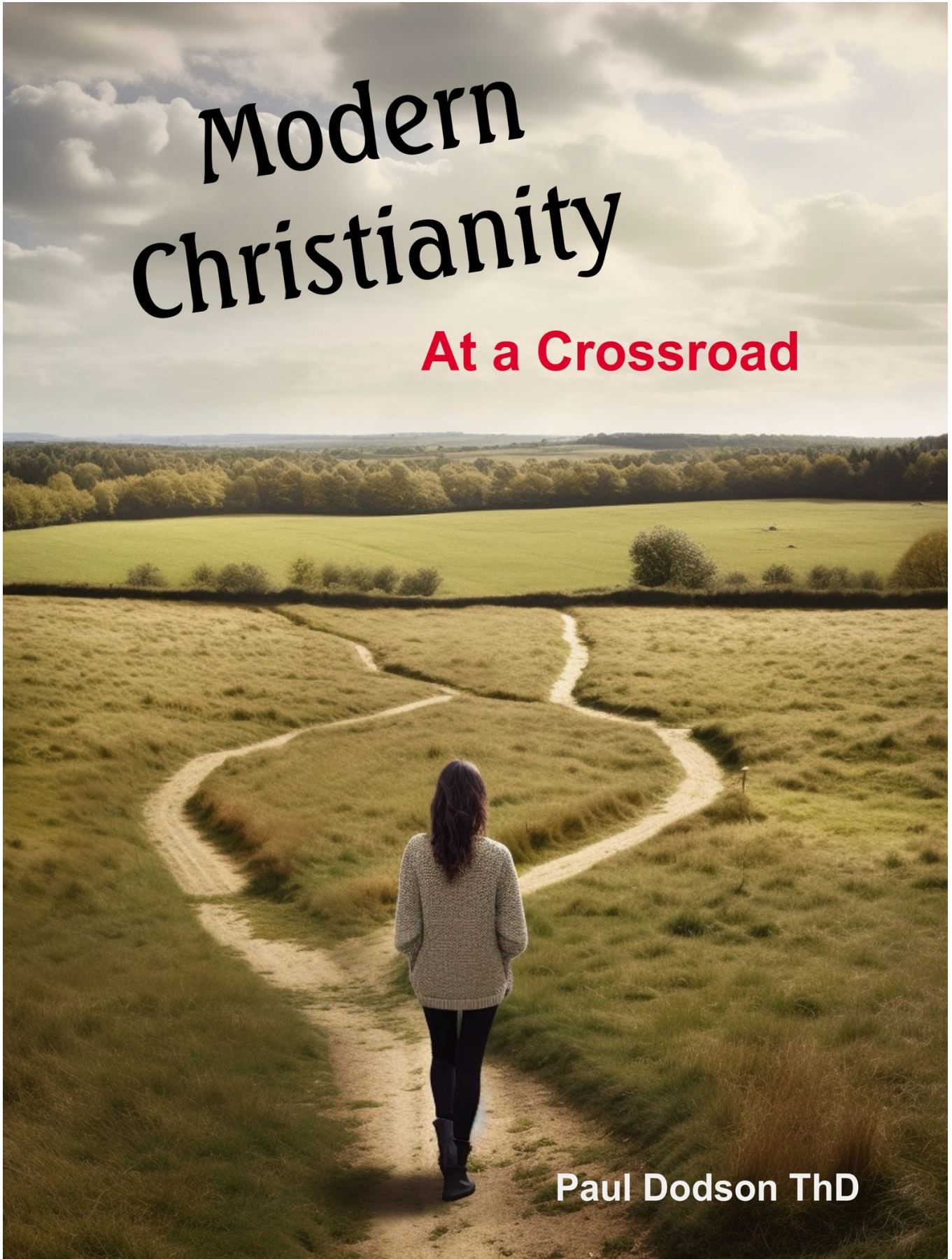


Modern Christianity

At a Crossroad

Paul Dodson ThD



MODERN CHRISTIANITY
At a Crossroads

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TABLE OF CONTENT

Introduction.....	05
(1) Biblical Illiteracy in the modern church.....	08
(2) The crisis of disconnect.....	11
(3) Compartmentalization in Christian Ministry.....	15
(4) Boredom within the Christian community.....	18
(5) The temptation to reinvent the wheel.....	22
(6) The danger of over complicating God's Word.....	26
(7) Defending Biblical truth.....	29
(8) The danger of consumer Christianity.....	33
(9) Social media in modern Christianity.....	36
(10) Biblical Ministry in a sexually perverted world..	40
(11) Modern church persecution.....	44
(12) Distrust of Church authority.....	48
(13) Entangled allegiances in the Church.....	52
(14) Modern Bible translations.....	56
(15) Standing firm in faith.....	64
For further thought	69

Introduction

The Modern Christianity at a Crossroads

By Evangelist Paul Dodson ThD

In an age where truth has become relative and conviction is often labeled as intolerance, the Christian Church stands at a critical juncture. The words of the prophet Isaiah echo through time with haunting relevance: "Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness" (Isaiah 5:20). Today's Church faces challenges that, while not entirely unprecedented, manifest in ways our forebears could scarcely have imagined.

As we survey the landscape of modern Christianity, we find ourselves confronting a paradox: despite unprecedented access to biblical resources, theological education, and ministry tools, many congregations struggle with fundamental issues that threaten their spiritual vitality and kingdom effectiveness. The Apostle Paul's warning resonates with prophetic clarity: "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears" (2 Timothy 4:3).

This book undertakes the solemn task of examining several critical challenges facing today's Church. We will explore the growing epidemic of biblical illiteracy, where many Christians, like Israel of old, are "destroyed for lack of knowledge" (Hosea 4:6). We will confront the crisis of authentic discipleship in an era where casual Christianity has become the norm, challenging the biblical mandate

to "deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me" (Luke 9:23).

Our journey will lead us through the valleys of compromised worship, where entertainment often supersedes reverence, and performance threatens to replace genuine praise. We will address the declining commitment to sound doctrine in an age where, as Paul warned, many are "tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine" (Ephesians 4:14).

