

SLIDELL CHURCH OF CHRIST

994 Old Spanish Trail
Slidell, LA 70458-5016

PHONE/ FAX: (985) 643-4826

April 12, 2015

Preacher's Point

By Dan Schillinger



Degrees of Sin

The Bible teaches us that any sin will separate us from God: *For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God* (Romans 3:23). *“But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear.”* (Isaiah 59:2)

But that does not mean that all sins are equally heinous in his sight. The clearest passage that implies this is no doubt John 19:11, *Jesus answered, “You would have no authority over me at all unless it had been given you from above. Therefore he who delivered me over to you has the greater sin.”* Since our Lord said here that the one who betrayed him was guilty of a greater sin, logically this implies that Pilate's role in trying and executing Jesus involved a lesser sin. Hence there must be degrees of sin.

If there are no degrees of sin, then what is the meaning of such expressions as *“a great sin”* (Exodus 32:21, 30, 31) and *“a very great sin”* (1 Samuel 2:17)? What is the meaning of Ezekiel 8:6 where *“great abominations”* are compared with *“greater abominations”*? If one is greater, how could that be anything but a different “degree” of sin? Logic compels us to conclude from these and

Today's Sermon

a.m. *“The Marks of the Church:
‘The Mountain of the
LORD's House.’”*

Isaiah 2:1-3

p.m. *Opportunity for discussion
and reflection on the morning
message*

other passages that some sins are indeed more heinous than others in God's sight.

* * * *

Welcome Visitors

We are pleased to have the opportunity to welcome you to our service. We think you will find our congregation family to be one that enthusiastically embraces newcomers and warmly welcomes them into our fellowship. We hope you feel right at home as you join us in worship, praise and thanksgiving.



“REMEMBER IN PRAYER

& ENCOURAGE”



With Visits, Calls, & Cards

The family of Ruth Brooks - bereaved at the recent passing of her mother-in-law, Wallace.

The family of James Lewis Morrow (brother-in-law of Jesse Fowler) - bereaved at his passing this week in the area of Duck Hill, MS.

The family of Charles Acker (Walter's uncle) - bereaved at his passing last week.

Evan & Erin Taylor (Erin is Joyce Carter's granddaughter) - lost a child to miscarriage last week.

Dorothy Bryan - thanksgiving that she was able to be back at church last Sunday.

Barron Jones & family - struggling to recover from a recent personal setback.

Eddie Jones - congratulations at his appointment as a deacon at the Southlake church of Christ in Jonesboro, GA, and for their appointment of other new deacons and elders.

Kaitlyn McDonald (Kate's daughter) - had her teaching praxis last Friday.

Anna Jones (Mr. Dale's daughter) - doing better managing her pain and is due for surgery in May.

James Roig (son of George & Fairie Roig) - dealing with the decline and imminent passing of grandmother, Nemie Anna Dunn.

Morgan Dennis (granddaughter of George & Fairie Roig) - recovering from a broken elbow.

Irvin Briant Sr., & Irvin Briant Jr. (Gregory Briant's dad and brother) - health issues.

Alexis Leonard - suffering a hurt knee.

Cheryl Leonard (Clara's youngest daughter) - has a strep infection with fluid in her ear.

Colton Roig - for his faith-walk with the Lord.

Janet Despenza - for her continued recovery following recent cervical vertebrae surgery.

Cheryl Elkin (member of the church in Pigeon Forge, TN and a friend of Joyce Carter's) - being tested to see if recent chemotherapy has shrunk a tumor.

Harold Evans (Sharon's husband) - for his continued recovery following recent successful surgery to remove a benign mass from his pancreas.

Devon Nelson (grandson of George & Fairie Roig) - preparing to enlist in the U.S. Army soon

Joyce Carter - being treated from a hemorrhage in the rear of her left eye, which fortunately is not affecting her vision.

Gerald Molina - experiencing neck pain.

Becky Gilbert - secretary at the Tammany Oaks congregation, undergoing chemotherapy.

Sid Westbrook - passed-out at work recently and sustained a gash to his face. Such incidents are an intermittent problem for him.

Schillinger family - coping with the addition this week of two more step-grandsons to their household, for a total of twelve people now residing there.

Pearlington church of Christ - struggling to be able to support a preacher.

Pray for all who are travelling.

Pray for the Spanish Bible study.

Pray for our elders: Courtney Cheri, Dwight Jones and Gerald Molina.

Pray for President Obama and all our elected officials.

Pray for our men and women in our armed forces, both here and abroad!

* * * *

Update on Matters Discussed at our Recent Congregational Meeting (held on Sunday, 29 March 2015)

The elders set forward **Hector Urbina** to serve as an additional deacon of this congregation. If no valid biblically-based objections are presented to them before next Sunday (19 April 2015), then on that date he will be so appointed and recognized during our morning service.

The elders announced their intentions to sell all of our present fourteen church properties, starting with donated properties not at this main 994 Old Spanish Trail address, as soon as possible. This is for the purpose of raising funds in order that we may purchase a new sufficient lot somewhere in the Slidell area north of I-12, for the erection of new church facilities.

