

A Skeptic Believes In Resurrection

Newsweek magazine went bankrupt in 2010, ending print editions in 2012, after its readership dwindled away. Recent owners, seeking to resurrect its liberalism, came forth from the publishing house grave with a front-cover article titled, "The Bible: So Misunderstood It's A Sin." The January 2, 2015 "double issue" feature article was written by scandal-writer Kurt Eichenwald, whose former "Market Place" column for the New York Times began in 1992. His B.A. in political science came from Swarthmore College in 1983. Being an *investigative reporter*, his skills would make it difficult, if not, impossible, to accept the evidence for faith in the Bible. He would be looking for an undercurrent of hypocrisy, deceit, compromise, and cover-up. In this Newsweek article, he thinks he has found all of this in Bible-believers, all of whom he seems to think are members of the Republican Party who use Scripture for their political purposes, for he only mentions Michele Bachman, Pat Robertson, Sarah Palin, Rick Perry, and Bobby Jindal. Interestingly, no Democrats came to his mind. It is as Paul wrote: "To the pure all things are pure, but to those who are defiled and unbelieving nothing is pure; but even their mind and conscience are defiled" (**Titus 1:15**).

Over one half of his article claims the Bible manuscripts are humanly written and selected, inaccurately translated, and misled because of the King James Version. Eichenwald: "No television preacher has ever read the Bible. Neither has any evangelical politician. Neither has the pope. Neither have I. And neither have you. At best, we've all read a bad translation—a translation of translations of translations of hand-copied copies of copies of copies of copies, and on and on, hundreds of times." **Obviously, he never read:**

"For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty" (2 Peter 1:16). "That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen

with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life-- the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us" (1 John 1:1-2). "Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle (in both of which I stir up your pure minds by way of reminder), that you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior" (2 Peter 3:1-2).

It takes someone truly ignorant of Scripture to criticize it by saying: "About 400 years passed between the writing of the first Christian manuscripts and their compilation into the New Testament." **Obviously, he never read Ephesians 3:2-5:**

"if indeed you have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which was given to me for you, how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already, by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ), which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets"

Here, Paul claimed (1) the words of the text were selected by God; (2) his Holy Spirit-inspired knowledge of what he wrote was accurately conveyed by the words; (3) readers would know everything the Holy Spirit would have told them by inspiration; (4) there is no time limit on the effectiveness of the written Word of God. An accurate text accurately translated is as effective as miraculous inspiration. If not, why not?

Eichenwald claimed: "The Bible is a very human book. It was written, assembled, copied and translated by people. That explains the flaws, the contradictions, and the theological disagreements in its pages." Why, if the Bible is inaccurately written, gathered, and translated, does this verse matter?

Obviously, he never read: "no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as *they were* moved by the Holy Spirit" (**2 Peter 1:20-21**). Eichenwald said: "Nowhere in the Gospels or Acts of Epistles or Apocalypses does the New Testament say it is the inerrant word of God. It couldn't—the people who authored each section had no idea

they were composing the Christian Bible, and they were long dead before what they wrote was voted by members of political and theological committees to be the New Testament." **Obviously, he never read:**

"and consider that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation--as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures" (2 Peter 3:15-16).

Eichenwald's B.A. in political science didn't prepare him for this, for he claimed: "These manuscripts were originally written in Koiné, or "common" Greek, and not all of the amateur copyists spoke the language or were even fully literate." **Obviously, he never read** where the Apostles were authenticating Scripture: "I charge you by the Lord that this epistle be read to all the holy brethren" (**1 Thessalonians 5:27**); "Now when this epistle is read among you, see that it is read also in the church of the Laodiceans, and that you likewise read the epistle from Laodicea" (**Colossians 4:16**).

Even though he claimed: "The next thing to check here is whether 1 Timothy was based on a forgery. And the answer to that is a resounding yes," he thought it accurately condemned "homosexuality:" "The original Bible verse [**1 Timothy 1:10**] in Koiné used ἀρσενοκοῖται for what has been translated as 'homosexual.'" Twenty per cent of Eichenwald's entire article is chafing over whether or not the Bible condemns "homosexuality." **Obviously he never read:**

"Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God" (1 Corinthians 6:9-10).

This passage places homosexuality on a par with all other sinful practices that keeps someone out of "the kingdom of God." All sin that can be repented of can be forgiven by God.

Since Eichenwald thinks himself such an authority on the Bible, will he publicly debate the subject? "Resolved, The Bible

has been written, assembled, and copied only by people and without Divine intervention." Affirm: Kurt Eichenwald Deny: John T. Polk II

-----**John T. Polk II, Gospel Gleaner, February, 2015**

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Salted Speech Colossians 4:6

- ~ **One may go wrong in many directions, but right only in one.**
- ~ **GOOD without GOD becomes O.**
- ~ **Standing in the middle of the road is dangerous. You will get knocked down by the traffic from both ways.**
- ~ **If you are going around in circles, maybe it is because you are cutting too many corners.**
- ~ **Character is determined by observing what a person stands for, falls for, and lies for.**

THEOPHILUS

Selective Reasoning

