

## **Pastor Baker: For Inclusion on the HAC Alumni Website under the category of “HAC Grads Taking a Stand with Bro. Schaap”**

I am excited to have the opportunity to defend the position of Bro. Schaap concerning Inspiration, Preservation, and the King James Bible. I hope to be the first person whose defense is posted on the HAC Alumni Website.

To begin with let me say, if I am required to be in total agreement with Bro. Schaap, then my opinion may not qualify. As an HAC Graduate, I have never felt compelled to agree with Dr. Hyles, Bro. Schaap, or any of the teachings of FBC/HAC. I consider myself loyal, but not blindly. I think for myself and am unafraid to hold a differing opinion, and express it when I consider it to be helpful.

For instance, I have sincere disagreements with Bro. Schaap concerning his book “Marriage, the Divine Intimacy.” I disagree with many of his lessons on Tithing. Thirdly, I do not believe that a person in Hell is constantly reliving their own death, as he has taught. There are probably many other deviations I would hold that are not worth mentioning. The point is, for the sake of my own credibility, I do not feel obligated to walk “lock step” with any preacher or institution.

However, I do carry a lot of love for Bro. Schaap and what he has done through the years. My preacher, Bro. Chris Gouger, surrendered to preach at the 1992 Youth Conference in Louisville, KY. Bro. Schaap was a featured speaker and greatly influenced his decision. I also gave my life to be a preacher while listening to a sermon tape of Bro. Schaap’s from the same Youth Conference. A quick conversation with Bro. Schaap in 1998 solidified my commitment to leave University of Tennessee (along with the full scholarship I was receiving) to attend Hyles-Anderson College in the fall of 1999. Because of this, whether he is right or wrong, I do not like to see him attacked. Yes, what I have read and witnessed in the last year go well beyond “Christian Disagreements” and are fully lodged in the quagmire of “Character Assassination”, “Gross Exaggeration”, and “Dishonest Misrepresentation.”

Concerning the King James Bible, I am well studied and definitely not a novice. I have learned from various men who come from a variety of camps. I have listened to each lesson in Sam Gipp’s 17

part study on the King James between 5-10 times each. I have learned a great deal from Bro. Bill Grady and Bro. Al Lacy. I watched each session of the KJB Summit online. Furthermore, I have researched this topic independently for many years. I have even posted a sermon I preached on the King James on my website. This video is nearly an hour long and contains over 90 slides and pictures.

My own position on the King James Bible has evolved and changed through the years. I don't find this to be a fault. I am not looking to hold "the most spiritual" position. I am looking for the truth and what is intellectually honest. It matters not to me what position Dr. Hyles, Dr. Rice, Curtis Hutson, Joe Boyd, or any other man held...I am only interested in the truth, and the truth has been hard to determine amongst all the shouting and accusations.

One of the problems IFB's encountered concerning this issue was our constant desire to "one up" each other in our beliefs. We ended up preaching ourselves into a corner by taking stands that could eventually be disproven. We started out believing the KJB was God's preserved word to the English Speaking people. Then, the KJB itself became inspired. Next, we began to teach that the KJB is superior to the original manuscripts. We began to elevate the "words" over the clear teaching of scripture. Preachers began to "parse" each word using modern day English and grammar rules. This led to sermons that changed the obvious meanings of the verses. We finally elevated pronouns, prepositions, and punctuation marks above the lessons that God was trying to teach us.

These days, when some of our beliefs are called into question, we simply decry the dissenter as a heretic and attempt to discredit any and all that he or she has to say. I, on the other hand, have chosen to carefully weigh what is being said to see if it might actually be true, despite what I may have previously believed.

I will admit, I have held to the position that the KJB was "word for word" perfect for many years. I also will admit that I had to ignore the "questions of revisions." They always plagued my position and I never could reconcile the issue. As a good Baptist Preacher, I wasn't going to let the facts get in the way of my doctrine. For one reason, I was afraid of being labeled if I ever took a contrary position. In our circles, you are not allowed to deviate from the "party line." After much thought and consideration, I am ready to let my ideas evolve once again.

