

# Some False Claims Of KJVO Proponents<sup>1</sup>

## What Is KJVO?

Looking at Titus 2:13, I am led into something that I do not really want to waste time discussing but have to because it is an error that has entered into the Grace Movement. That error is the King James Version Only (KJVO) position. Some of you may not even know what it is, but if you are active in the Grace Movement for long, you will run into it.

While there are probably as many different flavors of KJVO as there are churches, teachers and pastors who preach it, one King James Bible proponent explains it this way: The KJV is the means by which God preserved His Word in English. Another explains it this way: God directly guided the King James translators to produce a perfect English Bible in the King James Version. Of course, if either of these statements are true, then the KJV is the ONLY version one can use in English—thus: KJVO.

## Two False Claims of KJVO

In my experience, there are two major claims KJVO proponents make to attract people to their position. First, they claim that modern translations are based on corrupt text/s. But this is blatantly false. While this might be true for some modern translations, like the NIV, it is not true of all modern translations. There are many modern translations based on the same underlying Greek text of the King James Version. Foremost being the New King James Version (NKJV) in addition to many others--Berry's and Green's Interlinears, and a variety of reference Bible helps based on KJV/Textus Receptus.

This is indicative of their modus-operandi of telling partial truths to get people to follow them. And that brings up an important question: If someone uses half-truths to lead you to conclusions that they know are blatantly false, what does that say about them?

Second, they use the same tactic of telling half-truths to claim that modern translations are part of a vast conspiracy to diminish fundamental biblical truths, like the deity of Christ and the Trinity. To do this, they cherry-pick verses that appear to support their claim while ignoring verses that don't. When I worked in the scientific field, CHERRY-PICKING THE DATA was the cardinal sin and was grounds for termination. To establish the truth, we need ALL THE DATA—even that data that doesn't fit our pet theory!

One such cherry-picked verse is John 5:7. In the KJV it refers to the Trinity, and with it the deity of Christ. In some modern versions (although NOT the modern NKJV!), however, it refers to the Spirit, water and the blood (NIV). The KJVO proponents jump up and say,

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<sup>1</sup> For a fuller and more detailed explanation of this shorter article, see my booklet entitled: WHY I AM NOT KJVO. It can be downloaded at the [gbcrm.com](http://gbcrm.com) website under speaker STEVE WALKER and clicking the tab ERRORS THAT HAVE CREPT INTO MID-ACTS DISPENSATIONALISM.

see, the modern translations are conspiring to diminish the deity of Christ and the Trinity! But if this is true, if there really is a conspiracy to do this, the conspirators are pretty inept! For why would these “conspirators” affirm the deity of Christ (and with it the Trinity) in 1 Jn. 5:5, and then two verses later in 1 Jn. 5:7 deny it?!

The problem with cherry-picking data to support one’s claims is that it is a game that two can play. For every verse a KJVO proponent gives to support their claim, a non-KJVO proponent can give a verse that contradicts it. For instance, if I wanted to play devil’s advocate (so to speak), I could cherry-pick verses that include the KJV in this great conspiracy to diminish the deity of Christ and the Trinity by cherry-picking Titus 2:13!

The KJV translates the underlying Greek in this way: **Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ.** In the KJV there are two different persons: On the one hand, the great God and, on the other hand, our Savior Jesus Christ. If we only had this single verse in the KJV, it would not be clear that Jesus Christ is God.

But the underlying Greek text of Titus 2:13 is clear, extremely clear. It definitively affirms that Jesus Christ is God. In contradistinction to the KJV, the modern translations--yes, those translations that are supposedly conspiring to diminish the deity of Christ/Trinity--clearly affirm the deity of Christ by translating this verse in accord with the underlying Greek: **Looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ** (NIV). Jesus Christ is indeed not only Savior. He is God and Savior.

