

# The Baptist Examiner

A nation-wide, independent paper, standing foursquare for the distinguishing doctrines of Baptists, and shunning not to declare all the counsel of God.

"To the law and to the testimony; if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them" (Isa. 8:20).

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## Constructive Work

By THE EDITOR

We wish to pass on to our readers the following self-explanatory article from *The Sling and Stone* edited by Pastor George Ragland of Lexington, Ky. Our own comments follow.

### "WILL WORK CONSTRUCTIVELY" Editor Masters Commends "Modest" Paper

Recent mail has brought us, with request for exchange, the initial issue of "The West Kentucky Baptist," published at Benton, Kentucky, by Editor L. V. Henson and Associate Editors J. E. Skinner and L. R. Riley. It seems that the initial issue went likewise to the *Western Recorder*, for Editor V. I. Masters makes editorial commendation of it in the *Recorder* of September 8, 1932.

An editor's work brings him constantly into study and use of words. He has unusual opportunity of knowing the meanings of words. The use he makes of words is not, therefore, accidental but expressive and meaningful. Editor Masters' commendation of the initial issue of the paper is, therefore, interesting. It says (type emphasis ours):

"The West Kentucky Baptist makes its bow from Benton, Ky, in Volume 1, Number 1, in the issue of August, 1932. It is a **modest** little sheet with Rev. L. V. Henson as Editor, and Rev. J. E. Skinner and L. R. Riley as Associate Editors. It is **evident** that The West Kentucky Baptist **will work constructively to build up our Baptist faith and fellowship.**"

Editor Masters' commendation is interesting in view of the matter contained in the August issue. We are taking the liberty, therefore, of sharing with our readers some of the matter contained in the issue he praises.

In the first article of the West Kentucky Baptist Editor Henson makes reply to an article of Editor Dewey Jones of the *Messenger of Truth* and says in part the following (type emphasis is ours):

"Any man who says I manifested the most intense hatred of divine truth is a **slandrous liar.**"

Is this what Editor Masters calls "a modest little sheet?"

In the same article Editor Henson says in part the following:

"My critic quotes Dr. George Ragland as saying 'The Words in Mark 8:38 and John 10:26 are not the same words.' Dr. Ragland may be 'a very highly educated man' but when he puts his word against the authorities I have given, his egotism becomes more outstanding than his scholarship. My critic also quotes Dr. A. T. Robertson as saying 'I do not find therefore in any translation of Mark 8:38.' If the learned Doctor never found therefore in any translation it is because he never read the Bible. . . . Any man who says I have no authority in the original language for what I said is either densely ignorant of Greek or he wilfully and knowingly misrepresents the truth."

Editor Masters says that Editor Henson's **modest** words about Brethren Robertson and Ragland "will work constructively to build up our Baptist faith and fellowship."

Dr. A. T. Robertson of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary is a recognized authority on the Greek of the New Testament. He can make his own reply to the ugly slur Editor Henson **modestly** makes with Editor Masters' approval con-

cerning his ignorance of Greek or his wilful and knowing misrepresentation of the truth.

Editor Henson modestly says with Editor Masters' commendation that "Dr. Ragland may be 'a very highly educated man' but when he puts his word against the authorities I have given, his egotism becomes more outstanding than his scholarship." What are the facts on which Editor Henson makes this modest reference with Editor Masters' approval?

In a letter dated March 3, 1932, a Baptist layman wrote us in part as follows:

"Could you spare a few moments of your time to give an ignorant Baptist layman some information?"

"Just a few weeks ago I heard a sermon, entitled 'The Bible Doctrine of Election,' preached by an Arminian Baptist of our country (name furnished on request) and he stated that the word translated 'because' in John 10:26 could and should be translated 'therefore.' He also stated that the same word is used in Mark 8:38 and translated 'therefore.'

"Knowing that you are thoroughly familiar with Greek, I am asking that you please advise me if the word translated 'therefore' in Mark 8:38 is the same word as is used in John 10:26 and translated here 'because.' I am of the opinion that the word 'because' in John 10:26 cannot be translated 'therefore,' however I know nothing about the original Greek."

On March 5, 1932, we made reply to the layman as follows:

"Your letter of March 3, 1932, has just been received and I am hastening to make reply though my reply must be hurried and brief.

"The words in Mark 8:38 and John 10:26 are not the same words. The word in Mark 8:38 is the Greek word **gar** and means 'for.' The word in John 10:26 is the Greek word **hoti** and means 'because.' The word used in John 10:26 is the same as the word used in Matthew 2:18 "**Because** they are not!'"

When the correspondence took place we had only a limited acquaintance with the layman. At the time we had never seen Editor L. V. Henson and did not have before us any authorities cited by him. The correspondence itself shows that we were seeking to give an honest answer to an honest question and were not contending for a meaning we desired nor putting our word against any authorities cited by any one. Editor Henson's slur, therefore, in which he implies that we put our word against authorities he cited is false in its implication and unworthy of both real scholarship and Christian courtesy.

But now that Mr. Henson has brought his implied charge and cites his authorities it is befitting to give consideration to them.

Mr. Henson says: "I have in my possession two Greek Testaments. The two Greek Testaments I have, both have the same Greek word in Mark 8:38 and John 10:26. They both have the Greek word **gar** in both passages." Mr. Henson does not say what "two Greek Testaments" he has. Why not when he is citing authorities?

We have in our possession three Greek Testaments. The three Greek Testaments we have, all have different Greek words in Mark 8:38 and John 10:26. They all have the Greek word **gar** in Mark 8:38 and the Greek word **hoti** in John 10:26.