

5/29/2018

"AND LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION"

Growing up in a Christian house and Christian church I learned what is called "The Lord's Prayer" at a fairly early age. Most all of us kids that were in Sunday school and church together learned it about the same time. It was impressed on all of us that these words were the words of Jesus and this prayer was his example of how we should pray.

I remember questioning the line "and lead us not into temptation". To me, asking God to not lead us into temptation seemed like the polar opposite of what I had been taught about God. How could God "lead" anyone into temptation?

As I grew older I began to examine the Christian writings more carefully. And a part of those examinations was obtaining a Bible that translated Jesus' words from the Aramaic language--the language Jesus spoke. It became clear to me that Jesus did not say "and lead us not into temptation" but he said "and let us not enter into temptation".

The Aramaic word "talan" means "to enter". When the word was used by Jesus in his Prayer it was "taloon"--which, when properly translated, becomes "let us not enter". The version of the Prayer I had originally learned was from the King James version, i.e., translation, of the Bible. The King James Bible had been translated from the Greek language--which had, more than likely, been translated incorrectly. Whatever happened, the King James translation was not true to Jesus' original rendering of the phrase.

In the Christian writings, the book of James chapter 1, verse 13 says--"Let no man say, when he is tempted, I am tempted by God, for God cannot be tempted by evil--neither does he tempt any man". That translation, too, is from the Aramaic language which is, no doubt, the original language the author of the book of James spoke and wrote.

I really don't have any "deep message" here--other than to ask that the next time you are saying the Prayer you remember that Jesus did not "accuse" God of "leading us" into temptation. When we are tempted we are tempted of our own accord.

God bless--

All my best--

Chip