

# *the* **Dean Burgon News**

## **IN DEFENSE OF TRADITIONAL BIBLE TEXTS**

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NO. 28

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE DEAN BURGON SOCIETY

May--August, 1985

### **D.B.S. MEETING**

You will possibly not receive this issue before our DEAN BURGON SOCIETY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE will have met from Noon to Noon on Wednesday--Thursday, July 17-18, 1985, at FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH, 1515 Wistar Road, Fairless Hills, PA, with Pastor Paul Fedena. We're sorry not to have been able to get this in the mail to you prior to this date, but your Editor has been quite sick and unable to do too much up unto about July 3rd and 4th, but he's doing much better now. We have many things to discuss on the agenda having to do with the on-going of the DEAN BURGON SOCIETY. We were originally going to have our Annual Meeting in Michigan, but due to a number of factors, we were invited instead by Pastor Fedena and his church to return to Fairless Hills another year. The D.B.S. certainly wishes to thank that local church and its Pastor (our D.B.S. Secretary) for all of its help down through the years!

### **FUNDS NEEDED**

As we have printed on page 4, our DEAN BURGON NEWS is "PRINTED AS THE LORD PROVIDES." Our Lord has provided this ONE MORE ISSUE and so we will get it out. Please pray about YOUR part in (1) subscribing

for a GIFT to DBS of \$3.50 per year; and also (2) joining the DBS for a GIFT of \$7.00 after signing agreement for our ARTICLES OF FAITH. You can request one of these ARTICLES OF FAITH and we'll be happy to send a copy to you so you can see our purposes and programs as well as our FAITH.

### **LIST ON COMPUTER**

Through the help of the BIBLE FOR TODAY's computer, the DEAN BURGON SOCIETY has now placed all of our DBS NEWS subscribers and our DBS MEMBERS on a computerized list. This will make it easier to get in touch with more of our people and to inquire as to their special interests as time and funds permit.

### **COMPUTER LABELER**

In addition, through the BFT's new computer mail labeler, our DEAN BURGON SOCIETY labels will be computerized as well which will make them much easier to read for the mail man. It will enable us to have a better way of keeping current with your addresses as well. You'll notice that we have rearranged the page 4 of this issue of the DBS NEWS in order to attach these labels properly. In the past, the labels were not easily read and we feel many might have gone astray in the mails. We hope for better mail service now.

### **MORE BIBLE MATERIALS**

We believe strongly that an informed readership in the materials "IN DEFENSE OF THE TRADITIONAL BIBLE TEXTS" will enable each individual to seek the information they need to have and then to read it to benefit themselves and others with whom they come in contact. All of these materials are available from the DEAN BURGON SOCIETY by writing us at Box 354, Collingswood, NJ 08108.

82. "THE AUTHORITY OF THE KING JAMES VERSION" (#1297) (CASSETTE) by Rev. Thomas Baker, for a GIFT to DBS of \$4.00. There are many helpful ideas defending the King James Version from the other far-out versions around today.

83. "THE KING JAMES VERSION OF 1611 COMPARED TO THE KING JAMES VERSION OF THE 1917 OLD SCOFIELD BIBLE" (#1294) (25 lg.pp) by Rev. D. A. Waite, Th.D., Ph.D., for a GIFT to DBS of \$2.50. This is the result of one year's research, comparing the A.V. 1611 with the Old Scofield. Only those changes which could be HEARD with the ear were noted (not mere changes in spellings). There were a total of 421 TRANSLATION CHANGES found in the entire Bible from Genesis through Revelation (which is very, very low indeed!). These are all put on a computerized print-out so you can see the changes from Gene-

*THE DEAN BURGON SOCIETY, INC. proudly takes its name in honor of Rev. John William Burgon (1813-1888), the Dean of Chichester in England, whose tireless and accurate scholarship and contribution in the area of New Testament Textual Criticism; whose defense of the Traditional Greek New Testament Text against its many enemies; and whose firm belief in the verbal inspiration and inerrancy of the Bible, we believe, have all been unsurpassed either before or since his time!*

## More Materials

sis to Revelation as well as seeing them alphabetically arranged and grouped. There are many people saying that there is a VAST DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE A.V. 1611 AND OUR PRESENT-DAY KING JAMES VERSION. This is simply NOT SO!! This research proves it beyond any reasonable doubt, and we sincerely hope that EVERY SUBSCRIBER and EVERY MEMBER will write us for their copy right TODAY!

