



[James R. White](#)

[March 22 at 5:57pm](#) · [Phoenix, AZ](#)

So, how do you follow up on a DL like today's that was so light and airy and cheery and everyone agrees with? How about on Thursday we do "ETism in the Pub"? I'd like to look at the Pericope Adulterae and the claim that it is the testimony of the Holy Spirit that is the final determiner of whether something should be considered Scripture. Is that what the framers of the WCF actually taught? Is Reformed belief something that is only relevant inside a small community, or is it robust enough to take on the best the world has to offer? We will start there on the DL on Thursday---unless of course Donald Trump becomes a REAL Presbyterian between now and then, gets inked with the five solas on his left shoulder, chooses John Piper as his VP candidate, apologizes to all women for his past, and says he will seek to bring America back to greatness by seeking repentance on the part of all Americans---if THAT were to happen (it would be YUUUUGE) I think it would be best to forego the TC discussion to a later time. Otherwise....

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[384 Robert Truelove, Shane Peterson and 382 others](#)

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[Richard Foltz](#)



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[Richard Foltz](#)



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[Trevor Marsteller](#) IMPROPER MEME USAGE

15 yard penalty.

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[Jonathan Alan Dameron](#) I think Hell would freeze before Donald became a reformer. Unless the bible talks about the Anti Christ accepting true theology! Who knows..

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[Andrew Desmond](#) The Gospel is Gods power unto salvation, and the word of God never returns void smile emoticon even if your name is Donal Trump tongue emoticon lol

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[David Sommars](#) AntiChrist is an attitude not a person

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[Danny Taylor](#) It's here. I'd like to sit back and learn from the interaction.

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[Van Robert Bryant](#) More Gnostic gospels please.

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[Danny Taylor](#) I'd rather see Dr. Mohler as VP though, so we can hold out for that.

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[Justin Michael Hester](#) Whoa. Much offensive here, man.

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[Steve Self](#) [#datpostmil](#)?

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[Jerry N Beberly DeOleo](#) Brother, you'd be caught thumb wrestling the pope while cheering for Alabama throwing down some NYFRB before Trump chooses brother Piper. The others are still possible.

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[Robert Jackson](#) Yes!!! So excited right now.

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[Ovi Spinu](#) I'm about to watch the DL from today now - how do you feel about it ?

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[Robert Truelove](#) [James R. White](#), I'd love to hear you address those questions I asked in the other thread. Also, as you are aware there are two different threads on the Pericope. There is indeed the faith argument and then there is the critical argument made by men like Dr. Robinson (who has

collated EVERY extant witness of the Pericope and is presently working on a book in defense of the reading).

[previous questions repeated now here...]

Two questions...

1. If the Scripture is self-authenticating as our confession teaches...

"...it is to be received because it is the Word of God" 1689 1.4

"...our full persuasion and assurance of the infallible truth, and divine authority thereof, is from the inward work of the Holy Spirit bearing witness by and with the Word in our hearts." 1689 1.5

How is it that the church, both East and West, could have been wrong about the authenticity of this complete gospel narrative for so long—that is, how can you consistently maintain a self-authenticating Bible and a blunder of this magnitude being received for so long?

2. Why should we go on the present reasoning of reasoned eclecticism to discard this text after all this time when it was critically addressed and received by the post-Nicene fathers and following (who certainly had access to many more ancient texts than we)? I mean, the question of the manuscript problems is not something new. It was addressed all the way back in the 4th century. I'm not saying it was accepted overnight (as is true of complete canonical books), but it does appear to have been decisively received and maintained for centuries.

AND AGAIN...Thanks for joining us here. I'd love to see you interacting more in the Pub. smile emoticon

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[Vic Montemayor](#) TC, ETism, NYFRB? help?

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[Viernon MacaNeal](#) Tc is textual criticism. The others I have no clue

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[Alexandre Sara Silvestre](#) ET = Ecclesiastical Text

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[Jocelyn Waulk Gorman](#) NYFRB = Not Your Father's Root Beer

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[Spencer Kitchen](#) Looking forward to it!

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[Aaron McCormick](#) Yes!



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[Jake Dingler](#)



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[Joshua Farley](#)



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[Brian Golz](#) Good to see my meme has made its way around. smile emoticon

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[Paul Trost](#) As [Robert Truelove](#) said, there's certainly a defense of the Pericope, Augustine said it was being struck from the text:

Augustine, after citing the phrase of Christ, “Neither do I condemn you: go, and sin no more,” wrote: “This proceeding, however, sh...[See More](#)

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[Ben Lindauer](#) ETism?

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[Michael Martinez](#) Dr. James R. White, will you also be addressing the claim that 1 John 5:7 (comma Johanneum) is a part of the canon?

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[Joshua Farley](#) I saw that thread the other day. I followed at a distance lol

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[Joshua Farley](#) It was cool to see mr. [David Barron](#) in the pub.

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[James Rivera](#) Hey [James R. White](#) how about deleting one of your friends and accepting my request? I've waited long enough!

Please? smile emoticon ...[See More](#)

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[Courtney Thompson](#) Be patient I'm sure he'll kick out some trolls

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[Devin Davis](#) Me too please

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [March 22 at 8:12pm](#)



[Jeremy Martinez](#) How'd you send him a friend request? I've been trying for years.

