my check for \$5.00 which I understand is the fee for membership in The Dean Burgon Society. I decided to join after reading Dr. Robert L. Sumner's article "Bible Translations" in the January 1979 issue of The Biblical Evangelist.

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**MICHIGAN:** When I read about the formation of the D.B.S. I just said aloud, "Praise the Lord!" How encouraging and will pray for its progress.

**CANADA:** I just received my first copy of the Dean Burgon News. I would like to have fifteen copies of this Volume 1, No. 1, January 1979 to hand out to our students at the college. We can support this work 100% as our college stands wholly upon the King James Version.

**CANADA:** Mr. Mellish kindly sent us a copy of the first paper "The Dean Burgon News" and we are most honoured and happy to receive it. My husband and I are deeply concerned about the trends away from the true Word of God, and "old friends" of beloved Dean Burgon — long to meet him some day and tell him how much we owe him, under God.

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