84. "AN ANSWER TO STEWART CUSTER'S BOOKLET, 'THE TRUTH ABOUT THE KJV CONTROVERSY'--PARTS I & II, ENTIRE REPORT (#1251) (200 lg.pp.) by Rev. D. A. Waite, Th.D., Ph.D., for a GIFT to DBS of \$10.00. Some of you may have PART I of this study, but now PART II is ready as well. Just about all of the cogent arguments offered by Custer have been answered thoroughly and with solid documentation. This is a key study since Dr. Custer is one of the well known fundamental opponents of the "DENIANCE OF TRADITIONAL BIBLE TEXTS" and has written on the subject in some detail.

85. "AN INQUIRY INTO THE INTEGRITY OF THE GREEK VULGATE OR RECEIVED TEXT OF THE NEW TESTAMENT--In Which The Greek Manuscripts Are Newly Classed, The Integrity Of The Authorised Text Vindicated, And The Various Readings Traced To Their Origin." (#1304) (604 pp.) by Rev. Frederick Nolan in 1815. This is available in copy-reprint edition by the Bible For Today and is for a GIFT to DBS of \$30.00. The reason for the higher costs are that it is made up on a custom basis as people order it. It is an excellent study, especially in the vindication of 1 JOHN 5:7-8. If you want some solid arguments FAVORING 1 JOHN 5:7-8, you'll wish to order Nolan's excellent work!

86. "WESTCOTT & HORT'S INTRODUCTION TO THEIR REVISED GREEK TEXT--A TOTALLY ERRONEOUS THEORY!" (#1303) (530 pp.) by F. H. A. Hort. Out of print and originally written in 1882. This is a Bible

For Today copy-reprint edition and is for a GIFT to DBS of \$25.00. The careful student can see how really ludicrous Hort's theories of Textual Criticism really are! This is a COPY MACHINE COPY made slowly as ordered, but is clear and legible in every respect. We realize that this is an "ENEMY PUBLICATION" but it should be seen and refuted even as Dean John William Burgon refuted it so well in his REVISION REVISED. You can follow along in REVISION REVISED and see how well Burgon has refuted it. Then you can add more refutation yourself.

87. "THE NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION (N.I.V.) UNDER SUSPICION--A Case History In A Lutheran Church" (#1322) (70 lg.pp) by Paul Seeger. Written by a Lutheran layman as a means of keeping the N.I.V. out of his church. For a GIFT to DBS of \$5.00. It contains much helpful information and shows how great a hold the N.I.V. has on so many of our once sound churches!

## Defects In The Hodges-Farstad-Nelson Majority Text

(Continued)

By Rev. D. A. Waite, Th.D., Ph.D.

In our last issue (March-April, 1985), we presented FOUR DEFECTS in the so-called "HODGES 'MAJORITY GREEK TEXT.'" published by Thomas Nelson. In this issue, we continue this article.

In case some of our readers missed the last issue (AVAILABLE for a GIFT to DBS of \$0.75 including postage & handling), here are the DEFECTS ##1-4 taken up in that issue:

1. DEFECT #1: THE HODGES 'MAJORITY GREEK TEXT' IS IN ERROR ABOUT "INSPIRED AUTHORS."

2. DEFECT #2: THE HODGES 'MAJORITY TEXT' IS NOT THOUGHT BY THE EDITORS TO BE THE "EXACT FORM OF THE ORIGINALS" BUT IS "PRELIMINARY" ONLY.

