

Alpha – Why it is Essential

Why is it a better goal to bring a person into an Alpha course than to win a person to Christ? Alpha is Catholic. It is based on the Bible translated from the manuscripts located around Alexandria, Egypt. (See appendix)

A conservative Christian would argue that a person may die before finishing the course and deciding to follow Jesus; thereby subjecting him to an eternity in hell. We have two lines of manuscripts that make up two different translations of the Bible. Paul says that the second gospel includes another Jesus which comes with another spirit (*1 Corinthians 11:3-4*). After going through the Alpha program, you may decide to follow that other Jesus and experience confirmation from the other spirit. You will not even consider that the other translation could be correct. You will now have been indoctrinated and received a spirit that will keep you from likely ever considering the truth of God's Word. You will as Jude explains have become twice dead (*Jude 11-13*).

Secondly, the reason it would be important to take the course first is that the Bible says that when we accept Christ we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. John says that we no longer need man to teach us but that this anointing will teach us (*1 John 2:27*). Jesus says that this Spirit will guide us into all truth (*John 16:13*). You see if a person accepts Christ first, the Holy Spirit within will create an unsettling that will not allow the person to fully accept the indoctrination being presented. In order to be at peace with what is being taught you will have to reject the anointing you have already received (*Hebrews 6:4-6*).

³But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

⁴For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him. (*1 Corinthians 11:3-4*)

¹¹Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core.

¹²These are spots in your feasts of charity, when they feast with you, feeding themselves without fear:

clouds they are without water, carried about of winds;

trees whose fruit withereth, without fruit, twice dead, plucked up by the roots;

¹³Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame;

wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever. (*Jude 11-13*)

Who are Cain, Balaam and Core? God had instructed man as to what was an acceptable sacrifice. Cain instead chose to offer what he decided was appropriate, but God did not accept it. The Holy Scriptures as found around Antioch were taken to Alexandria, Egypt, changed, and presented as the oldest and most accurate. This is the way of Cain. Balaam was instrumental in enticing the people of Israel to get entangled with other gods. Many ideas have been embraced by the church that have roots in eastern mysticism such as Yoga, Reike and Listening Prayer now renamed Discernment. These are the error of Balaam. Core felt that he was entitled and that Moses was not the only one who spoke for God. Within the church is found the word-faith movement, pantheism, and new revelation that takes pre-eminence to the Bible. This is the gainsaying of Core.

²⁷But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you:

but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him. (*1 John 2:27*)

¹³Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth:

for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. (*John 16:13*)

⁴For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost,

⁵And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come,

⁶If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame. (*Hebrews 6:4-6*)

1 THE TWO CITIES

Dr. Jack Moorman, who spent many years in researching the question of Bible versions, has stated that the transmission of the Greek text of the New Testament is essentially a "tale of two cities", viz., Antioch and Alexandria. Dr. Moorman writes: "Just as surely as the King James text was woven into the spiritual life of Antioch in Syria, so was the modern versions text in Alexandria. Today a person must decide whether he is more comfortable with a Bible whose roots go back to one or the other of these two cities...certainly Antioch has by far the most glorious heritage."

ANTIOCH: Here was the springboard for the Gentile church. It became the center for Gentile Christians just as Jerusalem was for the Jews. "The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch" (Acts 11:26). Antioch was the center for the outreach of the apostle Paul and his missionary journeys. Many of the disciples also visited Antioch. Antioch was the "heartbeat" of Christianity.

ALEXANDRIA: The place where most of the modern texts and translations originated, had no such glory. It is true, however, that Alexandria became a center of intellectualism. Such men as Clement and Origen were active in this area. It was also noted as a place where every deviant sect was represented. Religious corruption and false doctrines were prevalent including Gnosticism, Arianism, pagan philosophy, etc. Alexandria was the place where the intellectuals of Christianity were attracted.

2 THE TWO ESSENTIALS

Since God has inspired His Word has He also preserved His Word? Has He preserved it for every generation? The Westminster Confession (1646) states: "The Scriptures were immediately inspired of God and under His singular care and providence kept pure in all ages."

The Bible has the final say in the matter: "The words of the Lord are pure words... Thou shalt keep them, O Lord, Thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever." (Psalm 12: 6, 7). If we accept the Inspiration of Scripture we must also accept that every word has been and will be Preserved through the ages in the church. Both together are essential doctrines.

TRADITIONAL TEXT LINE

5210 MSS. †

ANTIOCH

APOSTLES

ORIGINAL N.T.MSS. 30-90 A.D.

