

Introduction

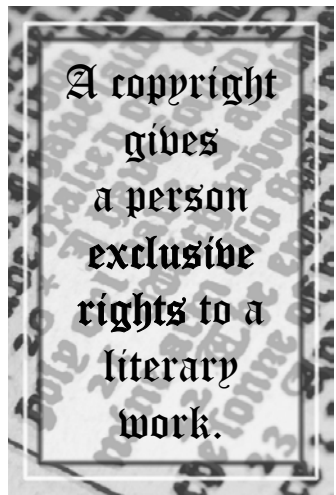
Dr. Jim Brown often says, “We don’t need to defend the Bible; we need to use it.” You don’t stand in front of your gun case and protect your guns; you just get them out and shoot. The Bible is a sword. Can you imagine a warrior defending his sword? No, sir. He uses it. Thank the Lord we have a sword, the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God, the Authorized King James Version of the Bible. (To keep things clear, whenever we speak of the King James Bible, we are referring to the Authorized King James Version originally produced in 1611.)

Maybe you’ve wondered, “Why do they use the King James Version at Shawnee Baptist Church?” “Why do they speak about the Received Text in the Greek and the Masoretic text in Hebrew? Why do they hold to those texts to the exclusion of all other versions? I just don’t understand this issue. Aren’t these other versions of the Bible good?”

One of the things you hear preachers say occasionally is that because the other versions are copyrighted, we don’t use them. Now, you may look at an edition of the King James from one publisher or an-

other and it might have a copyright symbol in it. That copyright refers to notes, charts, or other study helps – not to the text itself. In our little print shop, I can print the Gospel of John, and I can sell it. I can distribute it, I can give it away, I can do whatever I want to with it because there is no human copyright on it.

Because the New International Version is copyrighted, I cannot freely produce and distribute it. A copyright gives a particular person or company the exclusive right to publish, reproduce, and sell a literary work. The purpose in obtaining a copyright is to make a profit. Those who copyright a new version of the Bible are actually “making merchandise of the gospel.” The purpose of the copyright is to make money not publish God’s Word to the multitudes.



Dr. Tom Golden, director of our Bibliology department and head of our Biblical Research Center, has given over half of his life to collecting information about the King James Bible. In his office,