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[Devin Davis](#) [Jeremy Martinez](#) I dunno but my request has been pending for two years

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[Norman G. Hoffman](#) Does he know you guys personally, or are you total strangers?

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[Christopher Shaw](#) Rock on! <http://gph.is/1ptb61c>



media.giphy.com

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[David Appelt](#) excellent

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[Jon Varner](#) Yeah what is ETism?

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[Christian Herring](#) Belief in extra terrestrials

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[Marie Halstead](#) The sarcasm flows well here. Most excellent!!

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[Christopher Shaw](#) ET = Eclectic Text?

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[Sean McDonald](#) I have "The King James Only Controversy." That should suffice. I will not be tuning in; I am frankly uninterested to hear a sarcastic, patronizing, and belittling treatment of my beliefs.

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[Brett Inscho](#) Why would you assume that response?

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[Sean McDonald](#) Because I've been on the receiving end of that response before, and have noticed a fairly consistent pattern of such.

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[Brett Inscho](#) On what topic?

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[Michael Venditto](#) Dr. White has a scholarly issue with peaceful and mature KJOnlysists; he

however, has no patience or regard for the militant KJOnly occultists.

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[William Sandell](#) because [Sean McDonald](#) is a militant KJVO? Ummm...yeah no...he's not.

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[Michael Venditto](#) so, why is he so sensitive to the doc's criticism of KJO if he's not militant and only peaceful?

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[William Sandell](#) because he is not KJVO

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[Michael Venditto](#) He stated that is his belief or is he referring to some other belief not readily apparent in his comment?

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[William Sandell](#) He is referring to Dr. White's book against KJVOs. Dr. White unfortunately has a habit of equating those of us who hold to the historic, ecclesiastical text as just a variation of KJVO.

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[Michael Venditto](#) I see.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [March 22 at 10:21pm](#)



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[Eric Bryant](#) TC = Textual Criticism. I think.

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[Robert Truelove](#) Also, keep in mind, just as there are varying schools of thought within eclectic thought, there are varying positions within the ET/Traditional Text platform. I myself favor Dabney and Van Bruggen's suggestion of retaining the TR as the common text and providing an apparatus for notes regarding textual issues in the Traditional Text. This position doesn't tend to endear me with anyone. wink emoticon

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[Jonathan Yap](#) Thoughts on the Nkjv?

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[Robert Truelove](#) [Jonathan Yap](#), It's the best modern version IMO...The textual notes showing NU (NeslteA) and MT (Majority Text) variants are alone worth having a copy.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [1](#) · [March 22 at 7:33pm](#)



[Robert Truelove](#) Also...if you want a nice one...take a look at the Schuyler NKJV Quentel. It is the best edition of the NKJV on the market with no close second IMO...

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[Robert Bosley](#) Is ET in this context Eclectic Text or Ecclesiastical Text?

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[Joshua Sayer](#) Hmm...I think you should do a discussion on Star Trek and how Tribbles are a sign of how fast Reformed Theology is spreading through the SBC. (Only that it is a good thing, but from the perspective of the anti-Calvinists, they are as annoying as ever.) smile emoticon

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[Jon Varner](#) Is that why Ed Stetzer likes them?

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[Alexandre Sara Silvestre](#) ET = Ecclesiastical Text

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[Scott K. Schultz](#) Am I the only one who is more excited about the "in the pub" part?

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[J Patrick Clair](#) Dr. [White](#) I would be interested in your thoughts on the authorship of the book of Hebrews, and how the issue, if at all, is viewed from a CT perspective.

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[David Sommars](#) please start lifting again like when you were doing Catholic debates back in the day, It was always awesome because I thought there was a chance that in the parking lot something would "go down" after the debate.

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[Todd M. Wells](#) is that the real [James R. White](#) , pubsters, or is it [Brandon Craig](#) posing as him? Inquiring minds want to know. colonthree emoticon

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[Emily Schultz](#) Unless Brandon regularly comments on [Summer](#)'s photos posing as Doc, it's safe to say this is the OG.

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[Marie Halstead](#) It is the OG, [Todd](#). Pinky swear.

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[Emily Schultz](#) [Marie](#) did it feel as awkward for you as it did for me to call James White an OG?

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[Todd M. Wells](#) what's an OG?

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[Emily Schultz](#) It's the hip new way to say the original

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[Marie Halstead](#) [Todd](#): Original gangster, dude.

Get hip with the lingo, homeslice!

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[Todd M. Wells](#)

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [2](#) · [Yesterday at 10:36am](#)



[Marie Halstead Emily](#): A little. LOL

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[Jim Curtis](#) [James R. White](#): <http://www.amazon.com/Canon-Revisited.../dp/1433505002>



[Canon Revisited: Establishing the Origins and Authority of the New Testament...](#)
amazon.com

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [1](#) · [March 22 at 6:20pm](#)



[James R. White](#) One of my favorite books. Why did you note it?

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[Thomas Haviland-Pabst](#) [Jim Curtis](#) - I am curious of the answer to [White](#)'s question as well.

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[Jim Curtis](#) Dr. K makes a great argument here for a Holy Spirit-driven attitude toward TC. Unless I misunderstood your post, I wanted to highlight it here for others. Not to call you out.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [March 22 at 6:54pm](#)



[Thomas Haviland-Pabst](#) [James R. White](#) has taught and spoken at my seminary, where Dr. Kruger is president (of the campus, that is), so they're friends.

