



Books in Review

KING JAMES ONLY?

by Robert A. Joyner

Community Baptist Church, 143 pages, \$8.99

There are those who say that the King James Version is the *one and only* Bible translation for mankind. It alone, they say, is the most accurate, most faithful, and most reverent of any translation known to man. Moreover, many key “KJV-Only” advocates indict any and all modern translations, charging the translators of these versions with abandoning the cardinal doctrines of the faith and stunting the spiritual growth of those who read these translations. One KJV-Only advocate says modern translations are occultic.

The average layperson can become mired in the marsh of rhetoric and minutiae of a KJV-Only advocate. Robert Joyner’s volume is a great asset for the Christian who wants to know the facts, but has no knowledge of Hebrew and Greek. *King James Only?* is simple in presentation and non-technical in its approach. Yet it is competent and convincing in dealing with the key issues of KJV-Only arguments.

Joyner evaluates the purported superiority of the KJV from a variety of angles. He establishes for the reader, chapter by chapter, how the claims of pre-eminence for the KJV collapse under the weight of historical evidence, doctrinal study, common sense, logic, and comments made by the King James Version translators themselves. He reminds readers that the genesis of the KJV-Only movement is but a half-century old and was founded by Benjamin G. Wilkinson, a Seventh-day Adventist who died in 1968.

Joyner is not opposed to using the King James Version. He states, “The King James Version is accurate and trustworthy” (pg. 36). Joyner, like many other critics of the KJV-Only position, stands for balance and honesty when examining any translation. “If a person wants to use only the KJV, that is well and good. However, if they tear down all other versions, they are destroying people’s faith in God’s word,” he writes (pg. 49).

The closing pages of the book contain a word-for-word reprint of “The Translators to the Reader,” the preface of the 1611 version of the KJV. This is a valuable essay, because the translators themselves contradict much of what KJV-Only advocates attribute to them. While the translators’ memoirs are wordy and cumbersome, Joyner

underscores the salient pronouncements: those which undermine the tenets of KJV-Only belief.

Joyner effectively shows just how inconsistent it is to be a KJV-Only advocate. He demonstrates clearly the Bible truth that God will preserve His Word forever, not only in the King James Version but in other and more modern translations. The book is a fine defense against the cult of KJV-Onlyism.

—MKG

THIS LITTLE CHURCH WENT TO MARKET

by Gary E. Gilley

Xulon Press, 144 pages, \$10.99

Pastor and author Gary Gilley again takes on pragmatism in the Church. His previous book, “*I Just Wanted More Land*” — *Jabez*, unraveled the defective Bible interpretation found in the “Prayer of Jabez” frenzy. His new book evaluates the Church on a much larger scale — namely how the Christian community has moved from being Scripture-based to being market-driven.

The nucleus of Gilley’s judgment, while simple, is quite serious. “The old gospel is about God; the new gospel is about us. The old gospel is about sin; the new gospel is about needs. The old gospel is about our need for righteousness; the new gospel is about our need for fulfillment. The old gospel is foolishness to those who are perishing; the new gospel is attractive,” he writes (pg. 94).

What is this “new gospel”? Gilley tells us, “its focus is on what the consumer (unchurched Harry) wants and thinks he needs, rather than on what God wants and what He says Harry needs. In other words, market-driven churches are built upon the foundation of polls, surveys and the latest techniques instead of upon the Word of God” (pg. 56).

Along the way, the reader is introduced to the prime promoters of the megachurch movement, namely Bill Hybels (Willow Creek Community Church) and Rick Warren (Saddleback Valley Community Church). Gilley does recognize what’s right (and/or benign) about these churches and their methods, but that which is unbiblical or detrimental to the cause of Christ far outweighs that which is admirable.

Gilley draws from a wide source of men whose writings are likewise critical of the market-driven church

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be people living longer because they have not thrown away their medicine or neglected their child's medical care. There would be fewer people suffering and dying alone (without the help of their television idol) because they would have been connected to a pastor and church family that would be with them personally in their crisis times. The gain would be spiritually enormous and the glory of God would be enhanced in lives. The Bible would be elevated and the idolatry, heresy, and confusion slowed to a crawl, rather than a gallop. May God have mercy on us and help us.

—GRF

NEWS UPDATES

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that," the Fort Worth newspaper stated.

McCutchen, who is liable for half of the judgment, said the verdict will not destroy his congregation. "The church will go on," he stated.

—MKG

UTAH RANKS FIRST IN ANTIDEPRESSANT USE

Utah ranks number one in the use of anti-depressant drugs, according to a recent nationwide study. "Antidepressant drugs are prescribed in Utah more often than in any other state, and at a rate nearly twice the national average," the report said.

The study, conducted by Express Scripts Inc., a St. Louis-based pharmaceutical management company, also said antidepressant use in Utah was twice that in California and nearly three times greater than in New York or New Jersey. Maine and Oregon also ranked high on the list.

While the report did not record antidepressant use by gender, statistics from the National Institute of Mental Health show that nearly twice the number of women suffer from depression than men.

According to a report in the *Los Angeles Times*, "the pressures of Mormonism" may be the cause for the highest national average. "Utah's large families — the biggest in the nation, according to the 2000 Census — are often cited as a contributing factor to depression," the newspaper stated.

Dr. Curtis Canning, president of the Utah Psychiatric Association, said, "In Mormondom, there is a social expectation — particularly among the females — to put on a mask, say 'Yes' to everything that comes at her and hide the misery and pain. ... You are supposed to be perfect because Mrs. Smith across the street can do it and she has three more kids than you and her hair is always in place. I think the cultural issue is very real. There is

the expectation that you should be happy, and if you're not happy, you're failing."

Seventy percent of Utah's population claim membership in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

—MKG

HARE KRISHNAS FILE CHAPTER 11

Facing a \$400 million lawsuit over alleged sexual abuse by leaders in its schools, the International Society of Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) has filed for protection under Chapter 11 of the federal bankruptcy law. The Hare Krishna group hopes the move will lead to the dismissal of the lawsuit.

The 94 plaintiffs in the lawsuit, which was filed in Dallas, say they were abused during the 1970s and 1980s while living at Hare Krishna *gurukulas* (boarding schools) in India and the United States. Hare Krishna children were placed in such schools to allow their parents more time to proselytize. Children as young as five were also sent to the boarding schools so that they would become pure devotees of the Hindu-based religion.

In 1998, after the accusations were made public, the Krishna organization established the "ISKCON Office of Child Protection," devoting \$1 million to a multiyear program to help the children of its members who suffered physical, sexual, and emotional abuse. (See further, *The Quarterly Journal*, July-September 1999.)

Krishna representative Anuttama Dasa defended the bankruptcy move. "We don't believe that innocent members and congregations should be held accountable for the deviant behavior of individual acts committed 20 or 30 years ago." ISKCON also announced plans to establish a compensation fund for those who were abused at its schools.

—MKG

BOOKS IN REVIEW

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movement, including Albert Mohler, John MacArthur, Michael Horton, Os Guinness, and G.A. Pritchard.

Crucial sections in the book include chapters on psychology (with several pages of key fundamental differences between psychology and Scripture), the content of preaching, and the pivotal role of music.

Far too many pastors (and their congregations) look to growth as a sign of God's favor. Gilley sounds a necessary alarm that we cannot measure God's blessing by success. This is a much-needed book to wake up a Church inspired by pragmatism.

—MKG