



Orthodox Bibliology vs. KJV-Onlyism

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Instructor

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Required Texts and Resources

1. Mark Ward, *Authorized: The Use and Misuse of the King James Bible* (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2018).
2. John Frame, *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Christian Belief* (Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R, 2013); read Part 5 (pages 519–693; study questions may be skipped)
3. All ten articles in “The Complete Series: Ten Basic Facts About the NT Canon that Every Christian Should Memorize” (March 5, 2013) <https://bit.ly/2wFg3ts>
4. Listen: “How Did the Bible Get from Moses and Paul to Us? – Peter Gurry | S1 E5” <https://bit.ly/3hxXD51>
5. 5 Bonus Points: watch <https://faithlifetv.com/items/621210> (FaithlifeTV offers a free trial.)

Course Description

This course will work through the major topics within the systematic theological locus of bibliology, with a special focus on distinguishing orthodox bibliology from KJV-Onlyism (and, to a much lesser extent, theological liberalism). Students will learn to speak as the Bible speaks about its inspiration, authority, inerrancy, sufficiency, necessity, and clarity. They will be introduced to discussions about canon and textual criticism in both testaments, as well as to Bible translation theory. Students will be introduced to popular and academic forms of KJV-Onlyism and to leading responses to them. Students will be taught how to use multiple English Bible translations in their personal study.

Learning Objectives

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

1. Remember the main Bible passages relevant to each major topic in bibliology (revelation, inspiration, preservation, inerrancy/authority, sufficiency, necessity, clarity, canon, textual criticism, translation).
2. Understand the leading doctrines of KJV-Onlyism and how they differ from orthodox understandings of (especially) canon, textual criticism/preservation, and Bible translation.
3. Analyze writings and comments from KJV-Only brothers in order to separate the issues of textual criticism and translation.
4. Analyze writings and doctrinal statements from KJV-Only brothers in order to place their views on the spectrum of KJV-Only beliefs.
5. Evaluate the claims made by real-life KJV-Onlyists.
6. Have a conversation with a real KJV-Onlyist that uses principles and arguments taught in the course.
7. Use multiple English Bible translations with understanding and profit in Bible study.

Course Activities

Textbook Reading

Read the required texts and listen to the required lecture before the start of the first class. Outline the argument of each reading, including Frame's book (which, helpfully, provides an outline—one you may copy); but you need not outline Gurry's talk.

Tests

The final exam will be comprised of several brief essays that require you to define and support from Scripture all the major aspects of orthodox bibliology.

Project

Interact with a real-life KJV-Onlyist in a social media forum or over email. If you can't find one, the instructor will help you. This is not an exercise; this is real life. But you will be expected to use principles taught in the course.

Course Policies

Academic integrity

Students are expected to demonstrate honesty in the completion of their assignments. Plagiarism and other forms of cheating are not acceptable. Overt and intentional plagiarism will result in failure of the course. (Note: your instructor once watched the head of an evangelical publisher tell a well-known biblical scholar on the phone that the scholar's massive commentary on a New Testament book was no longer going to be published because of plagiarism.)

Late Work

Late work will be docked 10% for every day late.

Scale

A 90-100%

B 80-89%

C 70-79%

D 60-69%

F 0-59%

Grading Point Values

- **Reading Report:** 100 points (P/F)
- **Interaction with actual KJV-Onlyist:** 100 points
 - Rubric:
 - Graciousness, Love, and Patience: 50 points
 - Use of “dead words” and “false friends”: 20 points
 - Use of 1 Corinthians 14: 20 points
 - Use of other concepts learned in this course: 10 points (with possibility for up to 20 points of extra credit for demonstrating use of multiple concepts learned in course)
 - Engaging the topic of textual criticism against the instructor’s explicit and repeated instructions, you terrible and bad student: 50-point penalty
- **Final Exam:** 50 points
- **Possible Bonus:** 5 points for watching the Authorized Infotainment Documentary

Total points: 250

Lecture Schedule

Monday (3 hrs)

1. General Revelation & Personal Revelation
2. Special Revelation 1: Inspiration and Authority
3. Special Revelation 2: Inerrancy 1—OT

Tuesday (3 hrs)

4. Special Revelation 3: Inerrancy 2—NT
5. Sufficiency and Necessity
6. Clarity

Wednesday (3 hrs)

7. Canon 1: Old Testament
8. Canon 2: New Testament
9. Preservation

Thursday (3 hrs)

10. Textual Criticism 1: the Old Testament
11. Textual Criticism 2: the New Testament
12. Textual Criticism 3: the New Testament

Friday (3 hrs)

13. Translation 1: history and current state of Bible Translation
14. Translation 2: the value of formal translation
15. Translation 3: the value of functional translation

Saturday (9 hrs)

- 16.KJV-Onlyism: major arguments and viewpoints
- 17.Confessional Bibliology: major arguments and viewpoints
- 18.False Friends 1: examples
- 19.False Friends 2: examples
- 20.Review of Lawrence M. Vance's Archaic Words and the Authorized Version
- 21.Gender language in Bible translation
- 22.Answering Objections
- 23.Which Bible Translation is Best? The Use of Multiple English Bibles
- 24.Test