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Some notes in certain Bibles are Blatantly Deceptive!

Preface note: This article is not a criticism of any of the translations (the actual Bible text itself). It merely calls attention to some of the notes in the margins of certain Bibles that can unnecessarily undermine your faith.

In 1975, when I was a new believer, someone suggested that I purchase a New American Standard Bible (NASB) because it was so much easier to read than the Bible I was using at the time. So, I purchased one and found that it was easier to read like my friend said. But then the unthinkable happened. I was reading the end of the gospel of Mark, and I noticed brackets around the final paragraph (Mark 16:9-20). So, I looked and found two shocking notes. I did not know it then, but I now know that these notes are blatantly deceptive and aligned with Satan's desires to undermine our faith. Below are those notes. Especially observe the underlined words because they are blatantly deceptive.

1. Some of the oldest manuscripts do not contain verses 9-20. (Underlining is mine.)

2. A few late manuscripts and versions contain this paragraph. (Underlining is mine.)

After reading these notes as a new Christian, it was as if the spiritual wind that had been pushing my sail was suddenly gone. I was devastated. This contradicted my belief that God had preserved His Word. (*"The Word of the LORD endures forever," – 1 Peter 1:25*). When I asked my church leaders about it, they assured me there was nothing to be concerned about and after I learned more of the Bible, I would understand.

Shortly after this, I told my non-believing mother of my plans to go to Bible college. She then asked me a question that gave me pause. She said, "Do you believe the Bible is God's Word?" After a brief pause, I said, "Yes." But inwardly, the thought that scholars were not completely certain about the wording of certain passages immediately came to mind and cast some doubt on my response to her. I ended up attending Bible college and learned all that they had to teach on this subject. I convinced myself that God had preserved His Word **sufficiently** and tried to comfort myself with the knowledge that the New Testament was preserved better than any of the other ancient writings in existence.

I thank God that after four decades, I discovered that the entire textual criticism industry is founded on false assumptions and that God has indeed preserved every single word of the Greek New Testament. For an exhaustive analysis of this subject, I recommend ***The Identity of the New Testament Text IV***, Wilbur Pickering.

Now, let us examine those two notes again. I will demonstrate that the underlined words are blatantly deceptive.

1. Some of the oldest manuscripts do not contain verses 9-20.

Notice the word "some." In reality, only three, (not some), of the 1700 Greek manuscripts of the gospel of Mark, do not contain Mark 16:9-20. In addition, many "scholars" agree that one of the three is probably fraudulent in that part of Mark. So, we can only be confident that just two of the 1700 manuscripts of Mark do not contain these verses. Therefore, the word "some" is blatantly deceptive since only 2 out of 1700 manuscripts omit verses 9-20. And, it should be noted that those two manuscripts are riddled with errors throughout them. (They are like terrible witnesses whose testimony would be discarded in a normal trial.)

2. A few late manuscripts and versions contain this paragraph.

Take special note of the word "few." In reality, **1700 Greek manuscripts of Mark contain these verses**. Does that seem like a "few" to you? Virtually every Greek manuscript of Mark contains these verses!

The note also says that only a few "versions" contain these verses. (A "version" is a "translation" of the Greek New Testament writings into other languages in that era, such as Latin, Syriac, Coptic.) This also is blatantly deceptive. Every Syriac manuscript except one contains them! Every Latin manuscript (8000) except one contains them! Every Coptic manuscript except one contains them.

Since these notes are blatantly deceptive, it is natural to wonder why people would word them this way. Were they ignorant of the actual facts? Or, since the entire textual criticism industry is founded on unproven human assumptions, perhaps they

[Click this to go back to the free articles and media page.](#)

were purposely using deceptive exaggerations in order to persuade multitudes of Christians (who do not know the facts) to blindly accept their premise as if it is true. Since the Mark 16 passage is just one of many examples that include blatantly deceptive notes, I am inclined to think (but could be wrong) that the latter is true. Let us consider a few more examples of blatantly deceptive notes found in certain Bibles.

Other notes in the NASB and ESV that distort the facts.

(To make my points in the most understandable way, my analysis only includes the notes from the NASB and ESV. If you use a different Bible, you can check for yourself if it includes similar notes in its margins.)

Besides the notes about Mark 16:9-20, below are just a few more examples of notes in the NASB and ESV that distort the truth. (Also, in many cases, they don't even provide a note where they should be providing one). My brief analysis considered less than 20% of the New Testament. So, there are likely many other occasions of this nature.