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[Jim Curtis](#) [Thomas Haviland-Pabst](#), we're in classes together, bro.

Again, I am highlighting Dr. K's book to give a helpful resource, not in an argument against Dr. White.

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[Thomas Haviland-Pabst](#) Ha![See Translation](#)

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[Thomas Haviland-Pabst](#) These names on a screen I do not correlate with people I know, apparently. smile emoticon

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[Thomas Haviland-Pabst](#) I was more stating that because it may come of as strange to White, but you've clarified yourself.

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[John Ingram](#) Dr. White, please address the claim that Augustine wrote in support of the Pericope in the 4th century and criticized his contemporaries for deliberately omitting it from their manuscripts.

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[James R. White](#) I did above---Augustine had no CLUE what the manuscript evidence was, no sources to draw from, and his claim is just...well, rather silly.

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[John Ingram](#) In this thread or a different one? I don't see it.

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[Simon Wartanian](#) I think this is what he means <https://www.facebook.com/.../permalink/509581542563826/...>



[Christopher Shaw](#) *to* [Reformed Pub](#)
[March 22 at 4:03pm](#) · [Little Elm](#) ·

If you were preaching verse-by-verse through the Gospel of John, would you include John 7:53-8:11?

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[John Ingram](#) Yeah, I've seen it now. Paul linked to it below.

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[William Sandell](#) Augustine's claim is silly? Seriously? That is Dr. White's critique? He should know better than that. Adultery was a huge issue in the early church and many saw it as a sin that could not be repented of. Novations and other similar heretics would have jumped at the chance to remove a portion of Scripture where God showed mercy to an adulterer.

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[Paul Barth](#) "But, before I proceed, I deem it necessary for you to censure the madness of certain ancient heretics, who impiously removed some certain and undoubted parts of scripture from the sacred canon. Such heretics, indeed, there were in great numbers, as we read in Irenaeus, Tertullian, Epiphanius, Augustine, and others. I shall not endeavour to go through them all, but will enumerate for you the principal."

– William Whitaker, Disputations on Holy Scripture, First Controversy, ch. 3, Concerning Those Heretics Who Were Guilty of Sacrilege Against the Sacred and Canonical Scriptures.

“Since the Reformation only a few godly servants of the truth have invested the time and effort necessary to produce for God’s people a full-orbed defense of Scriptural sufficiency against those who would subject Scripture to external authorities. William Whitaker was one of those servants, and his work should be carefully studied by all concerned shepherds of Christ’s flock.”

– James White, (endorsement on RHB website).

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[John Ingram](#) I hope Dr. [James R. White](#) thoroughly looks over this and the other thread for material before the program. He'll have plenty to talk about for sure. Could turn into a super, mega, jumbo DL.

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[Jordan Cooper](#) This should be fun...

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[Alonso Vaquerano](#) Woohoooo!!! Yes!!!!

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[Kelvin Smyth](#) I'm listening to the latest right now.

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[Michael Kober](#) This is why I joined the pub

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[Michael Venditto](#) Me too!

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[Michael Venditto](#) Dr. White spoke of his daughter's membership in the pub about a year ago and that's when I joined, but some pub members drove the Doc away... I remember reading some vitriolic posts.

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[David Glee Bumgardner](#) Sorry if I'm late, but since when has James been a part of the Pub?
[#Confused](#) [#Young](#) [#Restless](#) [#Reformed](#) [#DatCredoTho](#)

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [4](#) · [March 22 at 6:32pm](#)



[James Hackworth](#) PLEASE!

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[Paul Barth](#) I was happy to be part of the thread that lead to this being talked about on the Dividing Line:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/reformedpub/permalink/509581542563826/>



[Christopher Shaw](#) *to* [Reformed Pub](#)
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If you were preaching verse-by-verse through the Gospel of John, would you include John 7:53-8:11?

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[John Ingram](#) Looks like you're the one who caused it.

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[Christopher Shaw](#) It was my thread, though. tongue emoticon

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[Tim Goodman](#) E.T. is real! I saw him on TV once!!

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[Sam P. Brown](#) My big boy crush on Dr White just grew exponentially.

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[Jason Bradshaw](#) Oh what?! I'm excited about this.

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[Daniel Adrean](#) Dr. [James R. White](#), if not The Testimony Of THE HOLY GHOST, then what? What would make "Reformed belief something that is only relevant inside a small community" and not "robust enough to take on the best the world has to offer?"

Also, are you positing some sort of link between being a "real Presbyterian", getting "inked", and/or choosing "John Piper as ... VP candidate", etc.?

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[Jordan Parks](#) [Nathan Anderson](#) [Devan Meade](#) [Trevor Marsteller](#)

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[Jordan Parks](#) How did you not get banned last time?

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[Daniel Adrean](#) [Jordan Parks](#), are you not interested in him clarifying this: "becomes a REAL Presbyterian between now and then, gets inked with the five solas on his left shoulder, chooses John Piper as his VP candidate, apologizes to all women for his past, and says he will seek to bring America back to greatness by seeking repentance on the part of all Americans"

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[Michael Frank](#) Go back and re read it Daniel. I think you missed " unless of course Donald Trump becomes "

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[Jordan Parks](#) [Michael Frank](#) don't bother

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[Trevor Marsteller](#) Um I think James is referring to the fact that though Trump has attended some kind of Presby church in the past, his life manifestly displays his unregenerate nature and becoming a "true" Presbyterian would mean to embrace Jesus in faith and repentance. Nothing controversial here.