SYRIAN MSS. (PESHITTA). 100-200 A.D.

OLD LATIN & SYRIAC OF ORIGINALS. 100-200 A.D.

PAPYRI MSS. (85%=TRAD.TEXT) † 150-400 A.D.

UNCIAL & CURSIVE MSS. (99%=TRAD.TEXT) † 150-1500A.D.

LATIN BIBLES (WALDENSIANS ETC.) 1100 A.D.-1300 A.D.

ERASMUS GREEK N.T. 1522 A.D.

MARTIN LUTHER BIBLE 1522 A.D.-1534 A.D. (GERMAN)

TYNDALES N.T. 1525 A.D.

COVERDALE BIBLE 1535 A.D.

MATTHEWS BIBLE 1537 A.D.

GREAT BIBLE 1539 A.D. (ENGLISH)

STEPHENS GREEK N.T. 1550 A.D.

GENEVA BIBLE 1560 A.D.

BISHOPS BIBLE 1568 A.D. (ENGLISH)

BEZAS GREEK N.T. 1598 A.D.

KING JAMES BIBLE 1611 A.D.

THE PURE WORD OF GOD

PROVIDENTIAL PRESERVATION OF THE TEXT OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

CORRUPTION OF THE SCRIPTURES (Gnosticism, Arianism, pagan philosophy)

ALEXANDRIAN TEXT LINE

45 MSS. †

ALEXANDRIA

PAPYRUS MSS. (P66, P75, ETC.) 200 A.D.

CLEMENT 150-215 A.D.

ORIGEN 184-254 A.D.

EUSEBIUS 260-340 A.D.

VATICANUS MSS. 331 A.D.

SINAITICUS MSS. 331 A.D.

JEROME 382 A.D.

ALEXANDRINUS MS. 450 A.D.

RHEIMS-DOUAY BIBLE. 1582 A.D. (ENGLISH)

GREEK NEW TESTAMENTS GREISBACH 1805 A.D.

LACHMANN 1850 A.D.

TREGELLES 1870 A.D.

TISCHENDORF 1870 A.D.

ALFORD 1872 A.D.

WESTCOTT-HORT GREEK N.T. 1881 A.D.

NESTLE GREEK N.T. 1898 A.D. (+26 revisions)

REVISED VERSION 1881 A.D.

A.S.V., R.S.V., J.B., L.B., T.E.V., N.E.B., N.I.V., N.A.S.V., G.N.B., N.R.S.V., N.A.B., C.E.V., N.B.V., N.K.J.V., (footnotes.) JEH. WITNESS BIBLE etc.

CORRUPTED MODERN VERSIONS

3 THE TWO HERETICS*

CLEMENT: He accepted Greek philosophy and the Apocrypha as divinely authoritative. He was head of the catechetical school at Alexandria, and believed that salvation could be obtained through various means including baptism, faith and works, faith alone etc.

ORIGEN: He also became head of the catechetical school. A man of superior intellect he however denied the Bible's historicity, eternal punishment, the Holy Spirit's eternality, salvation by grace etc. He was given to the allegorizing of scripture.

* Data from: "Final Authority" by William P. Grady.

4 THE TWO FALSE WITNESSES **

Discarded and hidden for 1500 years, these two corrupted manuscripts form the basis of all MODERN VERSIONS. They disagree with each other in over 3000 places in the Gospels alone. It is the **VATICAN MSS** (which include the Apocrypha) that the translators mostly relied upon. Both had their roots in Alexandria and show the influence of Origen.

** Data from H.C. Hoskier's "Codex B and its Allies".

A total of 43 other manuscripts indicate some support for this text compared to 5210 which support the Traditional Text †

John W. Burgon, states: "These are two of the least trustworthy documents in existence..." ("Revision Revised.")

5 THE TWO APOSTATE REVISIONISTS

Westcott and Hort: Both were apostates. Westcott did not accept: Genesis 1-3; Bodily resurrection of Christ; Miracles and literal coming of Christ. Was partial to Romish ways. Hort did not accept the infallibility of Scripture. He also favored Darwin's theory of evolution. Both men did not believe in eternal punishment or the vicarious atonement. (Data from "Life & Letters", 1896, 1903.)

6 CHANGES COMPARED WITH THE TRAD. TEXT*

GREEK WORDS: Added=306, Omitted=2987
VERSES: Omitted = 20

* Data from E.W.Fowler's "Evaluating Versions of the N.T."

Note: Most of these changes originate in the W-H text and most have been carried into the modern versions.