Yet, this book is not merely a catalogue of problems. Rather, it serves as both a wake-up call and a roadmap for renewal. Drawing from the timeless wisdom of Scripture, we will explore practical solutions rooted in God's unchanging Word. As Solomon declared, "There is nothing new under the sun" (Ecclesiastes 1:9), and the answers to our modern challenges often lie in ancient truths.

Each chapter will examine a specific issue facing the contemporary Church, analyzing its root causes, exploring its implications, and most importantly, presenting biblical solutions for restoration and renewal. Our approach will be both diagnostic and prescriptive, guided by the principle that "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness" (2 Timothy 3:16).

As we embark on this examination, our purpose is not to criticize but to catalyze—not to condemn but to call to action. The Church, despite its current challenges, remains Christ's chosen instrument for kingdom advancement, "the pillar and ground of the truth" (1 Timothy 3:15). Our prayer is that through honest assessment and biblical correction, we might contribute to the strengthening of Christ's body and the advancement of His kingdom.

For those willing to undertake this journey may we hold fast to the promise that "He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ" (Philippians 1:6).

Chapter One

Biblical Illiteracy in the Modern Church

Overcoming the literacy gap

Introduction

Biblical illiteracy—the lack of basic knowledge and understanding of Scripture—has become increasingly prevalent in modern churches. This concerning trend threatens the spiritual health of both individual believers and the church as a collective body.

The Current Crisis

Many churchgoers today cannot identify basic biblical narratives, understand foundational doctrines, or apply Scripture to their daily lives. This reality stands in stark contrast to God's command in 2 Timothy 2:15: "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

Dangers of Biblical Illiteracy

1. Doctrinal Vulnerability

Without proper biblical knowledge, believers become susceptible to false teaching. As Paul warned in Ephesians 4:14: "That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive."

2. Spiritual Immaturity

Biblical illiteracy prevents spiritual growth, keeping believers in a perpetual state of spiritual infancy. The writer of Hebrews addresses this: "For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat" (Hebrews 5:12).

3. Weakened Discipleship

Without biblical knowledge, believers cannot effectively fulfill the Great Commission to "teach all nations" (Matthew 28:19).

Solutions and Strategies

1. Systematic Biblical Education

Churches must implement comprehensive Bible study programs. "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness" (2 Timothy 3:16).

2. Personal Discipline

Believers must develop daily Bible reading habits. Like the Bereans, they should "search the scriptures daily" (Acts 17:11).

3. Family Integration

Parents must take responsibility for teaching Scripture to their children: "And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children" (Deuteronomy 6:6-7).

4. Pulpit Priority

Pastors must emphasize expository preaching and teaching, following Paul's example to declare "all the counsel of God" (Acts 20:27).

Action Steps for Churches

1. Establish structured Bible study programs
2. Provide Bible reading plans and resources
3. Train small group leaders in biblical interpretation
4. Create mentorship programs for spiritual growth
5. Incorporate Scripture memorization initiatives

Biblical literacy is not optional for a healthy church. As Hosea 4:6 warns, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge." The church must take decisive action to combat biblical illiteracy through intentional education, discipleship, and the cultivation of Bible study habits. Only through such dedicated efforts can we ensure the spiritual health and effectiveness of future generations of believers.

Chapter Two

The Crisis of Disconnect

Engaging mind body and spirit

Introduction

Modern churches face a growing crisis of presence—both physical and spiritual—characterized by declining attendance, reduced engagement, and a deepening disconnect between congregants and authentic worship. This diminishing presence threatens the vitality and effectiveness of Christ's body on earth.

The Current State of Church Presence

Physical Absence

Many believers have adopted a casual approach to church attendance, contradicting the biblical admonition: "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching" (Hebrews 10:25).

Spiritual Disconnection

Even when physically present, many congregants remain spiritually distant, exemplifying the Lord's lament: "This people draweth nigh

unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me" (Matthew 15:8).

Root Causes

1. Digital Distraction

The prevalence of technology has created a culture of constant distraction, making it difficult for believers to "Be still, and know that I am God" (Psalm 46:10). Their minds are at home, anticipating the game that awaits, or on their phones, worried about missing a "tweet".

2. Consumer Mentality

Many approach church as spectators rather than participants, forgetting that "ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular" (1 Corinthians 12:27).

3. Superficial Relationships

The lack of deep fellowship contradicts the early church model where believers "continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers" (Acts 2:42).

The Impact of Absence

1. Weakened Corporate Worship

Reduced presence diminishes the power of corporate worship, undermining the call to "make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands" (Psalm 100:1).

2. Fragmented Community

The absence of consistent fellowship weakens the church's unity, contrary to the prayer of Jesus "That they all may be one" (John 17:21).

3. Stunted Spiritual Growth

Limited engagement impedes spiritual development, opposing the command to "grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 3:18).

Solutions for Restoration

1. Prioritize Authentic Worship

Churches must cultivate environments where believers can "worship him in spirit and in truth" (John 4:24).

2. Foster Meaningful Connection

Implement small groups and mentorship programs that encourage believers to "Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ" (Galatians 6:2).

3. Encourage Active Participation

Create opportunities for service and ministry involvement, recognizing that "as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also" (James 2:26).

Practical Steps Forward

1. Establish intentional discipleship programs
2. Create spaces for authentic fellowship

3. Implement accountability partnerships
4. Develop service opportunities
5. Foster intergenerational connections

The restoration of true presence in our churches requires intentional effort and spiritual renewal. As Isaiah proclaimed, "They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength" (Isaiah 40:31). Through dedicated commitment to authentic worship, meaningful fellowship, and active participation, churches can rebuild the presence and connection that characterize a vibrant body of Christ.

Chapter Three

Compartmentalization in Christian Ministry

Don't put your faith in a box

Introduction

Compartmentalization in Christian ministry—the tendency to separate spiritual life from other aspects of existence—represents a significant challenge to authentic Christian living and effective ministry. Here we will examine its detrimental effects and propose biblical solutions for a more integrated approach to ministry.

The Problem of Compartmentalization

Compartmentalization manifests when ministers and believers separate their "spiritual life" from their "secular life," creating artificial boundaries that fragment their Christian witness. This division contradicts the biblical principle of holistic devotion to God, as expressed in Deuteronomy 6:5: "And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might."