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[Sheryl Stiemann](#) Well, this just proves to me that I'm realllllly not that smart. I had to Google almost everything, whose to say the google even got it right? Apparently, I'm just along for the ride. 😞

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[Valentin Moldovan](#) The original manuscripts are the writings which are infallible. If we start with this presupposition, we can eliminate the argument from incredulity. Which basically asserts, "are we to believe that for so many years, Christians didn't have the ABSOLUTE and utterly COMPLETE, and UNCHANGED revelation of God's word, or that they had a slightly corrupted text"? I'd say yes, this is actually very much a possibility, perhaps a reality.

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[Chris Thomas](#) The Reformers asserted infallibility of the apographs. They defined the doctrine.

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[Norman G. Hoffman](#) "The Ecclesiastical Text position could be considered, in essence, a variation on the Textus Receptus position described in the previous blog. However, while both agree upon the resulting textual tradition that must be appealed to as the authoritative text, the Ecclesiastical Text position arrives at that point in a very different way.

"The main proponent of this position in recent times was Dr. Theodore P. Letis."

<http://www.aomin.org/.../an-introduction-to-textual.../>



[An Introduction to Textual Criticism: Part 9-"Traditional Text" Positions: The...](#)
aomin.org

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[Robert Truelove](#) [Valentin Moldovan](#), The thing is...our confessions (Westminster, 1689) teach that the text on hand was "infallible"...and that knowing of transcription blemishes.

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[Valentin Moldovan](#) So we throw out any evidence which clashes with a confession?

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[Robert Truelove](#) No, but we should take time to thoroughly understand WHY they confessed their view as orthodoxy BEFORE we throw it out.

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[Valentin Moldovan](#) I don't disagree with that [Robert Truelove](#)

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[Robert Truelove](#) Here is a short tidbit I wrote on this subject...

<http://www.theauthorizedversion.com/reformed-confessions.../>

[Reformed Confessions of Faith and the Traditional Text](#)

Reformed Confessions of Faith and the Traditional Text by Pastor Robert Truelove Christ Reformed Church Lawrenceville, GA <http://www.christreformedchurch.org> In Chapter 1, Section 8 of the Westminster Confession, the Savoy Declaration, and the 1689 London Baptist Confession of Faith we read: The Old...
theauthorizedversion.com

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[Paul Barth](#) Valentin, Scripture is not merely inerrant in its autographs, it is infallible in its original language faithful copies that the Church has passed down to us today or else it can't be "profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works" (2 Timothy 3:16-17) nor the Church's final appeal "in all controversies of religion" (WCF 1:8).

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[Robert Truelove](#) I think the ET position is being misunderstood. Dr. Edward Hills nor his protege Dr. Ted Letis argued for absolute perfection in the TR. Dr. Letis even went out of his way in the introduction of Hill's book "The King James Version Defended" to point out that...

"Finally, it must be stated that Hills did not hold to an uncritical, perfectionist view of the TR as some have assumed (Believing Bible Study 2d. ed. p. 83); nor did he advocate with absolute certainty the genuineness of the Johannine Comma (The King James Version Defended p. 209). What he did argue for, however, was a "canonical" view of the text (KJV Defended p. 106), because, in his experience, this was the only way to be assured of "maximum certainty" (KJV Defended pp. 224-225) versus the results of a purely naturalistic approach to the text of the New Testament.

Reformation Day 1983
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Theodore P. Letis"

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[Marcus Haynes](#) Thank you for your dedication to Biblical principles and your willingness to speak the truth in love Dr. White!

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[Norman G. Hoffman](#) Where does the WCF teach that the text on-hand was infallible?

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[Robert Truelove](#) <http://www.theauthorizedversion.com/reformed-confessions.../>

[Reformed Confessions of Faith and the Traditional Text](#)

Reformed Confessions of Faith and the Traditional Text by Pastor Robert Truelove Christ Reformed Church Lawrenceville, GA <http://www.christreformedchurch.org> In Chapter 1, Section

8 of the Westminster Confession, the Savoy Declaration, and the 1689 London Baptist Confession of Faith we read: The Old...
theauthorizedversion.com

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[Norman G. Hoffman](#) Uh, thanks for the link, but I just read the relevant chapter. I didn't see it. That's why I asked.

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[Norman G. Hoffman](#) I don't think it's there.

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[Robert Truelove](#) For a fuller treatment see "The Ecclesiastical Text" by Dr. Ted Letis and "Post-Reformation Reformed Dogmatics, Volume 2, Holy Scripture: The Cognitive Foundation of Theology" by Richard A. Muller.

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[Norman G. Hoffman](#) If you could quote the WCF sentence(s) about the on-hand text being infallible, that would be great.

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[Robert Truelove](#) 1689, from 1.1, & 1.8, dealing with the Greek and Hebrew texts...

