

## Bad News Bible?

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by Wayne Goff

This past week I picked up a copy of the **GOOD NEWS BIBLE, Today's English Version**. It is published by American Bible Society in New York and purports to be "The Bible in Today's English Version." In the words of the late Foy E. Wallace, Jr., this "version" is actually a "**perversion**"! This illustrates the *importance* of researching any proclaimed "translation" or "version" to be sure it is biblically accurate.

In the **FOREWORD** to my copy, the book claims "The aim of this Bible is to give today's readers maximum understanding of the content of the original texts." This is a false claim, and it will not be hard to illustrate their *loose* approach to the biblical text.

Acts 2:38 reads in the **NKJV**: "*Then Peter said to them, 'Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive **the gift of the Holy Spirit.**'*" However, in the **GNB** it reads: "*Peter said to them, 'Each one of you must turn away from your sins and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ, so that your sins will be forgiven; and you will receive **God's gift, the Holy Spirit.**'*" This may seem like a small change to you, and some brethren believe this is the proper understanding of the verse. Namely, that God's gift is the Holy Spirit Himself! However, I disagree with that explanation, and argue that the "gift of the Holy Spirit" is that which the Holy Spirit gives. The GNB takes away the literal translation of the Greek text and inserts their commentary instead!

If that were not serious enough, consider the *perversion* of the text of Acts 22:16! "*And now, why wait any longer? Get up and be baptized and have your sins washed away **by praying to him.***" [**GNB**] The **NKJV** reads: "*And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, **calling on the name of the Lord.***" Once again we see that the translators substitute their explanation of the text for the literal text itself! They remove the true meaning of the text which plainly says that baptism washes away one's sins and constitutes "calling on the name of the Lord" and inserts instead "*praying*"! So dear reader, do you want a "version" (?) that **tells you what they want you to believe?** Or would you rather have an accurate, reliable English translation and study for yourself?!

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