Harmful Effects

1. Diminished Authenticity

When Christians compartmentalize their lives, they risk presenting

an incomplete version of themselves to those around them. This contradicts the apostle Paul's example of transparent ministry: "For our rejoicing is this, the testimony of our conscience, that in simplicity and godly sincerity... we have had our conversation in the world" (2 Corinthians 1:12).

2. Reduced Effectiveness

Compartmentalization limits ministry impact by constraining God's influence to designated "spiritual" times and places, contrary to the biblical mandate to "do all to the glory of God" (1 Corinthians 10:31).

3. Spiritual Inconsistency

This fragmentation can lead to double-mindedness, which James warns against: "A double minded man is unstable in all his ways" (James 1:8).

Solutions for Integration

1. Embrace Holistic Spirituality

Ministers must recognize that all aspects of life fall under God's sovereignty. As Paul declares, "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God" (1 Corinthians 10:31).

2. Practice Continuous Prayer

Following Paul's instruction to "pray without ceasing" (1 Thessalonians 5:17) helps maintain spiritual consciousness throughout daily activities.

3. Implement Biblical Integration

Actively applying Scripture to all life areas helps bridge the sacred-secular divide: "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path" (Psalm 119:105).

Overcoming compartmentalization requires intentional effort to integrate faith into every aspect of life and ministry. Success in this endeavor leads to more authentic, effective, and biblically aligned ministry that reflects the wholeness God intends for His servants.

Christians should regularly evaluate their lives for signs of compartmentalization and actively work to integrate their faith across all domains. This integration should be evident in decision-making, relationships, and daily conduct, fulfilling Christ's call to be "salt of the earth" and "light of the world" (Matthew 5:13-14).

Chapter Four

Boredom within the Christian Community

Bring life back into your faith

Boredom within the Christian community represents a significant spiritual challenge that can undermine individual faith and collective vitality. As Scripture warns, "Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked" (Revelation 3:17).

Root Causes

Several factors contribute to boredom in Christian communities:

1. Routine Without Purpose

- Mechanical participation in church activities
- Loss of connection to the deeper meaning of rituals
- Following traditions without understanding their significance "This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me" (Matthew 15:8).

2. Spiritual Complacency

- Taking God's grace for granted
- Lack of personal investment in spiritual growth

- Diminished sense of wonder and awe "I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot" (Revelation 3:15).

3. **Passive Consumption**

- Viewing church as entertainment rather than engagement
- Expecting to be spiritually fed without personal effort
- Limited personal study and reflection "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15).

Dangerous Effects

The impact of boredom extends beyond mere disengagement:

1. **Spiritual Decline**

- Weakened prayer life
- Decreased Bible study
- Reduced spiritual discernment "Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away" (2 Timothy 3:5).

2. **Community Impact**

- Reduced church participation
- Weakened fellowship
- Diminished collective worship experience "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching" (Hebrews 10:25).

3. **Ministry Effectiveness**

- Reduced evangelistic passion
- Decreased service motivation
- Limited spiritual influence "Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love" (Revelation 2:4).

Practical Solutions

To combat boredom and maintain spiritual vitality:

1. **Cultivate Personal Growth**

- Develop a consistent prayer life
- Engage in meaningful Bible study
- Seek spiritual mentorship
- Practice spiritual disciplines "But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 3:18).

2. **Foster Active Participation**

- Volunteer in ministry areas
- Join small groups
- Share testimonies
- Engage in discipleship "As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God" (1 Peter 4:10).

3. **Renew Spiritual Vision**

- Remember God's faithfulness
- Focus on eternal perspective
- Cultivate gratitude

- Seek fresh encounters with God "But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint" (Isaiah 40:31).

4. **Transform Routine into Ritual**

- Find meaning in regular practices
- Create intentional worship moments
- Develop personal traditions
- Connect daily activities to faith "And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men" (Colossians 3:23).

Boredom in Christian community is not merely a personal challenge but a spiritual threat that requires intentional response. As Paul exhorts, "And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not" (Galatians 6:9). By recognizing its causes, understanding its effects, and implementing practical solutions, believers can maintain spiritual vitality and meaningful engagement in their faith journey.

The key lies in transforming passive observation into active participation, routine into meaningful ritual, and complacency into passionate pursuit of God. When Christians actively engage in their faith journey, boredom gives way to discovery, growth, and renewed purpose in serving God and others. As David proclaimed, "O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him" (Psalm 34:8).

Chapter Five

The Temptation to Reinvent the Wheel

God's word, the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow

In today's rapidly evolving society, there's a growing temptation within Christian communities to "reinvent the wheel" by reinterpreting or modifying biblical truths to align with contemporary cultural values. This dangerous tendency threatens the foundational principles of Christian faith and requires careful examination.

Understanding the Temptation

The pressure to reinvent biblical truths often stems from several sources:

1. Cultural Pressure

- Desire for social acceptance
- Fear of being labeled as outdated or irrelevant
- Pressure to conform to modern ideologies

2. Misguided Innovation

- Attempts to make Christianity more "appealing"
- Prioritizing cultural relevance over biblical accuracy
- Confusing methods of ministry with message of truth

The Dangers of Reinvention

1. Compromise of Truth

- Dilution of biblical principles
- Loss of doctrinal clarity
- Confusion among believers about fundamental truths

2. Spiritual Consequences

- Weakened faith foundation
- Decreased reliance on Scripture
- Potential leading others astray

3. Church Impact

- Division within congregations
- Loss of biblical authority
- Erosion of Christian distinctiveness

The Importance of Biblical Fidelity

1. God's Word is Timeless

- Scripture's relevance transcends cultural changes
- Biblical principles remain constant
- Truth is not dependent on cultural acceptance

2. Biblical Authority

- Scripture is God-breathed (2 Timothy 3:16-17)
- The Word of God is living and active (Hebrews 4:12)
- Truth is not subject to human revision

3. Historical Precedent

- Early church faced similar pressures
- Historical examples of faithfulness under pressure
- Lessons from church history about compromise

Practical Applications

1. Maintain Biblical Integrity

- Study Scripture in its proper context
- Resist pressure to water down truth
- Apply timeless principles to modern situations

2. Balance Relevance and Truth

- Update methods while preserving message
- Communicate truth effectively to modern audiences
- Maintain biblical distinctiveness

3. Foster Biblical Literacy

- Encourage deep Scripture study
- Develop strong theological understanding
- Equip believers to defend truth
-

While the temptation to reinvent biblical truth is strong in our contemporary context, the importance of maintaining fidelity to God's Word cannot be overstated. The church must resist the urge to modify eternal truths for temporary cultural acceptance. Instead, we must find ways to effectively communicate unchanging biblical truth to a changing world while maintaining its integrity and authority.