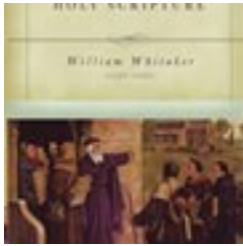
"The Holy Scripture is the only sufficient, certain, and infallible rule of all saving knowledge, faith, and obedience, although the light of nature..."...[See More](#)

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[Robert Truelove](#) oh...and here is another title just recommended on this topic...I need to get this myself...

<http://www.heritagebooks.org/.../disputations-on-holy...>



[Disputations on Holy Scripture \(Whitaker\)](#)

heritagebooks.org

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[J Patrick Clair](#) [Robert Truelove](#) I have PRRD I'll be checking that out this evening!

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[Norman G. Hoffman](#) Well, I asked about the WCF, and I got the LBCF. I'll go check out the context a bit. But nothing from the WCF?

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[J Patrick Clair](#) "and, by His singular care and providence, kept pure in all ages" ?

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[Norman G. Hoffman](#) I'll admit up front that I could be wrong on this, as I have not read very much on the subject. But here's my take:

LBCF 1.1 says the Holy Scriptures are the only infallible rule of faith. That doesn't seem to pin it down to a particular copy, language, or translation. It holds true for me when I'm reading my ESV or KJV.

Including the first part of LBCF 1.8, it reads:

"8._____The Old Testament in Hebrew (which was the native language of the people of God of old), and the New Testament in Greek (which at the time of the writing of it was most generally known to the nations), being immediately inspired by God, and by his singular care and providence kept pure in all ages, are therefore authentic; so as in all controversies of religion, the

church is finally to appeal to them. But because these original tongues are not known to all the people of God, who have a right unto, and interest in the Scriptures, and are commanded in the fear of God to read and search them, therefore they are to be translated into the vulgar language of every nation unto which they come..."

It sounds to me like it could be the autographs that are referred to as "being immediately inspired by God."

Thus, Hebrew was "the native language of the people of God of old" in which the Old Testament autographs were immediately inspired by God.

And Greek, which "at the time of the writing of it was most generally known to the nations", was the language in which the New Testament autographs were immediately inspired by God.

If the Old Testament reference is to the autographs, it seems to make sense that the New Testament reference is, too. If the Old Testament reference isn't to the autographs, what is being referenced?

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[Robert Truelove](#) [Norman G. Hoffman](#), This is why it's important to look at historic usage of this language. Trying to interpret this language through a contemporary lense is prone to the same sorts of misunderstandings as interpreting the meaning of the US Constitution without consulting the Federalist Papers. When you start looking into it though, what they are saying becomes really clear.

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[William Sandell](#) Norman G. Hoffman The LCBF and WCF are identical in that section

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[Norman G. Hoffman](#) Ah, yes, I see they're the same for 1.8. The text quoted for 1.1 is only in the LBCF.

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[Norman G. Hoffman](#) Following is an argument that the WCF distinguishes between the autographs and subsequent, on-hand copies.

"The necessity of looking upon the original Scriptures only as 'authentic,' that is, authoritative in the highest sense, and appealing to them...[See More](#)

[The Westminster Assembly and the Inspiration and Preservation of the Word of God](#)

The Old Testament in Hebrew (which was the native language of the people of God of old), and the New Testament in Greek (which at the time of the writing of it was most generally known to the nations), being immediately inspired by God, and by his singular care and providence kept pure in all ages,...

kjvonly.org

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[Robert Truelove](#) [Norman G. Hoffman](#), The trouble with that citation is it is dealing with KJVO distortions, and I agree with what he is saying in general.

The thing is, inspiration was not seen as just a thing applicable to the autographa but also the apographs. However, this doesn't mean what the KJVOist think. The Reformed Scholastics and the framers of our confession were fully aware of transmissional blemishes, however, they believed that by providence God had so guided the copies that what was on hand was infallible, conveying the full force and benefit of inspiration.

Consider that term..."infallibility". That doesn't mean it does not err, it means it CAN NOT err. That is, the apographs cannot err because they are faithful copies of the inspired text. The idea that that which was "inspired" was lost, was not an idea you're going to find in the 16th and 17th century sources in question.

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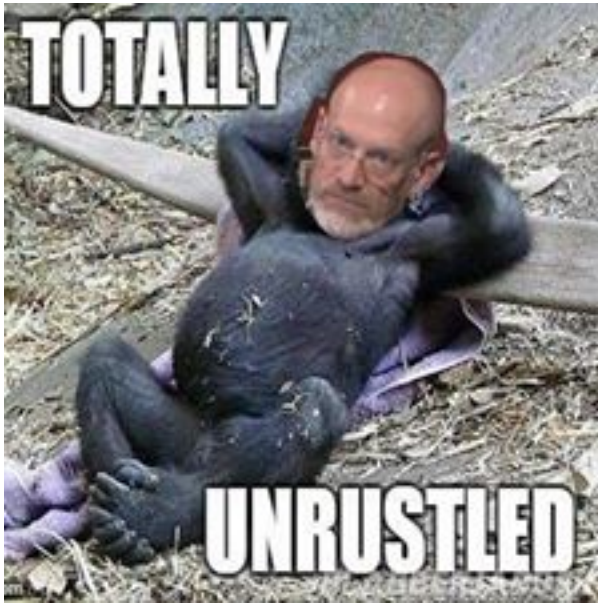


[Philawallafox](#) [Cheetham](#) All these acronyms... What does REAL stand for? And what does Spielberg have to do with the pub?