3. DEFECT #3: THE HODGES

"MAJORITY TEXT" CLAIMS TO BE AGAINST THE WESTCOTT & HORT SYSTEM, BUT ADOPTS THEIR "GENEALOGICAL METHOD."

4. DEFECT #4: THE HODGES 'MAJORITY TEXT' USED VON SODEN'S PARTIAL REFERENCES TO THE GREEK MANUSCRIPTS RATHER THAN TO EXAMINE 100% OF THOSE MANUSCRIPTS FIRST-HAND.

## DEFECT #5

5. DEFECT #5: THE HODGES 'MAJORITY TEXT' COMPLETELY SETS ASIDE DEAN BURGON'S SOUND PRINCIPLES OF NEW TESTAMENT TEXTUAL CRITICISM. The editors stated:

"The present edition does NOT cite the testimony [1] of the ANCIENT VERSIONS or [2] CHURCH FATHERS. [3] Nor are the LECTIONARY TEXTS CONSIDERED. This is not because such sources have no value for textual criticism. Rather, it is due to the specific aims of this edition, in which the primary goal has been the presentation of the Majority Text as this appears in the regular manuscript tradition." [THE GREEK NEW TESTAMENT ACCORDING TO THE MAJORITY TEXT, edited by Zane Hodges, published by Nelson, 1982, p. xviii].

Completely to SCUTTLE the testimony of [1] ANCIENT VERSIONS, [2] CHURCH FATHERS QUOTATIONS, and [3] THE LECTIONARIES in the laborious process of New Testament Textual Criticism is not only to act foolishly and unwisely; not only to go in direct opposition to the sound principles of Dean John William Burgon; but it is also to contradict the recommendations contained in another book published by the same publisher (Nelson) entitled THE IDENTITY OF THE NEW TESTAMENT TEXT by Wilbur N. Pickering (Nelson, 1977) with a foreword by none other than ZANE C. HODGES! Which Nelson are we to believe? The 1977 Nelson, or the 1982 Nelson? Which Hodges are we to believe? The 1977 Hodges, or the

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1982 Hodges? Has TRU changed in just FIVE YEARS?!! Have the sound principles of New Testament Textual Criticism altered in just FIVE YEARS?!! I think not!

In 1896, Dean Burgon, in his TRADITIONAL TEXT OF THE GOSPELS (As edited by Edward Miller) [Available from DBS as #1159 for a GIFT of \$9.00, 340 pp.], outlined his "PRINCIPLES" of textual criticism (pp. 19-39). The MATERIALS for this sacred science included [1] COPIES (p. 21); [2] CHURCH LESSONS or LECTIONARIES (p. 22); [3] ANCIENT VERSIONS (p. 22); and [4] QUOTATIONS OF SCRIPTURE FROM THE CHURCH FATHERS (p. 22). Nothing was to be omitted from this process. COPIES ALONE were NOT considered complete!

In 1977, Nelson published, Wilbur Pickering wrote, and Zane Hodges approved, by his foreword, the following words:

"So then, HOW are we to identify the original wording? First we must gather the AVAILABLE EVIDENCE--this will include [1] GREEK MSS [2] (including LECTIONARIES), [3] FATHERS, and [4] VERSIONS. Then we must evaluate the evidence to ascertain which form of the text enjoys the earliest, the fullest, the widest, the most respectable, the most varied attestation." [IDENTITY OF N.T. TEXTI, op. cit., 1977 edition, p. 137].

What caused the CHANGE OF MIND? Was it money? Was it the quick dollar to be made from a "hurry-up-quick" half-baked job? I think that it was!

What was left behind by the ABSOLUTE OMISSION of [1] ANCIENT VERSIONS, [2] CHURCH FATHERS, and [3] LECTIONARIES? For the ANCIENT VERSIONS, Hodges has left behind all the early translations from the Greek language made at a primitive time and later. For the CHURCH FATHERS, Hodges has left behind all 89,489 quotations or allusions to the New Testament made

by them, as catalogued by Dean Burgon in his 16 folio volumes in the British Museum [Cf. Pickering, IDENTITY, 1977 edition, p. 66]. For the LECTIONARIES, he has left behind all 2,143 of them which have a direct bearing on the text of the Greek New Testament.

