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**THE BERKELEY VERSION AND
THE AMPLIFIED NEW TESTAMENT**

The Berkeley translation is a good honest translation of the Bible. It varies in quality, being much better in some sections than in others. Occasionally modernist interpretations have influenced the translators, but the cases are not frequent. The style is not as good as it might be, but is, on the whole, not at all bad. In many passages it makes the meaning of the original much clearer than one is apt to get from the old English of the King James Version. There are occasional footnotes which seem to me to present an incorrect interpretation, though not an unchristian one.

The so-called Amplified New Testament is, I believe, simply the King James Version with explanatory notes in parentheses. It is a very nice idea to make explanations of the meaning thus available to the reader. Sometimes these notes are helpful and sometimes they are not at all good. It can be a help in understanding the New Testament, but one should be very careful not to consider the material in parentheses as necessarily authoritative. In some instances it is quite wrong.

One will get a far better idea of what the Bible means with even a little knowledge of Greek and Hebrew and the use of a good concordance. With Young's Concordance you can look up the word in the King James Version and see what different Greek words it translates, and in what context these are used. You can look at the Greek word and see the different ways it has been rendered into English in the King James Version. Often this will shed a flood of light on the meaning of the passage and be much more helpful than such a work as the Amplified New Testament. However, it takes a bit more trouble, and the Amplified New Testament may be easier to use as a preliminary help.