



## The Witness of Original History

### HOW DO YOU KNOW IT'S TRUE?

Son of Man shall set you free, you will be free in reality."

Views, opinions, beliefs, traditions, interpretations, judgments, reckonings, thinking and thoughts, ideas, convictions, being persuaded, feelings, sentiments, theories, hypothesis, estimation, conclusions, verdicts, observations, and much more are all things that are used to Interpret the Bible Today. But we have all been wrong before; jumped to wrong conclusions. "Every mans ways are right in his own opinions" (eyes), said Solomon.

The Word or Teaching of Jesus, Continuing in Living it, and maintaining a heart that is Willing to do what the Father is teaching us in the Scriptures. Everything else puts us back at the beginning with our own opinions and false conclusions.

Historically, Christianity has embraced a Classical Education approach; reading original documents in their original languages; and the witness of the actual documents of history as history. Everything else is someone's Interpretation and Explanation of documents and events in history. There is more than one way to translate any Greek or Hebrew text; and how one translates it may depend upon the views one holds. History is the same. It is not necessarily the events that matter, but the who, what, when, where, why and how. Every event has a context and . . . .

How then do we get at the truth. Jesus said, "If any man is willing to do the will of the Father, he shall know of the teaching, if it is from God or men." However, a willing heart in and of itself will not lead one to the truth. Jesus also said, "If you continue in My Word, then are you My real disciples, and you will know the truth and the truth will set you free . . . If the

### White Stone Missions

[whitestonemissions.com](http://whitestonemissions.com)

WHITE STONE MISSIONS was established to create a Missions Approach that would be:

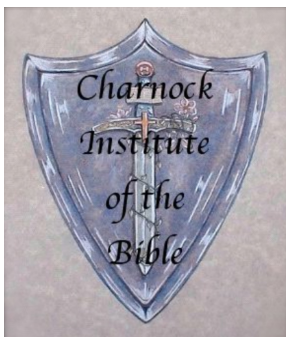
1. Quality
2. Pennies on the Dollar

Quality does not always mean Expensive. A quality marriage may exist in poverty, and quality parenting may be the same. Money can actually get in the way. We at White Stone Missions are targeting Quality Over Quantity and providing materials which will bring a Quality Christian Life and Ministry. PENNIES ON THE DOLLAR might even be a great name for the Ministry! A glass of cold water, Jesus said, is supporting a Prophet, a Righteous Man or a Disciple (Student). Water was not free in the ancient world! Not charging someone who has little and is trying to serve the Lord is the provision of GRACE by the hand of the one who gives the water. A small thing? . . . Not to the one who is thirsty!

Blessings!



### PLAN NOW FOR THIS COMING SUMMER



Plan now on joining us for summer session beginning in June. You will earn Certificates in Hebrew and Greek Translation. Why not join the group of Translation Consultants and serve where you are needed as a Translation Consultant.

Did you know that if you are a full time student at CIB,

your spouse can attend your classes for free? She can also attend other classes that you are not taking at half the cost.

Second Child? The Second Child (or third, or fourth) attends CIB at half the normal cost. A great savings.

Graduates - CIB offers classes in Syriac and Egyptian for a Masters Degree. These languages are your path to the first two Translations of the Bible in the a.d. 100s and 200s. See how the Early Church Understood the text!

every context has an idea.

Paul made an issue of a word being singular or plural, Jesus made an issue of a word being not a command but an allowing of an action. Grammar Mattered to Jesus and the Apostles!

The second item that Jesus and the Apostles used for confirmation was Biblical History. The Old Testament was viewed as Real History and its events to be used to Instruct us in following God.

So we have them using Original Documents in their Original Languages along with History. They did use translation such as the Septuagint (Greek) and the Targums (Aramaic Translations), but the Original Text ruled!

We have witnesses of both History and Translation in abundance.

### A. The Original Languages

These still rule. But how do we know that we are reading, and so translating, accurately? We have 5 Primary Translations that were made in the time when the Koine' Greek, which was used to write the New Testament, was still being spoken. These allow us to check our own Translations and Interpretations today.

1. The Septuagint was the Hebrew Old Testament translated into Greek a couple of hundred years before the New Testament era, and was the primary

Bible Translation used by the Apostles and the Early Church.

2. The Targums were the Aramaic Translations of the Hebrew Old Testament and span from before the time of the New Testament to a few hundred years after. Paul uses this translation in Ephesians 4 (this is why it does not follow the Hebrew text).
3. The Peshitta is the Syriac translation of the Old and New Testament made at the time of, or immediately after, the Apostles.
4. The Egyptian (we today call it Coptic, meaning Egypt) in the Sahidic language was made perhaps 150 years or so after the Apostles.
5. The Common Latin Translation (Vulgate) was made from 350-400 a.d.

**B. Church History** We have thousands of pages of all known writings from the Early Church. We know their views, interpretations, practices, etc. We can read, and so watch them dealing first hand with everything you can imagine.

All of this together provide us with more than enough witnesses to check ourselves and others (the Bible says 2 or 3 are normally enough). Personal preferences have no place.

One other item. The only way one can know if a translation is well done or not is to know

both the original language and the translation language. This allows for understanding both what was originally said, and also grasping how the Translator was Reading and Interpreting it. Yes, there is Interpretation involved in Translation. This is why having several translations around might be helpful for most of us.

This may all seem a bit overwhelming, but this is why Jesus said He would send His Scribes (Bible Scholars) in Matthew 23.

*Thank you to all of you who work so hard with us. You make this possible as Jesus works through you!*

## Charnock Institute of the Bible

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