

# THE FLORAL HEIGHTS INFORMER

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**Floral Heights  
Church of Christ  
1814 Buchanan  
Wichita Falls, Texas  
76309  
(940) 322 - 1650**

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## **Our Elders:**

*Mike Chancellor*  
(322 – 6374)

*Tom Witherspoon*  
(766 – 5368)

## **Deacons:**

*Joe Cronin*

*Jim Hall*

*David Witherspoon*

## **Preacher:**

*John C. Robertson*

## **Three O'clock AM** **A Dad's Concern**

Why three O'clock in the morning? I have often wondered why three O'clock in the morning is the time that I choose to go wide eyed with numerous thoughts of my failures and the previous day's events. This past Monday morning was no different than other three AM episodes. You know the drill John. Wake up, think about the days events, and then worry about your success in areas of teaching and instilling faith and conviction within the hearts of all the kids. There was; however, something different about this Monday (I'll get to that in a moment).

Dads know their responsibility to "*nurture their children in the chastening and admonition of the Lord*" (Eph. 6:4). Often times we can't help but wonder if we are doing all that we can to achieve this command. Liddell and Scott's Greek English Lexicon defines "*nurture*" as "the rearing of a child... training and teaching, education" (LS 584). The father is thereby commanded to teach, train, and educate his children in the Lord's teachings (i.e., truth). Being a teacher; however, demands that I have some degree of mastery over the subject that I am teaching. Fathers should not only believe truth (Rom. 10:17; Heb. 11:6) but be willing to spend time learning (Eph. 4:20-21), knowing (Ezek. 3:4-7; Jn. 8:31-32; I Cor. 2:12; Eph. 1:17-18; 3:3-4; 4:13; 5:17; Jude 5), and using truth lawfully (I Tim. 1:8).

Fathers ought to have hearts of understanding. Our very young children have no concept of truth other than what they see and hear in me. They were not on the earth while I was developing the faith that I have. They did not witness the progression of my conviction. I must, thereby, instill this same faith and conviction within them. Moses delivered this same principle in Deuteronomy 11. Moses tells parents that their children had not seen God's great and mighty signs and wonders in Egypt... "*But your eyes have seen all the great work of Jehovah which he did*" (Deut. 11:2-7). Having witnessed the great power of God they were commanded to instill faith and conviction within their Children. Parents were to bind truth to their hands and eyes teaching their children when they were in the house, walking outside, when they lay down and when they get up (Deut. 11:18-22). Truth was to be a vital part of their every day lives. The parent who instills great value in truth within the hearts of their children succeeds in parenting. Truth saves (Rom. 1:16), causes one to be spiritually healthy (II Tim. 3:2; Titus 1:13; 2:1), and establishes one in God's prescribed ways (II Thess. 3:3). **Do your children value truth?**

## Local News:

### Welcome to all our visitors:

We pray that you will be edified by our service and that you will ask questions if things are not as you are accustomed to seeing. Please do come back at your every opportunity!

**Quincy Adams** is scheduled to have eye surgery in Dallas on July 3, 2008.

**Nina's** surgery went well this past Thursday. She had cataract surgery on her left eye and she believes that her eyesight should return to normal.

Continue to pray for **Joni Miller**. **Joni** had fell and broke her upper arm two weeks ago. Her arm continues to heal at a slow pace.

### Singing Class:

There is a weekly singing class being conducted on Sundays at 5:00 PM.

### Last Sunday of the Month Singing:

Be sure to get with one of the song leaders to request your favorite songs to be sung tonight!

### Continue to pray for our shut-ins:

**Stella Davidson**  
696-1030 (Home)

**Calvin York**  
692-0489 (Home).

**Bessie Murphy**  
4600 Taft Blvd, Apt. 538

One of my greatest fears through the years has been that I have failed or am failing at establishing the value of truth within the mind of my children. The daunting tasks of having them know the contents of sixty six books that were written on a high school level, is sometimes overwhelming. Can your child name all the books of the Bible? Can he or she list the apostles, judges, prophets, and beatitudes? Can your child quote from important passages such as Psalms 23, Jeremiah 10:23; Matthew 28:18-19; Lk. 24:44-49; Acts 2:38; 20:16; Rom. 1:16 etc. etc.? Can your child explain the priestly order of Melchizedek's priesthood as it relates to Christ (Heb. 7:1-17)? Can your child explain the equivalence of the first and second covenants through shadows (Heb. 8:1-13)? I could list more but you get the point. Many adults do not know these elementary principles and neither have they memorized things that they should have by reason of their age (Heb. 5:12).