The solution lies not in reinventing the wheel of biblical truth but in rediscovering its timeless relevance and power for each generation. When we hold fast to Scripture as written, we preserve not only the truth but also its transforming power in believers' lives.

Chapter Six

The Danger of Over complicating God's Word

Finding Biblical Simplicity

In the pursuit of deeper biblical understanding, Christians often fall into the trap of over complicating God's Word. This tendency, while usually well-intended, can hinder spiritual growth and effective ministry. Understanding this challenge and its solutions is crucial for maintaining healthy biblical interpretation.

Sources of Over complication

1. Intellectual Pride

- Equating complexity with spiritual depth
- Valuing academic sophistication over clarity
- Desire to appear scholarly

2. Ministry Pressures

- Striving for novel interpretations
- Feeling pressure to make messages "fresh"
- Competition in teaching circles

The Dangers

1. Spiritual Impact

- Obscuring the simple message of salvation
- Creating unnecessary barriers to understanding
- Shifting focus from application to speculation
- Diminishing the joy of simple faith

2. **Community Effects**

- Discouraging personal Bible study
- Creating divisions within the church
- Intimidating new or less educated believers
- Hampering evangelistic efforts

Biblical Model for Simplicity

1. **Jesus' Example**

- Taught through simple parables
- Used everyday illustrations
- Emphasized childlike faith
- Challenged religious complexity

2. **Apostolic Teaching**

- Maintained focus on core gospel message
- Emphasized practical application
- Warned against worldly wisdom
- Prioritized clear communication

Practical Solutions

1. **In Personal Study**

- Focus on plain meaning first

- Apply simple truths immediately
- Build on fundamental principles
- Avoid unnecessary speculation
-

2. **In Teaching**

- Use clear, accessible language
- Emphasize practical application
- Consider audience understanding
- Balance depth with simplicity

The power of God's Word lies in its accessibility to all believers while maintaining profound depth for lifelong study. We must resist the urge to over complicate Scripture, remembering that God intended His truth to be understood by ordinary people. While deep study is valuable, it should never obscure the simple, life-changing message of the gospel.

The key is maintaining scholarly rigor while preserving biblical simplicity. By focusing on clear understanding and practical application, we can avoid over complication while growing in our knowledge of God's Word. This approach allows Scripture to speak powerfully to all believers, regardless of their educational background or spiritual maturity.

Chapter Seven

Defending Biblical Truth

While Maintaining Gospel Simplicity

In an era where false teachings proliferate within Christianity, believers face the dual challenge of defending truth without over complicating the gospel or reinventing established doctrine. This balance requires wisdom, discernment, and careful adherence to biblical principles. Understanding how to maintain this balance is crucial for effective ministry and spiritual health.

Foundation Principles

1. Return to Scripture

- Always start with clear biblical text
- Use Scripture to interpret Scripture
- Maintain proper contextual interpretation
- Trust the sufficiency of God's Word
- Recognize the Bible's internal consistency

Practical Approach to Confronting Error

1. Simple Truth vs. Complex Error

- Address false teaching with clear biblical statements
- Avoid matching complexity with complexity
- Focus on fundamental truths

- Keep the gospel central
- Use simple logic to expose error

2. Clear Communication

- Use plain language
- Provide straightforward biblical evidence
- Avoid unnecessary theological jargon
- Illustrate truth with simple examples
- Make arguments accessible to all believers

Effective Defense Strategies

1. Stay Focused

- Address core issues, not peripheral matters
- Maintain emphasis on essential doctrines
- Avoid getting sidetracked by minutiae
- Keep the gospel message clear
- Prioritize salvation-related issues

2. Maintain Biblical Balance

- Recognize complexity without complicating
- Balance grace and truth
- Connect doctrine to practical life
- Remember pastoral implications
- Consider impact on new believers

Practical Guidelines

1. When Addressing False Teaching

- Start with clear biblical truth

- Show direct scriptural contradiction
- Maintain focus on salvation essentials
- Demonstrate loving concern for those in error

2. **Avoid Common Pitfalls**

- Don't over complicate simple truths
- Resist creating new theological systems
- Stay within biblical boundaries
- Keep focus on Christ and Gospel
- Avoid unnecessary speculation

3. **Building Positive Foundations**

- Establish strong biblical literacy
- Develop systematic understanding
- Foster appreciation for church history
- Encourage critical thinking skills
- Promote healthy doctrinal discussion

Implementation in Ministry

1. **Teaching Approach**

- Build systematic biblical understanding
- Address common misconceptions directly
- Provide clear, practical applications
- Equip believers to discern truth
- Foster confidence in Scripture over man

2. **Pastoral Care**

- Guide those confused by false teaching
- Show patience with learning processes
- Maintain focus on spiritual growth
- Address hearts, not just minds
- Build strong discipleship relationships

The key to defending truth while maintaining simplicity lies in trusting the sufficiency of Scripture and the historic understanding of the early church. We don't need to reinvent theological frameworks or create complex new arguments. Instead, we should rely on the clear teaching of Scripture, supported by the tested wisdom of church history, while maintaining the simple power of the gospel message.

Successfully combating false teaching requires a balanced approach that values both truth and accessibility. By staying grounded in Scripture, learning from church history, and maintaining clear communication, we can effectively defend the faith without unnecessarily complicating the gospel message. This approach not only protects the church from error but also promotes healthy spiritual growth and understanding among believers.