Let me give you some of my own beliefs concerning "Inspiration, Preservation, and the King James Bible."

1. God gave his word to the original Biblical writers. I do not fully believe in "verbal dictation" nor do I fully believe that God chose each and every word they wrote. I do not believe that

every quote was written down word for word, as you see differences between what a person said in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John when the same story is retold. None of this diminishes the teachings and doctrines that God wanted us to know.

2. God preserved what was written for 1000's of years. This is a giant miracle by the way. God's word was able to survive through wilderness wanderings, the captivity, the destruction under Antiochus Epiphanies, the Roman Occupation, the destruction of the Temple in 70 AD, the persecutions by Rome, the Catholic Inquisition, and the Dark Ages. God's word was never destroyed!
3. God chose to preserve his word to the World by giving us both the Old and New Testaments in a language that would eventually be learned all around the Globe...English. I do not believe the translating of the KJB was simply an act of hard work, but of supernatural guidance and providence. Inspiration....no. Devine preservation...Yes.
4. However, this preservation did not require "word for word" perfection, as proven by the revisions and editions of the KJB. However, no doctrines or teachings were changed by any of them. It matters not to me if a word or punctuation is different, as long as what God wants us to know is maintained.
5. I believe the KJB can be the word of God to the World without being completely "error free" or "word for word" perfect.
6. I believe it is helpful to understand the original languages for clarification and exposition, but not for correction. The original language helps us understand who has the "itching ears" in 2 Timothy 4:3, the meaning of Hell in many OT verses (2 Samuel 22:6, Psalms 16:10, Psalms 18:5, Psalms 116:3) and to define the meaning of the word "for" in Acts 2:38.
7. I believe that if a person wants to translate the Bible into another language, he should use the KJB as his primary source. Greek and Hebrew words have multiple definitions sometimes, and God has already given us the proper translation in the KJB. However, I would also use the

original manuscripts for clarification of English words and phrases as needed.

8. I do not believe that a person cannot be saved unless a KJB is used. The corruptible seed in 1 Peter 1:23 is the seed my Mom received from my Dad.
9. I do believe in separating from a Ministry that uses corrupt Bible versions such as the NIV, ASV, RSV, and the Living Bible. Not because of the changing of words, but the changing of doctrines.
10. I believe the KJB is perfect despite the changes and revisions. A lack of word for word inherency doesn't diminish its perfection to me.

Thus, in closing, I would like to affirm my support for Bro. Schaap and the current administration of HAC and FBC. I may have my differences but they are not of the magnitude required for separation. They sure don't equal the amount of criticism and vitriol that I have recently seen.

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Chad,

A little comment on your letter... I wondered about having this section on the website that I run, but your letter is exactly what I thought I would get. I hope that people take the time to read your letter and to see what Bro. Schaap's teachings are causing people to do and believe. Your "evolved" position on the KJB is not a good one. I am sorry that you have changed from believing a "word for word" perfection of the KJB. You need to read David Reagan's article on so-called revisions again.

When you say, "We finally elevated pronouns, prepositions, and punctuation marks above the lessons that God was trying to teach us." Pronouns, prepositions and punctuation marks are still a part of the

Word of God. When you take those out or change them, you change what God is saying.

You have definitely changed your position of the Bible. The Bible still says in Matt 5:18, “For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.” The Bible also says in Prov 30:5, “Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him.” And in Matt 4:4 Jesus said, “But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.” When I took grammar, pronouns and prepositions were still words and very important words! They could change the meaning of the lessons God was trying to teach us.

You said, “It matters not to me if a word or punctuation is different, as long as what God wants us to know is maintained.”

It matters to God if His Words are changed. Ps 138:2 “...for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name.”

You said, “However, I would also use the original manuscripts for clarification of English words and phrases as needed.”

There are no original manuscripts around anymore.

I could say a lot more, but I will try to keep this short. Thank you for taking the time to send your support of Bro. Schaap. I will pray that you “evolve” back around to the correct position on the Word of God.

Regards,

Bro. Baker