So far the following members have agreed to serve on a committee to advance these issues: Dorsie Jones, Joyce LeBlanc, Paola Vargas, Jesse Fowler, and Dan Schillinger. The elders would like to see up to ten members serve on this committee. The committee will liaison with Evonne Machen, local commercial realtor, who grew up in this congregation, to accomplish these goals. Please speak with Dan if you would like to serve on the committee.

* * * *

THE BASIC TOOL: A GOOD TRANSLATION (continued)

Adapted from Fee & Stuart, *How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth* (3rd edition)

THE SCIENCE OF TRANSLATION

There are two kinds of choices that a Bible translator must make: textual and linguistic. The first kind has to do with the actual wording of the original text. The second has to do with one's theory of translation.

The Question of Text

This article is intended to give some basic information about textual criticism so that you will know why translators *must* do it and so that you can make better sense of the marginal notes in your translation that say, "Other ancient authorities add . . .", "Some manuscripts do not have . . .", or, "The

NU text has . . .", etc. For study deeper scholarly books are available which cover this area in detail.

The translator's first concern is to be sure that the Hebrew or Greek text he or she is using is as close as possible to the original wording as it left the inspired author's hands (or the hands of the scribe taking it down by dictation).

Although the details of the problem of text in the Old and New Testaments differ, the basic concerns are the same:

- (1) no original copies (manuscripts) of any biblical books are known to exist;
- (2) what does exist are thousands of copies (including copies of very early translations), produced by hand, and copied by hand repeatedly over a period of about one thousand four hundred years;
- (3) although the vast majority of manuscripts, which for both Testaments come from the later medieval period, are very much alike, these later manuscripts differ significantly from the earlier copies and translations.

In fact, there are over five thousand Greek manuscripts of part or all of the New Testament, as well as thousands in Latin, and no two of them anywhere in existence are exactly alike. The problem, therefore, is to sift through all the available material, compare the places where the manuscripts differ (these are called "variants"), and determine which of the variants represent errors and which one most likely represents the original text. Although seemingly an imposing task, translators also know something about *textual criticism*, the science that attempts to discover the original texts of ancient documents.

1. *Textual criticism is a science that works with careful controls.* There are two kinds of evidence that the translator considers in making textual choices: external evidence (the character and quality of the manuscripts) and the internal evidence (the kinds of mistakes made by copyists). Scholars sometimes differ as to how much weight they give either of these strands of evidence, but all are agreed that the combination of strong external and strong internal evidence together makes the vast majority of choices somewhat routine. But for the remainder, where these two lines of evidence seem to collide, the choices are more difficult.

The *external evidence* has to do with the quality and age of the manuscripts that support a given variant. For the Old Testament this usually amounts to a choice between the Hebrew manuscripts, nearly all of which are medieval copies, and manuscripts of the Greek translation (the Septuagint [LXX]), which are much earlier. Scholarship has demonstrated that the Hebrew manuscripts by and large reflect a very ancient text; nonetheless, it often needs correcting from the Septuagint. Rarely, neither the Hebrew nor Greek yields a tolerable sense, at which times conjectures are necessary.

For the New Testament, the better external evidence was preserved in Egypt. When that early evidence is also supported by equally early evidence from other sectors of the Roman Empire, such evidence is usually seen to be conclusive.

The *internal evidence* has to do with the copyists and authors. When translators are faced with a choice between two or more variants, they usually can detect which readings are the mistakes because scribal habits and tendencies have been carefully analyzed by scholars and are now well known. Usually the variant that best explains how all the others came about is the one we presume to be the original text. It is also important for the translator to

know a given biblical author's style and vocabulary, because these, too, play a role in making textual choices.

As already noted, for the vast majority of variants found among the manuscripts, the best (or good) external evidence combines with the best internal evidence to give us an extraordinarily high degree of certainty about the original text. This may be illustrated thousands of times over simply by comparing the reading found in the KJV with a contemporary translation like the ESV or NIV. The KJV is not only the most widely used translation in the world, it is also a classic expression of the English language. Indeed, it coined phrases that will be forever embedded in our language. However, for the New Testament, the only Greek text available to the 1611 translators was based on late manuscripts, which had accumulated the mistakes of over a thousand years of copying. Few of these mistakes--and we must note that there are many of them--make any difference to us doctrinally, but they often *do* make a difference in the understanding of certain specific texts.

* * * *

Our Leaders!

Elders

Dwight Jones
Courtney Cheri
Gerald Molina

Preacher

Dan Schillinger

Deacons

Jesse Fowler
James Richardson

Our Services

Sunday Morning Bible Class **9:30 a.m.**
Sunday Morning Worship **10:30 a.m.**

Sunday Evening Worship **5:00 p.m.**

Wednesday Evening Bible Class **7:00 p.m.**

Ladies Bible Class **Tuesday 10:30 am**