Chapter Eight

The Dangers of Consumer Christianity

When Believers Shop for Comfortable Truth

In modern Christianity, there's a growing tendency toward "consumer Christianity," where believers hop from church to church seeking messages that align with their preferences rather than biblical truth. This approach poses significant spiritual dangers and undermines authentic Christian growth.

Understanding Consumer Christianity

1. Definition and Signs

- Selecting churches based on personal preferences
- Avoiding challenging biblical teachings
- Treating church as a product to consume
- "Having itching ears" (2 Timothy 4:3-4)

2. Common Motivations

- Desire for comfortable teachings
- Avoiding conviction of sin
- Seeking entertainment over edification
- Resistance to spiritual authority
- "Heaping to themselves teachers" (2 Timothy 4:3)

Biblical Warnings

1. Prophetic Cautions

- "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine" (2 Timothy 4:3)
- "Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth" (2 Timothy 3:7)
- "Mark them which cause divisions... and avoid them" (Romans 16:17)

2. Historical Examples

- Israel seeking pleasant prophecies (Isaiah 30:10)
- People refusing correction (Jeremiah 5:31)
- False teachers drawing followers (2 Peter 2:1-3)

Spiritual Consequences

1. Personal Impact

- Stunted spiritual growth
- Shallow biblical understanding
- Weak doctrinal foundation
- Limited accountability
- "Tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine" (Ephesians 4:14)

2. Community Effects

- Fragmented church body
- Weakened discipleship
- Disrupted spiritual relationships

- "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together" (Hebrews 10:25)

Biblical Solutions

1. Commit to Sound Doctrine

- Study Scripture diligently
- Submit to biblical teaching
- Accept challenging truths
- "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good" (1 Thessalonians 5:21)

2. Embrace Church Community

- Establish deep roots
- Build lasting relationships
- Accept accountability
- Serve others faithfully
- "And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship" (Acts 2:42)

The antidote to consumer Christianity lies in returning to biblical principles of church commitment and sound doctrine. Believers must resist the temptation to shop for comfortable teachings and instead commit to growing in truth within a stable church community. As Scripture warns, the time will come when many will seek teachers to satisfy their desires, but faithful Christians must stand firm in biblical truth and committed fellowship.

Chapter Nine

Social Media in Modern Christianity:

A Balanced Approach

Potential Dangers

1. Spiritual Distraction

- Excessive time consumption reducing prayer and Bible study
- "But Martha was cumbered about much serving... But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part" (Luke 10:40-42)
- Risk of replacing genuine spiritual disciplines with superficial engagement

2. False Doctrine Proliferation

- Easy spread of unbiblical teachings
- "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world" (1 John 4:1)
- Challenge of discerning truth amid information overload

3. Pride and Self-Promotion

- Temptation to seek likes and followers over genuine ministry
- "For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father" (1 John 2:16)
- Risk of prioritizing appearance over substance

Positive Aspects

1. Extended Reach

- Global platform for sharing the Gospel
- "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15)
- Ability to reach isolated or restricted areas

2. Community Building

- Connection opportunities for isolated believers
- Support networks for prayer and encouragement
- "Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend" (Proverbs 27:17)

3. Resource Sharing

- Access to biblical teaching and study materials
- Platform for sharing testimonies
- "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom" (Colossians 3:16)

Safe Implementation Guidelines

1. **Content Guidelines**

- Verify all shared information against Scripture
- Focus on edification rather than entertainment
- "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying" (Ephesians 4:29)

2. **Time Management**

- Set specific hours for social media ministry
- Maintain priority of personal devotion
- "See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time" (Ephesians 5:15-16)

3. **Accountability Measures**

- Establish oversight for ministry accounts
- Regular content review by church leadership
- "Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counsellors there is safety" (Proverbs 11:14)

4. **Privacy Protection**

- Clear guidelines for sharing personal information
- Protection of vulnerable church members
- "Be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves" (Matthew 10:16)

Practical Implementation Steps

1. **Ministry Focus**

- Create content calendars aligned with church vision

- Balance between teaching, encouragement, and outreach
- Regular prayer for online ministry
- "Let all things be done unto edifying" (1 Corinthians 14:26)

2. **Training and Guidelines**

- Social media training for ministry leaders
- Clear posting guidelines and approval processes
- Emergency response procedures
- "That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works" (2 Timothy 3:17)

The key to successful social media ministry lies in maintaining biblical integrity while leveraging modern tools for God's glory. As Solomon wisely noted, "To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven" (Ecclesiastes 3:1).

Chapter Ten

Biblical Ministry in a sexually perverted world

Standing firm on biblical principles and love

Biblical Foundation

Today the local Church family is confronted with all types of sexual perversions such as homosexuality, transgenderism, Drag, child sexualization, animal spirits, and much more. How should the local church body respond to this? Thankfully the Bible clearly establishes God's design for human sexuality and relationships:

- "Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh" (Genesis 2:24)
- "...For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections..." (Romans 1:26-27)
- "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God?" (1 Corinthians 6:9-10)

Challenges to the Church

1. Doctrinal Integrity

- Pressure to compromise biblical truth
- "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine" (2 Timothy 4:3)

- Need to maintain biblical standards while showing Christ's love

2. Cultural Influence

- Impact on younger generations
- Normalization of unbiblical practices
- "And be not conformed to this world" (Romans 12:2)

Ministry Approach

1. Lead with Christ's Love

- Remember Christ's example with sinners
- "But God commendeth his love toward us, while we were yet sinners Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8)
- Show compassion while maintaining truth

2. Focus on Individual Worth

- Every person is created in God's image
- "For God so loved the world" (John 3:16)
- Value the person while not affirming sin

3. Clear Biblical Teaching

- Present truth with gentleness
- "Speaking the truth in love" (Ephesians 4:15)
- Provide biblical counsel and support

Practical Ministry Guidelines

1. Create Safe Environments

- Welcome all to hear the Gospel

- Maintain appropriate boundaries
- "Come unto me, all ye that labour..." (Matthew 11:28)

2. Offer Support Systems

- Biblical counseling
- Accountability groups
- Prayer support
- "Bear ye one another's burdens" (Galatians 6:2)

3. Focus on Transformation

- Share testimonies of change
- Emphasize God's power to transform
- "If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature" (2 Corinthians 5:17)

Important Reminders

1. All Have Sinned

- Avoid self-righteousness
- "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23)
- Recognize our own need for grace

2. Power of Grace

- God's grace enables change
- "And such were some of you: but ye are washed" (1 Corinthians 6:11)
- Emphasize hope and transformation

3. **Maintain Biblical Standards**

- Love without compromising truth
- Clear teaching with compassion
- "Let your speech be always with grace" (Colossians 4:6)

The goal is to minister effectively while maintaining biblical truth, remembering Christ's example of perfect love and truth: "But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ" (Ephesians 4:15).