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[Taylor Matthews](#)



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[Theo Benetis](#) Hey, I know I sound stupid, but what's ETism & TC?

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[Zach Dotson](#) Dr. James White, have you read Calamy on the defense of 1 John 5:7?

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[Paul Barth](#) Just for clarification. The "Ecclesiastical Text" view is not that the Church determines what is Scripture, it is that the Church is the instrumental cause of the preservation of Scripture such that "as in all controversies of religion the Church is finally to appeal unto them (Isa 8:20; John 5:39, 46; Acts 15:15)" (WCF 1:8).

The Scripture itself is the objective cause of our knowledge about what books and what passages are truly Scripture, and the Holy Spirit is the efficient cause "bearing witness by and with the Word in our hearts (Isa 59:21; John 16:13-14; 1 Cor 2:10-12; 1 John 2:20, 27)" (WCF 1:5). This

is the classic Reformed distinction that can be seen in William Whitaker's "Disputations on Holy Scripture" for instance.

V. We may be moved and induced by the testimony of the Church to an high and reverent esteem of the holy Scripture;a and the heavenliness of the matter, the efficacy of the doctrine, the majesty of the style, the consent of all the parts, the scope of the whole (which is to give all glory to God), the full discovery it makes of the only way of man's salvation, the many other incomparable excellencies, and the entire perfection thereof, are arguments whereby it doth abundantly evidence itself to be the Word of God; yet, notwithstanding, our full persuasion and assurance of the infallible truth, and divine authority thereof, is from the inward work of the Holy Spirit, bearing witness by and with the Word in our hearts.b

a. 1 Tim 3:15. • b. Isa 59:21; John 16:13-14; 1 Cor 2:10-12; 1 John 2:20, 27.

Here's a great sermon explaining these three distinctions (objective, efficient, and instrumental causes) with regard to the text of Scripture: <http://www.sermonaudio.com/sermoninfo.asp?SID=11315196288>



[Westminster Larger Catechism 4 - What causes us to believe the Scriptures?](#)
sermonaudio.com

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[Robert Truelove](#) [Zach Dotson](#), I find Edmund Calamy's defense of the Comma in 1719 fascinating because of the sort of argumentation used. For instance, in one place he argues that if the Comma is to be rejected because of weak early manuscript support than we should also reject the Pericope Adulterae. This is presented as if the very idea of rejecting the Pericope was appalling and absurd. I don't say that to be inflammatory, that's just honestly how he presents it.

I don't think that closes the case on 1 John 5:7 BUT it does show a completely different mindset about the text of Scripture by the orthodox in 1719. It's not that they were not aware of most of the same issues we are aware of today...they simply thought about the matter differently.

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[Zach Dotson](#) [Robert Truelove](#), I agree that is why I posted it!

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[Alex Touchstone](#) He would never get elected if he did all that haha. But hed be my new favorite candidate. Ever.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [1](#) · [March 22 at 8:06pm](#)



[J Patrick Clair](#) [Robert Truelove](#) and [Paul Barth](#) IMHO the issue is fairly simple, and I realize this is a "low brow" point of view. I often prefer this metaphor. Let us suppose the church had the sandals that Jesus had worn to the cross. These sandals are broken, bloody, worn, stitched up, etc...Then let us suppose an archaeologist discovered a pair of sandals that Jesus had worn for only one night and left them at someone's house. They are the same make and model. It may be interesting to compare the two and say oh look here and look there. Both belong to Jesus. But if you could have only one pair, which one do you want? I think the answer is clear. The one that did the work.

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[J Patrick Clair](#) I also have no doubt the good Dr. would destroy that analogy...LOL

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[Philawallafox Cheetham](#) I'd want the good ones. I mean, these sandals are for wearing right?

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[Paul Barth](#) The preserved and infallible Word of God that we have today "does the work" all the time! Besides, I ain't no papist and I have no use for Jesus' sandals, I need His Word.

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[Philawallafox Cheetham](#) why would i want to wear a pair of ratty second hand ones when I can

have a pair of like new ones which had been worn by the same saviour?

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[J Patrick Clair](#) You analogy crushers...

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[Shaun MacDonald](#) Texans and Aussies together...

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[Ryan Rossmiller](#) Quote of the day: "diatribe of ethnic Gnosticism".

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[Shaun MacDonald](#) I had never heard of [James R. White](#) until the Pub. I'm looking forward to learning more, and listening to the Dividing Line.

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[Tiffany Ward](#) He is great, my husband and I have learned a lot from his ministry. His debates are wonderful, you learn so much watching them. DL is good too.

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[Zach Dotson](#) Here is a link to the sermon series, on pg. 423 Calamy begins his defense of 1 John 5:7. My challenge to you Dr. White is to read it and understand that though the times were not as perilous and wicked as they are today, Calamy knew the text was contested, and strove to defend it. I think we are likewise called to defend the Scriptures in a similar manner. To me personally it is ironic that we find great fault with the science of Evolution and go to pains to discredit it and strive to have apologetic against it, yet in the Word that God breathed out we have a stark contrast. The Church has resorted to defending what is in the most sacred scriptures by the same means the unbelievers use to discredit it. This is a tragedy. I appeal earnestly and ask that you will consider that God does Preserve His Word and therefore readings like 1 John 5:7 or the Woman in Adultery are in the Scripture. I shall endeavor to pray that you see this view and I hope you will read these sermons and notice his reverence, his desire to keep the Word pure and above all notice that he acknowledges their is controversy but doesn't give the unbelieving some ground while trying to preserve the whole.

https://books.google.com/books?id=6EQ_AAAAcAAJ...