What was different about this past Monday? There I lay at three O'clock AM worrying that I am not doing all that I can as a parent. My thoughts are revolving around their exhaustive knowledge of Bible stories, characters, and doctrines. How can I get all of these things through to them in a short amount of time? The answer seemed to come to me there at three AM. The Bible is a book of principles. Summarizing the Bible's principles is somewhat easy. The Bible reveals the identity of sin, its consequences, and the remedy to the situation. There it hit me like a train of truth crashing into my mind. All of these simple principles are found in character studies, Bible stories, and New Testament doctrines. The fact is I will not have my daughter quoting every important scripture, naming every prophet, and explaining to me the order of Melchizedek at the age of five. What I must realize, as a father, is that if I can instill within my child's mind the identity of sin, its consequences, and its remedy through the blood of Christ I will have planted the seed of faith and conviction. Through the years that child will gain more and more knowledge. Through the years that child will gain more and more faith and conviction. Solomon wrote, "*Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it*" (Prov. 22:6).

Parents and members of the body of Christ please hear. I implore, yea beseech you, to be patient with your children and other's children. Do not expect a third grader to have an adult's knowledge of God's word. Do not expect a five year old to have the same attention span as a twenty year old. Do not belittle or make fun of one who has not mastered memory verses. Do not make fun of a child in Bible class because his reading level does not match others or your expectations. **Encourage** these little ones to want to develop these skills. Children who are treated as though they are worthless will become worthless. The mind of the child has the ability to hear, listen, and be attentive for long periods of time yet this skill must be nurtured (Josh. 8:34-35).

Three O'clock in the morning has produced many thought provoking moments in my life. For now, I just want to help my kids learn about God and gain conviction. Time is on my side at the moment. Bit by bit, piece by piece, truth by truth, and time by time these little ones will get bigger and with their size will come an increase of Bible knowledge and conviction.

*John C. Robertson*

# The Bible Part III

## TRANSLATIONS

### Introduction:

According to the United Bible Society, as of December 31, 2007, translations of the full Bible were available for 438 languages, translations of one of the two testaments in 1,168 additional languages, and portions of the text existed in 848 additional languages. This means that partial or full translations of the Bible exist in a total of 2,454 languages. One of these 2,454 languages is English. With the English language alone there are approximately 450 Bible versions. To examine each one of these versions would be beyond the scope of this study. We will; however, examine the approaches used in interpreting these English Bibles and look to a few examples.

### I. The Word of God:

- A. God's word is pure (Ps. 12:6-7), complete (II Pet. 1:3), and stands alone as man's standard to live by (II Tim. 3:16-17).
- B. God's word will forever remain (Isa. 40:7-8; Lk. 21:33; I Pet. 1:23ff).

### II. A Short History of Bible Translations:

- A. The Greek Septuagint (LXX) – 3 BC
- B. Vetus Latina (The Old Latin Bible) – 3 BC to 382 AD
- C. Latin Vulgate – 382 AD
- D. The Synod of Hippo – 393 AD
- E. Wycliffe's English Bible – 1384 AD
- F. Tyndale's Bible – 1526 AD
- G. The Great Bible – 1539
- H. The Council of Trent - 1546
- I. Geneva Bible - 1560
- J. The Bishop's Bible - 1568
- k. Sistine Vulgate – 1590
- L. Sixto-Clementine Vulgate/1592
- M. King James Version - 1611
- N. Modern Versions:

### III. Approach to Interpreting Hebrew / Aramaic / Greek Manuscripts:

- A. Dynamic Equivalence / Paraphrase
- B. Formal Equivalence / Word for Word translation

### IV. Formal Equivalence Translations:

- A. Young's Literal Translation – 1862
- B. Revised Version – 1885
- C. 1901 American Standard Version
- D. New American Standard Version – 1971
- E. New King James Version - 1982
- F. Other Formal Equivalence Versions:
  - 1. The English Standard Version-2001
  - 2. 1997 ASV (World English Bible)

### V. Dynamic Paraphrase Translations:

- A. The Living Bible – 1971
- B. The Good News Bible – 1976
- C. The New International Version Bible – 1978
- D. The Message Bible – 2002
- E. The New Living Translation – 2004

### Conclusion:

The practice of adding and subtracting truths from divine revelation has been around a long time (see Gal. 1:6; II Thess. 2:1-2; Rev. 22:18-19). When one considers passages such as Galatians 1:6-11 it ought to concern us that through history wicked men have sought to change the message of God's word. The true New Testament Christian's earnest desire ought to be directed toward the original unadulterated word of God. This study has illustrated the value of seeking out a "formal equivalence" text for a primary source of study. The paraphrase and "dynamic equivalence" texts rely on human interpretation rather than precise translation. Let the word of God speak for itself.