

Maybe we can't be sure whether he ever included those particular words. But we have no doubt that the idea of those words is true. And it's clearly taught in Scripture. So our faith in the truthfulness of the teaching of Scripture is not the least bit affected by the textual question whether that last line of the Lord's Prayer was in the original MSS or not.

Many of the great classical works are preserved in only one copy. Some of them of a copy made as late as the 12th century A.D. In the case of the Bible we have hundreds of MSS. So we have more evidence of it than of anything else in order to get at the exact original text. Yet we do not have it exactly. God requires us to use our judgment in determining the original text even though we get very very close to it.

He requires us to use our judgment in comparing the translations in order to see what the original meant. We've had some very excellent translations into English. You cannot have an altogether exact translation. When you get a translation made 300 yrs. ago, no matter how excellent a translation it may have been for its time, you will find that many of its phrases simply do not convey at all a meaning to people today that they conveyed to people when it was written. That is inevitably the case because languages are constantly changing.

I was quite shocked a few yrs. ago when I was asked to speak to a student meeting at the U\* of PA, and young man who was asking me about possible subjects was talking to me and I said, Suppose I speak of this subject in the morning, on this subject in the afternoon, and on this in the evening. He said, Why that's terrific!

I was shocked because that was the first time I remember ever hearing the word terrific used in any sense except harrowing, causing one to be awfully excited or distressed. You look in any just about any dictionary written ~~x~~ up to 10 years ago, and you will only get those meanings for terrific. Terrible, causing revulsion, or disgust!

The word terrific in the last 30 years has just completely changed its meaning to mean the exact opposite of what it meant 30 years ago. In the Book of Proverbs we have a statement in 9:13 about the foolish woman. A foolish woman is clamorous, she is simple, knowing nothing for she sitteth at the door of her house on a seat in the high places of the city to call passengers as they go right on their way."

What does that mean today? To call passengers? Is she calling people to take a ride or something? Is she calling out to people as they go by on the street cars and busses which of course they did not have in those days. We were reading Walter Scott's book a couple of days ago, and he told about a man in England 300 years ago who sat in the store window looking at the passengers as they went by. Passengers just mean people who go by. People who pass by. Until

Within the last century. Today it has an entirely different meaning. That is true of so many words. So we have to use our judgment to determine what the words mean. We have to use our judgment to determine how good a translation we have.