[Thirteen Sermons Concerning the Doctrine of Trinity](#)

books.google.com

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[Jason Garner](#) I just want to know when Arizona will join the rest of the country in the practice of spring forward, fall back

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[Michelle Sandowich](#) What...wait. Is this for real? I thought James White left the building. Is this the Real James White?

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[Brian K Sapp](#) [Brady Anderson](#)

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[Brady Anderson](#) I know I'm so excited!!

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[Ed Wilcox](#) I like turtles...

and James White.

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[Jason Garner](#)



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[Jason Garner](#) That's a terrible picture of our two Yellow Bellied Sliders.

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[Jason Garner](#) Here's a little better one We've had them for several years now. I snatched them out of the canal when they were the size of a silver dollar. They are hilarious.



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[Tiffany Ward](#) Sounds good.

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[Caleb Bell](#) I don't think I have seen anyone tagged so many times in a single post that wasn't being trolled. [#NotificationsOff](#)

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[David Zachary Mason](#) I have been waiting for this for weeks! If the DL was a mega jumbo edition, that would be fine.

From what I've understood of one brand of the ET position, it is based on a few presuppositions: the church has the leading role in preserving the scriptures, and that the word of God will remain pure throughout history. If you could address these in detail, I think we'll move this debate forward.

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[Anthony Caputi](#) Lets find common ground and use the nkjv

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [March 22 at 9:42pm](#)



[Robert Truelove](#) I used the ESV for years even when a Traditional Text advocate. I simply addressed the issues in exegesis. While I advocate the KJV as a masterpiece in English that shouldn't be set aside...the best translation is always the one you're going to read.

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[Anthony Caputi](#) What if people who prefer the ET just use the nkjv and those who prefer the CT use the esv. I use both since I'm not kjv only anymore and am not taking sides

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [March 22 at 9:46pm](#)



[Robert Truelove](#) [James R. White](#), Also, in response to, "Is Reformed belief something that is only relevant inside a small community, or is it robust enough to take on the best the world has to offer?" ...

I'm sort of curious where your commitments are? If "Reformed belief" is true, then does it matter how small our little community is? Is this line of reasoning even relevant to the matter at hand? Arminians make this sort of argument all the time that Calvinists today are in the small minority and our arguments for the gospel are not as effective as their own. It's all hogwash of course but we don't answer that question from what works do we? As in all things, shouldn't our polemics be firmly grounded in truth, not in what works?

I could go on to draw the analogous reasoning to evolution and how any "reasonable person is simply maintaining an indefensible position if they reject it". If faith is to guide reason in the case of evolution, than why not in matters pertaining to the text of Scripture?

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[Anthony Caputi](#) The majority of people who hold to hardcore kjv onlyism are nuts imo Steve Anderson, Gail Riplinger, Peter Ruckman etc. The independent fundamental baptist kjv only crowd are very much against Calvinism too I used to go to one of these churches.

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[Robert Truelove](#) [Anthony Caputi](#), "KJVO" should only be applied to people who believe the KJV is superior to the Greek and Hebrew OR at least equal to it. Those are also the only sorts who themselves identify with the label. It is a heterodox (and potentially heretical) position and I believe it is exceedingly ungracious and inaccurate to even apply it in a qualified manner to those who do not fit that description.

Calling men like Dr. Hills, Dr. Letis, Dr. Van Bruggen, Dr. Robinson, and the many people who hold to similar positions as these men KJVO (by varying degrees) is like calling all Calvinists "hyper-Calvinists" (by varying degrees) as is the custom of some Arminians.

So, there is not "hardcore kjvoism"...there is just "King James Onlyism" as there is no orthodox view on the table for the "King James Only" label.

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[Bryan Peters](#) ^^^^ Hear, hear!

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[John Ingram](#) The Dr. Hills in your list, is that Edward Hills? Isn't he the guy who argued that the KJV should be regarded not as a translation of the TR but as an independent variety of the TR and who also acknowledged that Erasmus had back-translated from the Latin Vulgate and yet said that Erasmus was providentially guided by God to do so?

Sounds KJV-onlyist to me.

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[Bryan Peters](#) [John](#), have you actually read Dr. Hills' work? Do you know anything about his background?

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[John Ingram](#) I don't know much about him, just a few quotes I've run across in reading about the TR and the KJV.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [March 22 at 10:50pm](#)



[Bryan Peters](#) It might interest you to know that Dr. Hills was a Presbyterian student of Van Til at Westminster who found that Van Til's presuppositionalism caused him to rethink his approach to the text of Scripture. Dr. Hills was also a graduate of Yale, Columbia, and Harvard (where he received a ThD in Textual Criticism).

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[Luke Kelley](#) That's a good point, Robert, but I think Ruckmanites are the hardcore KJVonly crowd if there is one. James White lays out the different levels of bonkers in the movement in his

book very well.