For Hodges and Pickering who both profess to follow the Dean Burgon approach to New Testament Textual Criticism, this threefold elimination of vital evidence is, in my candid opinion, HIGH TREASON TO THE BURGON CAUSE!!

## DEFECT #6

DEFECT #6: THE HODGES "MAJORITY TEXT" COMPLETELY SETS ASIDE DEAN BURGON'S "SEVEN NOTES OF TRUTH" IN TEXTUAL CRITICISM. By the elimination from consideration the [1] ANCIENT VERSIONS, [2] CHURCH FATHERS, and [3] LECTIONARIES; and also by making use of only 63.78% of the available COPIES in the form of [1] PAPYRI, [2] UNCIALS, or [3] CURSIVES, [See "DEFECT #4" above, in the last issue], the Hodges-Farstad-Nelson team has completely set aside Dean Burgon's "SEVEN NOTES OF TRUTH."

These "SEVEN NOTES OF TRUTH" were mentioned first by Burgon in his TRADITIONAL TEXT OF THE GOSPELS (1896 edition, pp. 29, 40-67) and repeated with approval in the IDENTITY OF THE NEW TESTAMENT TEXTI by Pickering, published by Nelson with a foreword by Hodges (1977 edition, pp. 129-141) as the very means of "DETERMINING THE IDENTITY OF THE TEXTI" (The Chapter Title for Chapter 7 of his book!). Yet, due to the slipshod methods of the "Hodges-Farstad-Nelson Majority Text," these seven principles have not been permitted to work as a totality.

The SEVEN NOTES OF TRUTH that were to determine the readings for New Testament textual criticism are: (1) ANTIQUITY, or Primitive-ness; (2) CONSENT OF WITNESSES, or Number; (3) VARIETY OF EVIDENCE, or Catholicity; (4) RESPECTABILITY OF WITNESSES, or Weight; (5) CONTINUITY, or Unbroken Tradition; (6) EVI-

DENCE OF THE ENTIRE PASSAGE, or Context; and (7) INTERNAL CONSIDERATIONS, or Reasonableness. [TRADITIONAL TEXTI, op. cit., p. 29; IDENTITY, op. cit., p. 129].

## DEFECT #7

7. DEFECT #7: THE HODGES "MAJORITY TEXT" MAKES USE OF THE HIGHLY SUBJECTIVE WESTCOTT-HORT METHOD OF "INTRINSIC AND TRANSCRIPTIONAL PROBABILITY!" The editors stated:

"Where K itself was sharply divided within an M reading, the RIVAL VARIATIONS were WEIGHED BOTH in terms of their distribution within the majority tradition as a whole AND WITH REGARD TO INTRINSIC AND TRANSCRIPTIONAL PROBABILITIES. Occasionally, a TRANSCRIPTIONAL CONSIDERATION OUTWEIGHS even a preponderance of contradictory testimony from K." [GREEK NEW TESTAMENT, op. cit., p. xxii].

Hort, in his THE NEW TESTAMENT IN THE ORIGINAL GREEK--INTRODUCTION [Available as #1303 from DBS for a GIFT of \$25.00 [1882] (530 pp.)], p. 20, defines these two types of "PROBABILITY" as follows:

"INTERNAL EVIDENCE OF READINGS is of two kinds, which cannot be too sharply distinguished from each other; appealing respectively to [1] INTRINSIC PROBABILITY, having reference to the AUTHOR, and [2] what may be called TRANSCRIPTIONAL PROBABILITY, having reference to the COPYISTS. In appealing to the first, we ask what an AUTHOR is LIKELY TO HAVE WRITTEN: in appealing to the second, we ask what COPYISTS are LIKELY TO HAVE MADE HIM SEEM TO WRITE." [Hort, op. cit., p. 20].

