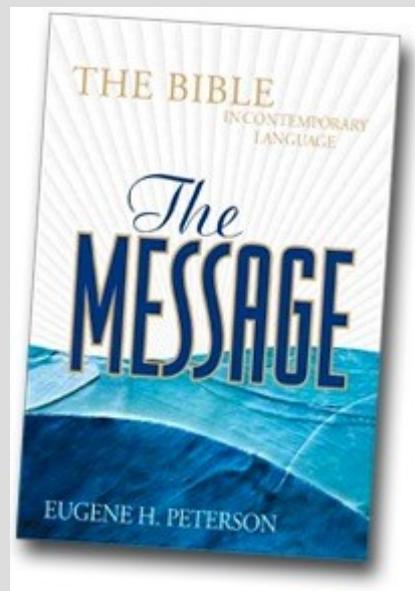


# THE MESSAGE

## The Word of God?



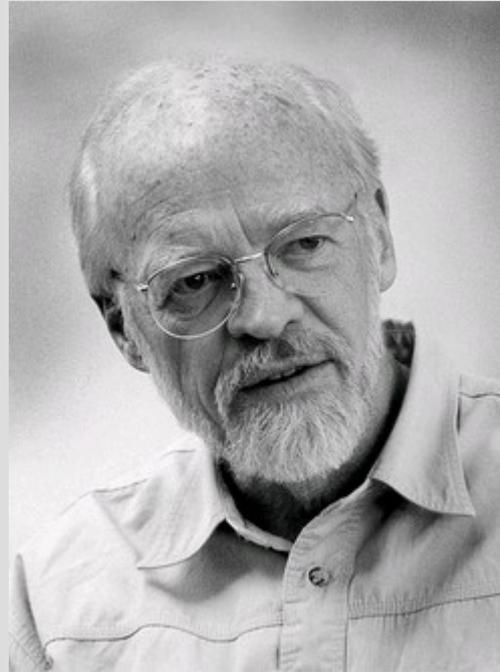
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# Eugen Peterson



# You shall not add

**You shall not add to the Word which I command you**, nor take from it, to keep the commandments of Jehovah your God which I command you.

Deu 4:2

• Then I said, ... I forced myself, and offered a burnt offering. And Samuel said to Saul, You have **acted foolishly that you have not kept the command of Jehovah** your God which He commanded you. ...

1Sa 13:12-13

# The word of God is pure

Pro. 30:5-6

Every **Word of God** is refined, He is a shield to those who seek refuge in Him. **Do not add to His Words**, that He not **reprove** you, and you be found a liar.

- The believer replied, "Every **promise of God** proves true; he protects everyone who runs to him for help.
- So don't second-guess him**; he might **take you to task** and show up your lies."

# Jesus do ...as good as he can?

- **Truly, truly, I say to you**, The one not entering through the door into the sheepfold, but going up by another way, that one is a thief and a plunderer.

- "Let me set this before you **as plainly as I can**. If a person climbs over or through the fence of a sheep pen instead of going through the gate, you know **he's up to no good**--a sheep rustler!

# Described Sins

1Tim. 1:9-10

... for **lawless** and **undisciplined** ones, for **ungodly** and **sinful** ones, for **unholy** and **profane** ones, for **slayers of fathers** and **slayers of mothers**, for **murderers**, for **fornicators**, for **homosexuals**, for **slave-traders**, for **liars**, for **perjurers**, and if any other thing opposes sound doctrine

- ... for the irresponsible, who defy all authority, riding roughshod over God, life,
- **sex, truth, whatever!**

# Sexual morality

1Cor. 6:9

Or do you not know that unjust ones will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be led astray, neither **fornicators**, nor **idolaters**, nor **adulterers**, nor **male prostitutes**, nor **homosexuals**,

- Don't you realize that this is not the way to live? **Unjust** people who **don't care about God** will not be joining in his kingdom. Those who **use and abuse each other, use and abuse sex**,

# Attitude toward God's word

Isa. 66:5

Hear the Word of  
Jehovah, those who  
**tremble** at His Word....

But listen to what GOD  
has to say to you **who**  
**reverently respond** to  
his Word: ...

# Corrupting the Word of God

## Watering it down – 2 Cor.2:17

- For we are not as the many, **peddling** the Word of God; ...