1. John 5:3b-4 NASB: In these lay a multitude of those who were sick, blind, lame, and withered, [*waiting for the moving of the waters*; ⁴ for an angel of the Lord went down at certain seasons into the pool, and stirred up the water; whoever then first, after the stirring up of the water, stepped in was made well from whatever disease with which he was afflicted.] (NASB brackets these words while the ESV simply does not include them at all.)

John 5:3-5 ESV In these lay a multitude of invalids- blind, lame, and paralyzed. ⁴ ⁵ One man was there who had been an invalid for thirty-eight years.

NASB note: Many manuscripts do not contain the remainder of v3 and v4.

ESV note: Some manuscripts insert "*waiting for the moving of the waters*"; ⁴ for an angel of the Lord went down at certain seasons into the pool, and stirred up the water; whoever then first, after the stirring up of the water, stepped in was made well from whatever disease with which he was afflicted."

The actual facts: 99.2% of the manuscripts do contain these words. (99.2% is far from "some." Almost all the manuscripts contain them, not just "some" of them!

2. Mark 10:24 NASB And the disciples were amazed at His words. But Jesus answered again and said to them, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God!"

Mark 10:24 ESV And the disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said to them again, "Children, how difficult it is to enter the kingdom of God!"

NASB note: "Later manuscripts insert "for those who trust in wealth." (The **ESV note** is basically the same as the NASB note.)

The actual facts: 1,650 of all of the Greek manuscripts (not just "later" ones) include it. Only 5 Greek manuscripts do not include it. 1650 (compared to 5) manuscripts are in favor of these words being there and the 5 against are riddled with variants/errors.)

[Click this to go back to the free articles and media page.](#)

3. Luke 11:4 NASB 'And forgive us our sins, For we ourselves also forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation.'" (The ESV is similar to this.)

Both the ESV and NASB completely leave off the underlined phrase below.

Luke 11:4 (should read) And forgive us our sins, For we also forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one."

The actual facts: 1,600 Greek manuscripts include this phrase while only 16 do not include it. Yet, the NASB and ESV do not even include a note to alert the reader about their omission.

4. Luke 2:14 NASB "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased."

Luke 2:14 ESV "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

Luke 2:14 (should read) "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"

The NASB and ESV both add the underlined words. The NASB does not even include a note. The ESV note reads, "Some manuscripts – peace, goodwill among men."

The actual facts: 1,700 Greek manuscripts do not include these underlined words and only 6 Greek manuscripts include them. (And those 6 are riddled with variants/errors.)

5. 1 Timothy 3:16 ESV Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of godliness: He was manifested in the flesh, vindicated by the Spirit, seen by angels, proclaimed among the nations, believed on in the world, taken up in glory.

1 Timothy 3:16 - 4:1 NASB And by common confession great is the mystery of godliness: He who was revealed in the flesh, Was vindicated in the Spirit, Beheld by angels, Proclaimed among the nations, Believed on in the world, Taken up in glory.

1 Timothy 3:16 - 4:1 (should read) And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen by angels, preached among the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up in glory.

The NASB note reads, "Some later manuscripts read *God*."

The ESV note reads, "Greek *Who*; some manuscripts *God*; others *which*."

The actual facts: 98.5% of all Greek manuscripts read God. Only a handful of inferior manuscripts read *who* or *which*. And another thing to note...if it is *who* or *which*, then why do they translate it incorrectly as *He*? Based upon their own notes, it should read *Who* or *which*. But since neither of these make any sense, they chose to mistranslate it as *He* instead of using the correct word *God* as witnessed by 98.5% of all the Greek manuscripts.

6. NASB note in preface concerning use of brackets [] : In text, brackets indicate words probably not in the original writings.

The phrase, "*probably not in the original writings*," is in question since in many of those cases, almost all of the Greek manuscripts contain the words within the brackets. So, instead of the word "probably," a more objective/honest word would be "possibly." And in my opinion, the word "possibly" should not even be used since it raises doubt about God's ability to preserve His Words. A more factual note in the preface should read, "*Some scholars question the words in brackets even though the evidence for them being in the text is overwhelming.*"

If your Bible is one that includes blatantly deceptive notes like those mentioned in this article, I advise you to be careful about every note found in it. Some might be true. But from this analysis, it is clear that many are false. Be a wise student and exercise caution.