Chapter Eleven

Modern Church Persecution

Biblical Responses and Continuing the Great Commission

Current Reality of Persecution

The modern church faces increasing opposition, fulfilling biblical prophecy:

- "Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution" (2 Timothy 3:12)
- "Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you" (John 15:20)

Forms of Modern Persecution

1. Legal Restrictions

- Limitations on public preaching
- Worship gathering restrictions
- Educational constraints
- "We ought to obey God rather than men" (Acts 5:29)

2. Social Pressure

- Cancel culture targeting believers

- Professional discrimination
- Media hostility
- "Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you" (Matthew 5:11)

Biblical Response Principles

1. Maintain Bold Witness

- "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind" (2 Timothy 1:7)
- Continue faithful testimony despite opposition
- "Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord" (2 Timothy 1:8)

2. Practice Wisdom

- "Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves" (Matthew 10:16)
- Develop strategic approaches
- Use discretion in hostile environments

3. Prayer and Faith

- "Pray without ceasing" (1 Thessalonians 5:17)
- Trust God's sovereign plan
- Seek divine guidance and protection

Practical Implementation

1. Alternative Methods

- Utilize technology wisely
- Small group networks
- Underground church models where necessary
- "I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some" (1 Corinthians 9:22)

2. **Training and Preparation**

- Equip believers for persecution
- Develop leadership networks
- Create contingency plans
- "Study to shew thyself approved unto God" (2 Timothy 2:15)

3. **Support Networks**

- Strengthen church connections
- Aid persecuted believers
- Share resources
- "Bear ye one another's burdens" (Galatians 6:2)

Maintaining Gospel Focus

1. **Remember the Mission**

- Great Commission remains priority
- "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations" (Matthew 28:19)
- Focus on eternal impact

2. **Learn from History**

- Study persecuted church examples

- Apply historical lessons
- "Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples" (1 Corinthians 10:11)

3. **Rejoice in Trials**

- "Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven" (Matthew 5:12)
- View persecution as opportunity
- Trust God's purposes

Encouragement for Believers

Remember Christ's promises:

- "Lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world" (Matthew 28:20)
- "In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world" (John 16:33)
- "Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer" (Revelation 2:10)
-

The church often grows strongest under persecution. As Tertullian observed, the blood of martyrs is the seed of the church. We must remain faithful, knowing that "our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory" (2 Corinthians 4:17).

Chapter Twelve

Modern Distrust of Church Authority

Understanding and Biblical Solutions

Root Causes of Distrust

1. Historical Failures

- Past scandals and moral failures
- Financial mismanagement
- Abuse of power
- "For the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles through you" (Romans 2:24)

2. Cultural Shifts

- General anti-authority sentiment
- Individualistic mindset
- Information age skepticism
- "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine" (2 Timothy 4:3)

3. Church Inconsistencies

- Perceived hypocrisy
- Disconnect between teaching and practice
- "They say, and do not" (Matthew 23:3)

Biblical Framework for Trust

1. **God-Ordained Authority**

- "Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God" (Hebrews 13:7)
- Church leadership as divine institution
- Proper submission to authority

2. **Leadership Requirements**

- "A bishop then must be blameless" (1 Timothy 3:2)
- Character qualifications
- Accountability structures

Solutions for Rebuilding Trust

1. **Transparent Leadership**

- Clear communication
- Financial accountability
- Open decision-making processes
- "Providing for honest things, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men" (2 Corinthians 8:21)

2. **Authentic Ministry**

- Genuine relationship building
- Addressing failures honestly
- Living what we preach
- "Be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity" (1 Timothy 4:12)

3. **Biblical Education**

- Teaching on church authority
- Understanding spiritual leadership
- Balance of authority and service
- "Feed the flock of God which is among you" (1 Peter 5:2)

Practical Implementation

1. Leadership Development

- Character-focused training
- Accountability systems
- Mentoring programs
- "And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men" (2 Timothy 2:2)

2. Community Engagement

- Active local presence
- Service initiatives
- Building relationships
- "Let your light so shine before men" (Matthew 5:16)

3. Communication Strategies

- Regular updates
- Clear explanations
- Open dialogue
- "Let your speech be alway with grace" (Colossians 4:6)

Maintaining Biblical Balance

1. **Servant Leadership**

- Following Christ's example
- "But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant" (Matthew 23:11)
- Balance of authority and humility

2. **Accountability Structures**

- Internal oversight
- External accountability
- Regular evaluation
- "For we are made a spectacle unto the world" (1 Corinthians 4:9)

Trust must be earned through consistent, godly leadership that reflects Christ's character. As churches implement these principles, they can work toward rebuilding trust while maintaining biblical authority: "Let all things be done decently and in order" (1 Corinthians 14:40).

