

USE NIV WITH CAUTION

Greg Gwin, adapted

It has been observed that Christians in increasing numbers are using the New International Version of the Bible as their primary translation. While the NIV provides a very readable copy of the Scriptures, users should be informed about several significant difficulties.

Most notably, the NIV promotes the false doctrines of Calvinism by inaccurately translating several key verses. For instance, Psalm 51:5 in the NIV reads, "Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me". Obviously, this teaches the Calvinistic notion of inherited sin which is plainly denied in many other Bible texts. The KJV and ASV read, *"in sin did my mother conceive me."* There is quite a difference in being conceived in sin, describing the spiritual condition of the world into which the author was born, and in being personally sinful from the point of conception.

Additionally, the NIV frequently refers to man's "sinful nature" (Romans 8:3ff; Ephesians 2:3; Colossians 2:11). This teaches another tenet of Calvinism, namely total depravity – the idea that man must sin because it is in his very nature to do so. Again, this is denied elsewhere in the Scriptures. Other versions simply refer to the *"flesh"* in these important verses.

Considering these and other objections to the NIV, we suggest that Christians should exercise great caution in using this translation as their principle study Bible. Other versions are much more reliable, and several are equal to the NIV in readability. Choose the NKJV or the NASB if you want a trustworthy translation without the old English of the KJV. It would be best to reserve the NIV as a study aid in providing comparative readings.

THERE IS NO HOPE OUTSIDE OF CHRIST

Andy Sochor, adapted

When Paul wrote to the Christians in Thessalonica, he spoke of their hope in Christ and reminded them that their brethren who had passed on would not miss out on the Lord's promise, saying, *"For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus"* (1 Thessalonians 4:14).

He went on to explain that when the Lord returns, those *"who are*

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COWARDICE

Brian Sauvé

One of the silent plagues destroying churches today is simple cowardice.

Cowardice prevents Christians from having hard conversations with others with whom they find fault.

Cowardice therefore creates gossips—who love to whisper their brother's faults to everyone except their brother.

Cowardice keeps pastors from confronting the most pressing sins in the congregation, knowing the cost will be high to do so.

Cowardice extinguishes evangelistic fervor; a Christian who fears his neighbor won't bear witness to Christ to his neighbor.

Cowardice keeps men from leading in their homes.

Cowardice comforts the theological theoretician who loves to play games with his favorite doctrines while neglecting to defend those doctrines which are most under attack in the present age.

Cowardice will keep you from having that hard conversation, from facing your own sin, and from ten-thousand other needful things. Don't be a coward; be a Christian.

"Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand" (Isaiah 41:10).

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alive" and *"those who have fallen asleep"* will share in the same reward (15). After *"the dead in Christ...rise first,"* the rest who are still alive *"will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, so we shall always be with the Lord"* (17).

They were to *"comfort one another with these words"* (18). However, the prospect of the Lord's return would not be comforting to everyone. Paul made a clear distinction between those who are *"in Jesus"* (14) and *"the rest who have no hope"* (13). Jesus will save those who are in Him (cf. Acts 4:12), so we must be in Christ if we want to be saved (cf. Romans 6:3-4; Galatians 3:27).

There is no hope outside of Christ. If we want to be saved, we need to be in His body – the church (cf. Ephesians 1:22-23; 5:23). If we want others to be saved, we must point them to Christ.

**"WHAT MUST I DO
TO BE SAVED?"**

ACTS 16:30

LEARN THE GOSPEL

John 6:45; Romans 10:17

BELIEVE IN CHRIST

Hebrews 11:6; John 3:16

CONFESS CHRIST

Matthew 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10

REPENT OF SIN

Acts 3:19; 17:30

BE BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST

Mark 16:16; Romans 6:3-6

REMAIN STEADFAST

1st Corinthians 15:58; Revelation 2:10

**"THE ASSEMBLING OF
OURSELVES TOGETHER"**

HEBREWS 10:24-25

SUNDAY

Worship @ 10:00 a.m.

Studies @ 11:45 a.m.

WEDNESDAY

Studies & Worship @ 7:00 p.m.

75 Sherrod Boulevard

Belén, New Mexico

Seekers Welcome.

Members Expected.

**"IF A MAN IS OVERTAKEN IN
ANY TRESPASS...
RESTORE SUCH A ONE"**

GALATIANS 6:1

CONFESS TRESPASSES

James 5:16; 1st John 1:9

REPENT OF SIN

Acts 8:22

PRAY FOR FORGIVENESS

Acts 8:22

REMAIN STEADFAST

1st Corinthians 15:58; Revelation 2:10

**"A WORD FITLY SPOKEN IS
LIKE APPLES OF GOLD IN
SETTINGS OF SILVER"**

PROVERBS 25:11

"Human history is the long, terrible story of man trying to find something other than God which will make him happy."

– C.S. Lewis

"WHOLE COUNSEL"

ACTS 20:27

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DATING THE REVELATION

Majola K.

This is not "Preterism;" this is **purely reading the Bible**. A comparison of Revelation 7:14 with Matthew 24:21 reveals periods of tribulation that are identical.

*"And I said to him, 'Sir, you know.' So he said to me, 'These are the ones who come out of the **great tribulation**, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb" (Revelation 7:14).*

*"For then there will be **great tribulation**, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be" (Matthew 24:21).*

If the **tribulation** period that preceded the destruction of Jerusalem was to be the greatest that ever was or ever would be, *"the great tribulation"* of Revelation 7:14 must of necessity be the same period of tribulation of Matthew 24:21 or it is not *"the great tribulation."*

To assign *"the great tribulation"* to AD 96 or to claim it is still going to happen is to force a contradiction in scripture.

Since there can be no question about the application of the *"great tribulation"* of Matthew 24:21 because it was to be fulfilled during the generation living when Jesus spoke the words (Matthew 24:34), *"the great tribulation"* of the book of Revelation must be the tribulation period that preceded the destruction of Jerusalem. There are no alternatives. The events that were shortly to come to pass center around the desolation of Israel and the destruction of Jerusalem.

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