



Textual Criticism Part 2

Mark 16:9-20

Review

Textual Criticism: Determining what the original manuscripts of the Bible said, by gathering as many ancient manuscripts as possible (over 25,000) and comparing them word for word. Including:

- _____ Greek Transcripts (Averaging 400 pages per Manuscript)
- _____ Transcripts translated from Greek into various languages
- A complete copy of the four gospels and Acts dating back to _____
- A complete copy of the entire New Testament dating back to _____
- A complete copy of the entire Bible dating back to _____
- One _____ N.T. quotes from the writings of the church fathers
- The dead sea scrolls

Results of Textual Criticism?

- A. _____% of the Bible we hold in our hands is absolutely unquestioned as to its validity of origin
- B. _____% of the remaining portions only generate questions regarding spelling, punctuation, repeated words, and/or omitted words which are easily corrected and un-noteworthy.
- C. The remaining _____%, where we truly don't know what the original author said or did not say, is clearly marked, footnoted, and options given in all modern translations.
- D. We can trust that _____% of the Bible you and I hold in our hand, is a trustworthy and complete representation of what the original texts, directly inspired by the Holy Spirit, actually said. IE: _____ has preserved His Holy Scriptures for our use and benefit.

How Should we deal with these differences?

- A. With integrity and honesty.
 - i. Yes, there were copy errors in the manuscripts as they were created over time.
 - ii. However, 99% of the errors were spelling and punctuation errors, the omission, or repetition of a word, or phrase.
 - iii. Of the other 1%, we know exactly where they are, and what the original text said.
 - iv. Not a single essential doctrine is changed or questioned because of any such change/error.
- B. In Humility and Awe:

Not only has God done what is impossible with man. God has provided _____x the manuscript evidence for the Bible than exists for almost any other ancient books combined.

Mark 16:9-20

What do we know about its origin?

- A. There are ____ endings to Mark that show up in the various manuscripts after verse 8.
- B. Everything in verses 9-20 show up in some fashion or another elsewhere in scripture.
- C. The logical explanation (external evidence) seems to be that rather than verses 9-20 being removed by a scribe, or being skipped - yet not noticed by others; it is more likely that verses 9-20 were added by a scribe who did not like the conclusion of Mark.
 - i. Mark's conclusion was rather _____, but that's not unusual.
 - ii. Mark did however end at the moment when his big idea was _____.
 - iii. Mark's writing was much more about making a point, that telling a story.

What can we say about Mark 16:9-20s presence in our Bibles beyond Textual Criticism?

- A. Textual Criticism results in the conclusion that Mark 16:9-20 does _____ belong.
- B. Verse 9 re-states what verses 1-8 say (first day, empty tomb), and re-introduces Mary Magdalen as if we don't know her; yet we do.
- C. Verses 9-16, and 19-20 are accurate and agree with the whole of the Bible. (___ day summary)
- D. Verses 17-18 do _____ agree with the whole of the Bible.
 - i. "These signs will accompany" means all of them, in everyone.
 - ii. Even if you take it as one of them, in everyone - it falls short.
- E. More than one false teaching has been built around verses 17-18.
 - i. Snake handling as part of worship, and proof of your faith.
 - ii. Speaking in Tongues as a proof of your salvation.
 - iii. Speaking in Tongues as a requirement of your salvation.
 - iv. Fraudulent healing ministries that use the laying on of hands.

What do we do with Mark 16:9-20 as far as study and application?

- A. We preach Mark 16:8 as the _____ of Mark, just as Contextual Criticism would have us do.
- B. We use vss 9-20 ONLY as proof that Bible Translators are _____ and upfront whenever they have found any issues in the text, thus making our Bible MORE trustworthy, not less.
- C. We acknowledge that Mark 16:9-20 remains in our Bibles as a tribute and honor to the good work done by the King James translators.

What are your take home points from these past two weeks?

- A. There are several _____ English translations of the Bible, including the KJ, NKJ, NAS, ESV, NIV, NLT, AMP, etc.
- B. Copying errors, even intentional additions to the text, does not _____ the integrity of God's Word, because God has protected it and given us plenty of _____ and _____ to use in determining exactly what the original documents actually said.
- C. These copy errors, and erroneous additions, when acknowledged and explained only lead to _____ (not mistrust) in the English translations produced for our use.