How Difficult is the A.V.?

by James W Knox (U.S.A.)

If you will carefully examine the text of the Authorised Version you will find fewer than 190 words which are not readily known and understood by the average reader. This is certainly good news for modern man.

Many have been convinced that the A.V. text is filled with so many out-dated and archaic words that it could not possibly be a living Bible.

Large numbers in our day have a high school diploma or college degree when they first begin to read and study the Bible. Yet, having been educated according to a new standard, they often lack the working knowledge of the English language which is required to read what is a remarkably simple volume.

The answer to difficulty in Bible reading and comprehension is not to wander about in the Greek and Hebrew sections of the Strong's Concordance, nor to seek a modern language version which is 'easier to understand.' The solution is to take the time to improve one's vocabulary.

Such a study will undoubtedly prove a weariness of the flesh (Ecclesiastes 12:12), but those saints who believe that every word of God is pure (Proverbs 30;5) will certainly want to be conversant with all that God has spoken (see Luke 24:25).

While the translation peddlers and the indoctrination staffs at our seminaries have convinced our generation of professing Christians (who will not check facts for themselves) that the Authorised Version is filled with out-dated and archaic words, such is far from the truth.

I read the Bible through and wrote down every word which presented a difficulty to me, or which I thought might be a problem to the average reader. Excluding units of weight, measure and currency, there were only 182 words in all of Scripture which should pose any hardship.

Now when one considers there are 773,692 words in the Bible, and scarcely more than one out of 4,250 are beyond grasp of someone with an elementary school education, we have to question the motives, or the intelligence, of the critics of our English Bible.

The case becomes more incredible when we break down these 182 words. 21 of them are the names of rocks and minerals. 13 of them are medical terms. 20 are plants, herbs or vegetable extracts. 17 of them are types of animals, 16 are building terms and 6 are articles of clothing. This means 93, or more than half of the words, are from a field where a specialised vocabulary is required for accuracy. These words cannot be revised or up-dated without falsifying the text.

For example, a reader in Berkley may not know what a pygarg is, but to change the word to bunny rabbit so people know what they are reading about is to put forth a lie. A pygarg is not a bunny rabbit.

A new international reader may not know what galbanum is, yet, changing the word to Chanel Number Five may aid in comprehension but does not constitute translation.

It is impossible to produce an honest translation of the very words of God without including words unknown to some readers.

Herein lies the problem. Some men and women have been raised in an academic environment. They have spent their entire life in a classroom. They know books, essays, poems, and literature. They know lectures, tests, and grades. Because they have never

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