

I fear that it is impossible to recommend all the material disseminated by any publisher. There is a need for men who, like myself, have spent many years of study and research so that they can delve into the intricacies of difficult problems and can tell how much is dependable and how much is not.

You may have noticed that in my brochure on "Why I Cannot Accept the Revised Standard Version" my great stress was on the fact that so many of the Messianic promises of the Old Testament were twisted in such a way as to get rid of the Messianic teaching. This was natural, since the men who made the translation were incapable, from their viewpoint, of believing that a prophet living hundreds of years before Christ could actually make a prediction that would be specifically and literally fulfilled in Christ. Therefore it was necessary for them to make a translation that would seem to them to make sense, rather than to take the words in their ordinary meaning, even if this natural meaning was itself quoted in the New Testament as having its fulfillment in Christ. When, however, these liberal scholars translated the New Testament, they were facing an entirely different problem. They might think that the New Testament writers were rather ignorant and misguided men who had a great many queer ideas, but they had no question as to what those New Testament writers believed. As a result, their New Testament translation did not reflect their liberal bias to as great a degree as their translation of the Old Testament.

The English language has changed greatly since the King James Version was written. I wish that we had a sound and dependable translation today that would be as accurate for our day as the King James Version was for its day. Since I do not know of any that is in this category, I still principally use the King James Version. Nevertheless I often find that it is necessary to determine exactly what a particular English word meant 350 years ago in order to know what the King James translation means at a certain point. Of course I rarely bother to investigate the meaning of the obsolete English word. Instead I look at the Greek and Hebrew and see what the original language says. The average person, unfortunately, is unable to do this.

Many people find it much easier to get the sense of the Bible from the RSV with its beautiful English than from the rather antiquated English of the King James Version. The worst thing about the RSV is the way it makes the Old Testament and New