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[Bryan Peters](#) Again, the "different levels of bonkers" language is exactly what the problem is. White lumps a variety of very sane, orthodox scholars and pastors with wackos and tars them all with the same brush.

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[Luke Kelley](#) Mokay, not the best choice of words, but I was in an IFB church and that aspect of it got bonkers. It doesn't have to be that way but in the Hyles or Ruckman side it is.

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[Robert Truelove](#) *gives [Bryan Peters](#) a Spurgeon Cigar!*

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [1](#) · [March 22 at 11:19pm](#)



[Robert Truelove](#) Put it like this...the connotation is, "The POSITION is basically heretical. There are some guys who are more heretical than others...so lets be gracious and keep that in mind. Some are big, meanie heretics, whereas we have these other classes of lesse...[See More](#)

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[Robert Truelove](#) Also, for the record...Here is Dr. Hills on the KJV...

"Hence we receive the King James Version as the providentially appointed English Bible. Admittedly this venerable version is not absolutely perfect, but it is trustworthy."

Dr. Edward Hills, The King James Version Defended

And also from the forward by Dr. Ted Letis...

"Finally, it must be stated that Hills did not hold to an uncritical, perfectionist view of the TR as some have assumed (Believing Bible Study 2d. ed. p. 83); nor did he advocate with absolute certainty the genuineness of the Johannine Comma (The King James Version Defended p. 209).

What he did argue for, however, was a "canonical" view of the text (KJV Defended p. 106), because, in his experience, this was the only way to be assured of "maximum certainty" (KJV Defended pp. 224-225) versus the results of a purely naturalistic approach to the text of the New Testament."

Note: None of this is KJVO! The vast majority of KJVO types wouldn't even be able to comprehend the carefully nuanced arguments of Dr. Hills.

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[Manuel Kuhs](#) John Ingram Dr Hills explicitly rejected the idea of the KJV being perfect or superior to the (extant) Hebrew/Greek. He even allowed some minor errors in the extant Hebrew/Greek

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[Les Lanphere](#) What an epic post.

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[Christopher Shaw](#) We need an archive of great posts from the Pub.

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[Ed Wilcox](#) I have a phone full of screen shots. I'm going to have to quit the Pub to have time to organize them.

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[Dustin Simpson](#)



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[Samuel Lee Brewer](#) Amazing. Love it.

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[Zach Johnson](#) Dr. [White](#), as a high school Bible teacher, I'd really appreciate the discussion of the Pericope Adulterae. Most of my students have grown up in conservative Christian homes, but are completely shocked when we come to this passage (and the end of Mark 16) and find that they were not written by the gospel's author. I think I handle it decently, but more information and discussion would be helpful (especially if I could play a clip from the DL smile emoticon).

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[William Sandell](#) [Zach Johnson](#) here is a good discussion on the pericope, looking at all the evidence.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C1Qfhh5wqgs>



[Modern Textual Criticism: The Pericope de Adultera](#)
youtube.com

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[William Sandell](#) [Zach Johnson](#) here is another on the ending of Mark
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zDOLSbfoIIU>



[The Last Twelve Verses of Mark: Part 1, The External Evidence](#)
youtube.com

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[David Appelt](#) Idk about you guys but I'm all sorts of offended

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[5 Replies](#)



[Eric Bryant](#) Great topic! Looking forward to it.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Yesterday at 9:46am](#)



[Robert Truelove](#) [James R. White](#), You say, "I'd like to look at the Pericope Adulterae and the claim that it is the testimony of the Holy Spirit that is the final determiner of whether something should be considered Scripture."

Before you do the DL tomorrow, would you mind articulating here just what it is that you think the ET view means by "the Holy Spirit is the final determiner of whether something should be considered Scripture"? That is, what do you think ETers are saying by this?

Also would you mind defining what you perceive The Ecclesiastical Text position to be?

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[Donna Chisholm Sevastis](#) Well, the Lord CAN do it...but will He? One thing is for sure...all bets are off these days...ANYTHING could happen!

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[Manuel Kuhs](#) [James R. White](#) I love the DL and listen all the time. I'm an ET person myself and to be honest am quite taken aback at what seems to be a quickness on your part in simply waving away the position of all the Reformers, both Reformed/Presbyterian, and Lutherans, on this topic. See Muller PRRD Vol 2 extended treatment for the Reformed/Presb view.

As a Reformed Baptist I think you have an obligation to take careful time and study before rejecting a historically Reformed position or relegating it as "obscurantist", "fideistic" etc (not sure did you use those terms but that's the impression I get from you).

Blessings.

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[Sheralee Tonnessen](#)



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[Jake Swink](#) Can someone post the link?

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[David Zachary Mason](#) [Robert Truelove](#). I acknowledge that there are various brands and degrees of the ecclesiastical text position, I wonder if what I posted above is close to a general view: that it presupposes that the text of scripture is primarily preserved through the Church, and that the text has remained 'pure' (of which I take to mean no words of the originals have been added or taken away) throughout all ages. Is this a fair assessment?

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[Robert Truelove](#) Yes, I think you have the gist of it. The idea is the proper text was preserved through usage, not cold storage. wink emoticon

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[Andrew Thompson](#) Thanks dr white. Your critical text work has been the most edifying part of listening to you for me, of many edifying things. Helped me understand those sections added to scripture over time and understand it doesn't undermine the reliability of the bible.