Let’s continue playing the devil’s advocate. If there really is a giant conspiracy to diminish the deity of Christ or other fundamentals of the faith, apparently here the KJV has joined with it. But again, it would be a very inept conspiracy! For just as we saw with 1 John 5:5 and 5:7 so too we see here. The “conspirators” are completely inept for they magnify and clearly proclaim the deity of Christ in Titus 2:10 and then diminish and obscure it in Titus 2:13!

We could go on-and-on cherry-picking verses, playing a ping-pong like game of back-and-forth to supposedly “prove” our claims. But wouldn’t it be far better to just deal honestly in full truth rather than deceitfully in partial truth?

## **A History of My Grace Church Experience**

Exposing the error of the KJVO position is important because it adds something to Paul’s Gospel, thereby contaminating it. The flesh wrongly thinks that adding things to Paul’s Gospel actually adds something to it. That it actually improves, helps and advances it. But this is a Satanic Lie. With God’s true math, adding things to Grace always—ALWAYS—YES, EVEN THOSE THINGS YOU THINK WILL REALLY HELP GOD OUT--subtracts from Grace, diminishing and hindering it, ultimately destroying it.

I know this not only from God's Word but from experience. My first Grace Church thought they would help God out by adding things from the church growth movement to appeal to the flesh to get people in. Things like professional music and entertainment, programs, Christian counseling, etc. No doubt, they justified this by thinking that this will bring more people into the church to hear the Gospel. And it worked--1500+ people there on Sundays--WOW!

But before long, there was so much else going on that there was no place left for the grace message. Most people didn't come to hear the spiritual proclamation of Pauline Grace Mystery Truth (PGMT). They came to participate in programs that appealed to the flesh. Eventually, the grace pastor and with him the grace message, was squeezed out, snuffing out the light of that Grace Church. Now, 45 years later that church building is still there, and the programs are still there, but the grace message is long gone.

Then I went to my second grace church. The grace teaching at first was phenomenal. The grace pastor proclaimed the fundamentals of grace clearly and purely. And then, perhaps thinking he would help God out in His supposed holy war, the pastor began spending more and more time on politics, gun control, conspiracy theories, etc., and correspondingly less and less time on PGMT until the church eventually self-destructed.

Then I went to my third grace church. That church was running well, focusing on the purity of PGMT, united in praising God for His grace. Then someone went to some conference somewhere and came back all gung ho that the church should become a KJVO church, dividing the church.

### **A Vision For The Grace Church**

Finally, I found my fourth grace church, GBCRM. I was beginning to wonder if it was even possible to have a Grace Church that didn't add anything to PGMT. And to my amazement, GBCRM proved it was possible. They preached Pauline Grace Mystery Truth without adding anything to it. What a spiritual breath of fresh air!

The real fundamental question is whether or not the Lord Jesus Christ is enough? Will people come to a church that ONLY proclaims spiritual truth about our Lord Jesus Christ without the addition of any fleshly attractants? Can it be done? I know GBCRM could add professional music or certain strains of politics and get more, many more, attendees. I know we could pull in multitudes by adding programs and health club amenities--tennis courts and a swimming pool--with free memberships to all who regularly attend. No doubt, we could fill the whole church with people coming for those things. We would have to get the police out to direct traffic!

But who will come if the only thing we have to offer is PGMT, the preaching of Jesus Christ according to the Revelation of the Mystery and nothing else? As my church history proves,

the flesh answers this question with a resounding NO, but the enlivened and enlightened spirit through God answers it with a doubly resounding YES! His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, isn't just enough; He is infinitely more than enough. In fact, He is everything and ultimately all that really matters.

## **WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO EXPOSE THE ERROR OF KJVO**

So why is it so important to expose the error of the King James Version Only position? First, it is because they claim to be giving people the whole Word of God when, in fact, they are hiding it from them (as we just saw, for instance, in Titus 2:13). Second, they shift our focus away from God's truth about the Lord Jesus Christ and shift it toward man's traditions and pet-theories about translation and preservation.

