

WHY WE REJECT THIS VERSION

We have been asked a number of times recently about a new version of the New Testament that is being widely circulated today. We feel compelled to set forth very good reasons WHY WE CANNOT RECOMMEND, "GOOD NEWS FOR MODERN MAN" — "The New Testament in Today's English Version."

PREACHERS ARE SLIPPING FAST

In 1952 when the "REVISED STANDARD VERSION" of the Bible was published, there were many preachers who stood up and opposed it across the nation. In 16 short years many preachers must have lost their protest. Even though the "Today's English Version" (hereafter referred to by TEV), is just as bad as the "Revised Standard Version" in some places, we have heard very little protest and have seen very little in print that would indicate much protest against it. Thank God for a few who have spoken out on the subject. May this cause others to make a serious study of this poor translation of the Bible, and to sound the alarm.

THE VIRGIN BIRTH AND THE TEV

The TEV Bible seems to have something against the word "virgin". In the "King James Version" (hereafter referred to by KJV), we find the word "virgin" 14 times in the New Testament. The TEV Bible removes "virgin" from 11 of these places, and retains it in only 3 of these passages. Note the following passage:

Luke 1:27 KJV, "To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary."

Luke 1:27 TEV, "He had a message for a girl promised in marriage to a man named Joseph, who was a descendant of King David. The girl's name was Mary."

Note how that virgin is changed to girl in the TEV. There is a world of difference in the meaning of the two words. Sad to say, many girls are not virgins. This poor and unwise translation of Luke 1:27 should be enough to convince the average Bible believing Christian to reject the TEV, but there is more to come.

TEV CHANGES IN THE SECOND EDITION

The TEV was copyrighted in 1966 by the American Bible Society. A "Second Edition" was printed in 1968 and was also printed under the 1966 copyright. The outside cover and inside printing along with the line drawings look almost exactly the same, except for "Second Edition" being printed on the end of the cover jacket in fairly small type. There is absolutely nothing that we can see in the preface or anywhere else in the "Second Edition" that would indicate the vast difference between the first edition and the "Second Edition" when we compare the two translations of Luke 1:27.

Luke 1:27 TEV, 1966 edition, "He had a message for a virgin who was promised in marriage to a man named Joseph, who was a descendant of King David. The virgin's name was Mary."

Luke 1:27 TEV, 1968 edition, "He had a message for a girl promised in marriage to a man named Joseph, who was a descendant of King David. The girl's name was Mary."

Please note that "virgin" is found twice in the 1966 edition, and removed twice in the 1968 "Second Edition". Is this another form of the old shell game, now you see it, now you don't? The preface to both editions are exactly the same. There is nothing to suggest any such radical and unwise changes, as found in Luke 1:27, have been made. Please notice the following quotation from the preface of both editions:

"The text from which this translation was made is the Greek New Testament prepared by an international committee of New Testament scholars, sponsored by several members of the United Bible Societies, and published in 1966. Verses marked with brackets are not in the oldest and best manuscripts of the New Testament.

"The basic text was translated by Dr. Robert G. Bratcher; the line drawings were prepared by Mlle. Annie Valoton."

WHAT WAS THE PURPOSE OF THIS CHANGE?

It might be well to ask a few questions about the above mentioned text and the translator, Dr. Robert G. Bratcher. Was the word "virgin" in the text used in translating Luke 1:27 in the 1966 edition? If it was how did it get out the 1968 "Second Edition"? What kind of translator would put "virgin" in the 1966 edition and take it out and substitute "girl" in the 1968 "Second Edition"? Was "virgin" put in the