From Hort's own definition of these terms, you can see clearly that they are ENTIRELY SUBJECTIVE and therefore based on the critic's own GUESSWORK, INDUCTIVE LEAPS, and

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SPECULATION! Again, I feel BE-TRAYED by the Hodges-Farstad-Nelson use of this enemy's methodology! They have gone over to the OTHER SIDE once more! Again, it is HIGH TREASON to the Burgon method! Even Hort admitted this type of method was FAR FROM OBJECTIVE: He wrote:

"But in dealing with THIS KIND OF EVIDENCE, equally competent critics OFTEN ARRIVE AT CONTRADICTORY CONCLUSIONS AS TO THE SAME VARIATIONS." [Hort, op., cit., p. 21].

Dean John Burgon leveled his heavy guns on this idle SPECULATION as follows:

"So far from thinking with Dr. Hort that 'the value of the evidence obtained from TRANSCRIPTIONAL PROBABILITY IS INCONTESTABLE,'--for that, 'without its aid, textual criticism could rarely obtain a high degree of security,' (p. 24)--we venture to declare that inasmuch as one expert's notions of what is 'TRANSCRIPTIONALLY PROBABLE' prove to be the DIAMETRICAL REVERSE of another expert's notions, the supposed evidence to be derived from this source MAY, WITH ADVANTAGE, BE NEGLECTED AL-

TOGETHER. Let the study of DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE be allowed to take its place. Notions of 'PROBABILITY' are the very PEST of those departments of Science which admit of an appeal to FACT." [Burgon, REVISION REVISED, p. 252; Available from DBS as #611 for a GIFT of \$15.00 (591 pp.) 1883 edition].

The IDENTITY OF THE NEW TESTAMENT TEXT by Pickering, published by Nelson, with foreword by Hodges railed out also against this terrible MENACE of "INTRINSIC AND TRANSCRIPTIONAL PROBABILITY"! [Cf. op. cit., 1977 edition, pp. 77-79]. WHY then do Nelson and Hodges, in 1982, make use of this method?! Pickering wrote of it:

"No twentieth century man [INCLUDING HODGES!!] confronting a set of variant readings can know or prove what actually took place to produce the variants." [op. cit., p. 78].

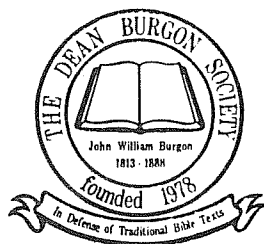
If it is a method so incapable of letting us "KNOW" what took place or actually "PROVING" what took place to produce the variants, then how can the Hodges-Farstad-Nelson team, with a straight face and in the name of OBJECTIVE SCHOLARSHIP, make use of it?! There is a

verse of Scripture that applies right here at this point that I think Zane Hodges and company would do well to take earnest heed to:

"BEWARE lest any man SPOIL YOU through PHILOSOPHY and vain deceit, AFTER THE TRADITION OF MEN [such as Westcott & Hort], after the RUDIMENTS OF THE WORLD, and NOT AFTER CHRIST." (Colossians 2:8).

## CONCLUSION

I see in this entire REGRESSION from the Dean John Burgon methodology once espoused by Zane C. Hodges indeed a sad spectacle. I remember how Hodges for years had a paper he entitled a defense of the "TEXTUS RECEPTUS." Then he changed the title to the "MAJORITY TEXT." I have seen him move closer and closer and closer to the former WESTCOTT AND HORT position of textual criticism. Now we have seen him use the GENEALOGICAL method of the HORTIAN HERETICS. We have seen him being quite at home with the INTRINSIC AND TRANSCRIPTIONAL PROBABILITY of these same HERETICS. Where will it all end? Is there no bottom? One of our DBS Vice Presidents, Dr. David Otis Fuller, uses the expression "SCHOLAROLATRY." Is this what Hodges is guilty of now?



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