I know a young man who got pulled into the KJVO world by a relative. He was a new believer and was attracted to their claim to have the whole Word of God. I tried to talk with him about all the glorious truths about the Lord Jesus Christ and His Cross, about Paul's Gospel of Grace and the Revelation of the Mystery, about all our spiritual blessings in Christ in the heavenlies. But all to no avail. All he wanted to talk about was how he signed up for that KJVO church's class on manuscript evidences, and that he was having a hard time understanding it. These KJVO proponents had steered him away from God's truth, and steered him toward their man-made traditions. My point is that his focus, especially as a new believer, ought to have been the Lord Jesus Christ and PGMT not some particular view of manuscript evidences.

I have seen the KJVO position divide families, long-time friendships, churches and the whole Grace Movement in order to gain followers away from Pauline Grace teachers that preceded them. But beware because Jesus Christ said: **Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand** (Mat. 12:25). In dividing the Grace Movement, KJVO proponents have diminished its strength in proclaiming PGMT in all purity.

## **My Appeal To GBCRM**

I suggest that our goal as an assembly, as a Grace Assembly, should be to proclaim Pauline, Grace Mystery Truth (PGMT) in all its glory, purely and without admixture, letting the chips fall where they may. We should vow to not add anything to Pauline Grace. No not even that thing we think will really help God. For as we have seen, adding anything to PGMT, in fact, only subtracts from it.

## **What Is The Answer To KJVO?**

The answer to KJVO is the God-given fundamental principle that truth is manifested, established and preserved, NOT through singularities but through multiplicities. This

fundamental principle is presented way back in Deuteronomy 19:15, which commands that in order to establish the truth you need not one but at least two, preferably three good witnesses, and best of all, a multitude of good witnesses. One witness simply will not do!

When God preserved the truth of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, He didn't preserve it through one perfect witness but through hundreds of imperfect witnesses--500 at one time. It is through multiple witnesses, not singular witnesses, that the truth is affirmed. Likewise, God didn't preserve His truth in English in one singular witness, the KJV, but in a multiplicity of witnesses (KJV, NKJV, Berry's, reference helps, etc.).

So, we can say that the KJV is the best English translation of God's Word, the default translation that is the complete Word of God, word-for-word, in multiplicity not in singularity. Yes, the KJV is wrong in places like Rom. 16:26 and Titus 2:13, but in multiplicity it is corrected by the NKJV in those places. And yes, the NKJV is wrong in places like Rom. 3:22, but likewise in multiplicity it is corrected by the KJV in those places.

This is the way every, EVERY, Bible teacher studies and prepares messages, even KJVO teachers, even if they don't admit it.

### **Warning Against Adding Things To PGM**

Phil. 1:15-18 says this: **Some indeed preach Christ even of envy and strife; and some also of good will: <sup>16</sup> the one preach Christ of contention, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my bonds: <sup>17</sup> but the other of love, knowing that I am set for the defense of the gospel. <sup>18</sup> What then? notwithstanding, every way, whether in pretense, or in truth, Christ is preached; and I therein do rejoice, yea, and will rejoice.**

While Paul was incapacitated in prison, insincere and contentious teachers were adding things to Paul's Gospel to pull believers away from him and his co-workers and to themselves. But the only thing they really added was affliction to his bonds! Like Paul in this passage, if a KJVO proponent is preaching Pauline Grace, we rejoice. But we will also continue to pray that they purge out what they have polluted it with so they can teach it in all its purity.

Romans 16:17-18 gives an even more dire warning against adding things to Pauline Grace. **Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. <sup>18</sup> For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple.** To many hearts, the KJVO position seems attractive on the surface, promising to give them the whole Word of God, but underneath it hides the whole Word of God from them.

### **Final Appeal**

I am sure that preaching PGMT purely and without the addition of anything else, we will likely not need the police here on Sundays to direct traffic in and out of the parking lot! But I am also certain with 100% certainty that while we won't have man's approval, we will have God's approval! And that's ok, because that all that really matters!