Chapter Thirteen

Entangled Allegiances in the Modern Church

Conflicts and Solutions

Common Allegiance Conflicts

1. Church vs. Cultural Values

- Social pressure against biblical standards
- Worldly influences competing with faith
- "No man can serve two masters" (Matthew 6:24)
- "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world" (1 John 2:15)

2. Family vs. Ministry Demands

- Time management struggles
- Family expectations versus church commitments
- "But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith" (1 Timothy 5:8)

3. Professional vs. Spiritual Obligations

- Workplace demands conflicting with ministry
- Career advancement versus spiritual growth
- "Seek ye first the kingdom of God" (Matthew 6:33)

Impact on Ministry

1. **Divided Focus**

- Reduced effectiveness in service
- Spiritual growth hindrance
- "A double minded man is unstable in all his ways" (James 1:8)

2. **Compromised Witness**

- Inconsistent testimony
- Weakened influence
- "Let your light so shine before men" (Matthew 5:16)

Biblical Solutions

1. **Establish Right Priorities**

- God first in all things
- Clear hierarchy of commitments
- "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness" (Matthew 6:33)

2. **Practice Biblical Stewardship**

- Time management
- Resource allocation
- "See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time" (Ephesians 5:15-16)

3. **Maintain Clear Boundaries**

- Set godly limits
- Learn to say no

- "Let your yea be yea; and your nay, nay" (James 5:12)

Practical Steps

1. Regular Evaluation

- Assess commitments
- Review priorities
- "Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith" (2 Corinthians 13:5)

2. Biblical Decision Making

- Pray for wisdom
- Seek godly counsel
- "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God" (James 1:5)

3. Develop Support Systems

- Accountability partners
- Mentoring relationships
- "Iron sharpeneth iron" (Proverbs 27:17)

Moving Forward

1. Unity in Purpose

- Align all activities with God's will
- Integrate faith in all areas
- "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God" (1 Corinthians 10:31)

2. Clear Communication

- Express commitments clearly
- Set realistic expectations
- "Let your speech be always with grace" (Colossians 4:6)

The key to overcoming entangled allegiances lies in maintaining Christ as our supreme authority: "For to me to live is Christ" (Philippians 1:21). When we properly order our allegiances under His lordship, other commitments find their proper place.

Chapter Fourteen

Modern Bible Translations

Their Changes and Impact on Today's Church

Introduction

In recent decades, numerous new Bible translations have emerged, each claiming to make Scripture more accessible to modern readers. However, these changes have brought significant consequences for doctrine, worship, and Christian practice. This chapter will examine these impacts and their implications for the church today. More time will be spent on this specific topic as I believe the confusion brought about by, and the division caused by, modern versions are greatly responsible for most, if not all of the issues we have discussed so far.

PART 1: THE FOUNDATION OF BIBLE TRANSLATION

The King James Version Standard

The 1611 King James Version established a standard for English Bible translation that served the church faithfully for over 400 years. Its distinguishing features included:

- Precise translation methods
- Reverent language
- Consistent word choices

- Strong doctrinal clarity

KJV Translation Principle: "Every word of God is pure"
(Proverbs 30:5) The translators treated each word as divinely inspired, ensuring precise translation.

What Changed?

Modern translation committees departed from traditional methods in several ways:

1. New Source Texts

- Shifted away from Textus Receptus
- Adopted newer manuscripts
- Changed text selection criteria

2. Translation Philosophy

- Moved toward dynamic equivalence
- Prioritized readability over precision
- Introduced gender-neutral language

PART 2: KEY DOCTRINAL CHANGES

The Deity of Christ

Examples of changes affecting this doctrine:

1. John 1:18

- KJV: "the only begotten Son"
- Modern versions: "the only begotten God"
- Impact: Alters the clear statement of Christ's Sonship

2.1 Timothy 3:16

- KJV: "God was manifest in the flesh"

- Modern versions: "He was manifest in the flesh"
- Impact: Removes direct statement of Christ's deity

Blood Atonement

Critical changes affecting salvation doctrine:

1. Colossians 1:14

- KJV: "In whom we have redemption through his blood"
- Modern versions often omit "through his blood"
- Impact: Weakens emphasis on blood atonement

2. Acts 20:28

- KJV: "purchased with his own blood"
- Various modern renderings change this concept
- Impact: Affects understanding of Christ's sacrifice

And these are but a minuet number of changes that have been made.

PART 3: PRACTICAL EFFECTS ON THE CHURCH

Worship Impact

1. Corporate Reading

- Multiple versions create confusion
- Different wordings disrupt unity
- Loss of memorized passages

2. Prayer Language

- Shift from reverent to casual terms
- Loss of traditional prayer vocabulary
- Changed forms of address to God

Teaching Ministry

1. Bible Study Challenges

- Different versions give different meanings
- Difficulty comparing passages
- Question of which version to trust

2. Youth Ministry Effects

- Confusion from multiple versions
- Weakened doctrinal understanding
- Memory verse complications

Pastoral Leadership

1. Teaching Difficulties

- Explaining version differences
- Maintaining doctrinal clarity
- Addressing congregation concerns

2. Church Unity Challenges

- Version preferences divide groups
- Study material complications
- Corporate reading issues

PART 4: SPECIFIC EXAMPLES OF CHANGES

Key Verse Changes and Their Impact

1. Salvation Verses

- Acts 8:37 - Completely removed in many versions
- Mark 10:24 - Removal of key phrase about trusting in riches

- Romans 11:6 - Omission affecting grace vs. works
2. Virgin Birth
- Isaiah 7:14 - "virgin" vs. "young woman"
 - Luke 2:33 - Changes affecting Joseph's relationship
 - Matthew 1:25 - Alterations to "firstborn"

Modern Church Impact Examples

1. First Baptist Church Study:

- 12 different versions in one Bible study
- 7 different meanings for key passages
- 3 conflicting doctrinal interpretations

2. Youth Group Survey:

- 85% unfamiliar with traditional Bible terms
- 60% confusion over different versions
- 40% difficulty memorizing Scripture

PART 5: PROTECTING DOCTRINAL INTEGRITY

Solutions for Churches

1. Clear Version Policies

- Established pulpit version
- Study group guidelines
- Memory verse standards

2. Teaching Strategies

- Explaining textual differences
- Maintaining doctrinal clarity
- Building biblical literacy

Personal Bible Study

1. Version Comparison Tips

- Using KJV as baseline
- Checking key doctrinal passages
- Understanding translation differences

2. Study Methods

- Word study techniques
- Cross-reference systems
- Doctrinal topic analysis

The modern Bible version movement largely stems from the work of B.F. Westcott and F.J.A. Hort in the late 1800s. Their critical Greek text marked a significant departure from the traditional Textus Receptus used by the KJV translators.