- we don't take God's Word, **water it down**, and then take it to the streets to sell it cheap...

- Water it down : OK

# Serving God

Jos. 24:15

... choose for yourselves today whom you will **serve**, whether the gods whom your fathers **served** Beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living. But as for me and my house, **we will serve Jehovah.**

... then choose a god you'd rather *serve*--and do it today. Choose one of the gods your ancestors **worshiped** from the country beyond The River, or one of the gods of the Amorites, on whose land you're now living. As for me and my family, we'll **worship GOD.**"

# ... no man deceive you

Mat. 24:4-5

- And Jesus answered and said to them, Take heed that **no man** deceive you.
- For **many** will come in My name, saying, I am Christ, and will deceive many.
- Jesus said, "Watch out for **doomsday deceivers**.
- Many **leaders** are going to show up **with forged identities**, claiming, 'I am Christ, the Messiah.' They will deceive a lot of people.

# Abandon all things

Luk. 14:33

So then every one of you who does not **abandon all** his possessions is not able to be My disciple.

Simply put, if you're not willing to take **what is dearest to you**, whether plans or people, and **kiss it good-bye**, you can't be my disciple.

# fornicator, or profane

Heb 12:16

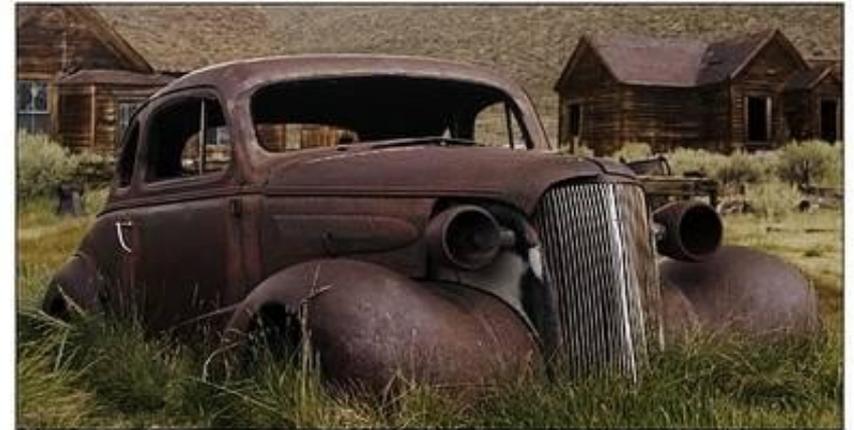
watching diligently(15)  
... that not any  
**fornicator, or profane**  
one, as Esau, who for  
one meal gave up his  
**birthright;**

- Watch out for the **Esau syndrome:** trading away **God's lifelong gift** in order to satisfy a **short-term appetite.**

# The glance is gone



- The Bible



- The Message

# Conclusion : “Positive” points

- Surely this translation was not made in a rush, and a lot of work have surely been done for each verse and each expression.
- Some words may be correctly rendered, even nearer to the Hebrew root :
  - born again : « **To be born from above** »
  - Peddling : « **To water down** »

Sometime too near, sense may be difficult to understand:

- Abandon : « **kiss it good-bye** » (???)

# Conclusion : Negative points

- There are positive points, howether was it made in a spirit of obedience?
- Some verses are gathered in one verse
- Some terms do not render the accurate relation (servant - God) of men toward God
- Self enhancement is tolerated
- Sins become relatively undefined
- Warnings are not accurate.
- How can we be allowed to render *dynamically* God's pure and inspired Word?
- Can our understanding redesign God's word?
- Can we *improve* his Word?

# Links / Doc

- [www.lighthouse Trailsresearch.com/themessage.htm](http://www.lighthouse Trailsresearch.com/themessage.htm)
- 
- "[M]any Christian leaders promote wicked Bible versions such as Eugene Peterson's The Message (NavPress, 1993: see TBC Oct '95) that pervert God's Word. Men like Peterson have no conscience about changing what God says, replacing His words with their own. Peterson is praised for this perversion by many Christian leaders such as J.I. Packer, Warren Wiersbe, Jack W. Hayford, and Richard Foster, founder of the Renovare Movement and General Editor of the Renovare Spiritual Formation Bible (HarperSanFrancisco, 2005)."
- Dave Hunt, The Berean Call, August 2005 Newsletter