

The Easy to Read Version

The Easy-to-Read Version (ERV) of the Bible should be one of the best versions available because it is published by a church of Christ in Fort Worth, Texas.

Unfortunately, this version is one of the least reliable versions on the market today.

We cannot recommend it to anyone. The purpose of this article/tract is to show why this version should not be used in trying to learn the truth of God.

Efforts to produce this version began in 1973. Since that time, the World Bible Translation Center, Inc., has been producing this version in English and in several foreign languages.

One of the reasons this version has not held true to the original languages is because those who were involved in the translation do not believe the Bible should be translated word for word.

Another reason which makes the ERV unreliable is that some of those involved in this effort hold doctrinal positions contrary to the Word of God.

In the Non-English language translations of the ERV, non-Christians who do not even believe the Bible is God's Word have been used to help in the translation.

Let us notice just a few of the errors in the Easy-to-Read Version:

2 Corinthians 3:6

"Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life." (KJV).

"God made us able to be servants of a new agreement from God to his people. This new agreement is not a written law. It is of the Spirit. The written law brings death, but the Spirit give life" (Easy-to-Read Version).

In its preface and introduction, the ERV uses the word "testament," but in the text the word "agreement" is used.

However, a testament or covenant does not always imply

agreement by both parties.

Why is it alright for the translators to use this word in the preface and introduction, but it is not a proper word in the text?

The ERV says "this new agreement is not a written law." But the New Testament is a written law!

"But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed." (James 1:25).

"Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ" (Galatians 6:2).

The Bible is the product of the Holy Spirit.

"Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." (2 Peter 1:20,21).

Yet this version separates the written law from the Holy Spirit saying, *"The written law brings death, but the Spirit gives*

life.”

This implies life will have to come through a direct operation of the Holy Spirit. This is false doctrine.

Romans 16:16

“Salute one another with a holy kiss. The churches of Christ salute you” (KJV).

“When you see each other, say hello with a holy kiss. All of Christ’s churches (groups of believers) say hello to you” (Easy-to-Read Version).

Here is the passage which mentions “churches of Christ” in the New Testament. The ERV has “Christ’s churches (group of believers).”

In the Russian and Hindi language versions, this verse is rendered “Christian churches.” The word “Christian” refers to the individual member (Acts 11:26; 1 Peter 4:16). It is not a Scriptural name for the church Jesus built!

It is impossible to deal with all the problem passages of the Easy-to-Read Version in this article.

This version is actually

worse than the New International Version. The problems that exist in the verses mentioned also exist in other passages.

Romans 1:17 in the ERV teaches faith only.

Genesis 6:14 teaches Noah used “cypress wood” in building the ark.

Let’s make sure we continue to use a reliable version of the Bible in our study and teaching.

The Easy-to-Read Version is not reliable!



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