Key Changes Introduced:

1. New Manuscript Preference

- Elevated Codex Sinaiticus and Codex Vaticanus
- Rejected majority of existing manuscripts
- Favored older but fewer manuscripts
- Dismissed Byzantine text tradition

2. Personal Beliefs of Westcott and Hort

- Questioned verbal inspiration
- Embraced evolutionary theory
- Involved in spiritualist activities
- Rejected traditional doctrines

3. Impact on Modern Versions

- All modern versions after the KJV use their approach
- NIV, NASB, ESV based on similar texts
Perpetuated their textual choices
- Continued rejection of Majority Text

Critical Problems with Their Approach:

1. Manuscript Issues

- Relied on corrupt Alexandrian texts
- Ignored 95% of existing manuscripts
- Preferred older but less reliable sources
- Dismissed church's historical text

2. Theological Concerns

- Their beliefs influenced choices
- Naturalistic text criticism
- Rejection of preservation doctrine
- Skepticism of supernatural elements

3. Historical Problems

- No historical church use of their text
- Created artificial text type
- Ignored centuries of church usage
- Departed from reformation texts

This foundational understanding of the Westcott-Hort text helps explain why modern versions differ so significantly from the KJV. Their work represents not just a change in translation philosophy, but a fundamental shift in how the Bible's text is viewed and handled.

The proliferation of modern Bible versions has brought significant changes to the church. While claiming to increase clarity, these changes have often resulted in:

- Doctrinal confusion
- Worship complications
- Teaching challenges
- Unity issues

Understanding these impacts helps churches and individuals make informed decisions about Bible versions and maintain strong doctrinal foundations.

Chapter Fifteen

Standing Firm in Faith

A Path to Victory for Today's Church

Our Foundation of Victory

Despite the numerous challenges facing the modern church, we stand on Christ's promise: "In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world" (John 16:33). This foundational truth reminds us that victory is not merely possible but promised through Christ.

United in Purpose

The key to overcoming all the modern challenges mentioned in this book lies in unity of purpose and spirit: "Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Ephesians 4:3). When the church stands together, it presents a powerful witness to the world and strengthens its members against adversity.

Strategic Approaches for Victory

1. Spiritual Preparation

- Strengthen personal devotion
- "Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil" (Ephesians 6:11)
- Maintain regular prayer and Bible study

- "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Truth" (2 Timothy 2:15)

2. **Community Strengthening**

- Build strong church families
- Support networks for believers
- Mentoring relationships
- "And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works" (Hebrews 10:24)

3. **Bold Witness**

- Maintain clear Gospel message
- Creative outreach methods
- Cultural engagement without compromise
- "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation" (Romans 1:16)

Practical Steps Forward

1. **Leadership Development**

- Train next generation
- Build strong foundations
- "And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also" (2 Timothy 2:2)

2. **Resource Stewardship**

- Wise use of technology

- Strategic planning
- Financial wisdom
- "Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful" (1 Corinthians 4:2)

3. **Cultural Engagement**

- Relevant without compromise
- Biblical responses to issues
- Clear moral stance
- "Be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed" (Romans 12:2)

Standing Together in Faith

Our victory requires both individual and collective action:

1. **Personal Commitment**

- Daily surrender to Christ
- Consistent spiritual growth
- "I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:14)

2. **Corporate Strength**

- Church unity
- Shared vision
- Mutual support
- "For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body" (1 Corinthians 12:13)

Looking Forward with Hope

We face our challenges with confidence, knowing:

1. God's Promises Stand

- "If God be for us, who can be against us?" (Romans 8:31)
- Victory assured in Christ
- Eternal perspective

2. Church Will Prevail

- "Upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (Matthew 16:18)
- God's power manifest
- Ultimate triumph assured

Final Encouragement

As we face these challenges together, let us remember that our struggles are temporary but our victory is eternal. "For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory" (2 Corinthians 4:17). By maintaining our focus on Christ, supporting one another in love, and standing firm in biblical truth, we can overcome any obstacle.

Our call is not just to survive but to thrive, demonstrating God's power in our generation. As we move forward together, may we echo Paul's confidence: "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me" (Philippians 4:13).

Let us therefore stand firm, work together, and press forward, knowing that our labor is not in vain in the Lord. Victory is assured

not through our strength but through His power working in and through His church.

For further thought

Answer all questions in light of information given in each class.

(1) Write a paragraph explaining what you can do to become more literate in Scriptural matters.

(2) Identify any disconnect you may have in your life and what steps you need to take to reconnect.

(3) Write down four different areas in your daily life and note any compartmentalizing you may have done.

(4) Have you become bored in your church or ministry. List three things that you feel would help you get excited for the Lord again.

(5) Have you noted yourself, your Pastor, or someone else trying to make the Gospel more exciting by making up new doctrines that are not Biblical?

(6) Note at least two ways a person could over complicate God's Word.

(7) Write down four areas in your life that you could do better in defending God's Word.

(8) What are two dangers of becoming a consumer Christian?

(9) List two negative aspects of social media and two positive aspects in regards to ministry and/or Christian life.

(10) Write a short paper on how we should respond to sexual perversion of any kind within the Church.

(11) Have you noted any type of persecution within the body of Christ, and if so, how do you feel is the best way to handle it?

(12) What are some of the factors that would make a person distrust the modern Church?

(13) Note any areas in your life where you have become entangled and it has affected your Christian life.

(14) Do you use a different version of the Bible other than the KJV, and if so, have you noted any differences that may change how you view certain doctrines?

(15) Note several areas in your life where you can improve and make a stronger stand firm in your faith

Modern Christianity

At a Crossroad

Christianity today is at a crossroads in which I fear the direction it takes may already be too late. Many problems plague the house of God today, and by extension each person who enters. Satan has done a great job in distracting the children of God, leading them away from the true Gospel of Jesus Christ and into a lukewarm, worldly, religious path that aims to please more than transform. In this book Dr. Dodson looks at some of the major issues we face, and how we can insure our path is the one God wants us on.



Dr. Dodson has been preaching and teaching the Word of God for over 35 years. He has served as an Evangelist, Youth Pastor, Senior Pastor, College professor and Author.

Dr. Dodson's unique ability to explain Biblical concepts, challenge the reader to study and think on their own, and to take a stand for what is Biblical, regardless if it is popular or not has earned him the respect of many students worldwide, and we pray his teachings will bless you as well.