

Your Car Warranty Is Expired!

I am willing to go out on a limb here and guess that everyone reading these words has been robo-called multiple times regarding their car's expired warranty coverage. It's a national phenomenon. They must be selling lots of warranties or else these calls would cease. The solicitations come at all times of the day from unrecognized numbers both near and far. Even car owners who have cars still under factory warranty get these calls. And to top that, people with no car at all get these calls! Every car in America should be fully covered with a bumper-to-bumper warranty by now, if only owners would sign up and pay their premiums. Au-to repair shops may fill up with lots of work, so you might need to call ahead and make an appointment as soon as possible. [Tongue planted firmly in cheek!]

Of course, I am not seriously encouraging everyone to jump on this car repair band-wagon (unless you do indeed need it), but this current phenomenon does make me think. What if Christians were as interested in recommending the gospel as these guys are at pushing car warranties? No, we should not make nuisances of ourselves, but we are a very long way from that happening, to be sure. Yet, shouldn't we promote the salvation of souls with fervor and dedication— at least as much as if we were selling some product we think everyone must buy? The gospel must not be pushed by high-pressure tactics as some salespeople might do with a car warranty, but neither should we leave the impression that an auto repair policy is more essential than a soul's salvation. The Lord's great commission to His apostles sent them "into all the world" preaching the gospel to "all creation" (Mk. 16:15). Paul said in his time the gospel had been proclaimed "in all creation under heaven" (Col. 1:23). That sounds like their goal was to leave no stone unturned in getting the message of God's grace to everyone who needed to hear it. As recipients of God's mercy they felt they were "under obligation both to Greeks and barbarians ... to preach the gospel" (Rom. 1:14-15). Come to think of it, with all those handy car warranties, we might just be able to "go into all the world"! After all, "CarShield ® cars go farther."

- by *Mark White*

A Case of Mistaken Identity

A man was being tailgated by a stressed out woman on a busy street. Suddenly, the light turned yellow, just in front of him. He did the right thing, stopping at the crosswalk, though he could have beaten the red light, accelerating through the intersection. The tailgater was furious, honking her horn, screaming in frustration as she missed her chance to get through the intersection, dropping her cell phone and makeup.

While still in mid-rant, she heard a tap on her window and looked tip into the face of a very serious police officer. He ordered her to exit her car with her hands up. He took her to the police station where she was searched, finger printed, photographed, and placed in a holding cell. After a couple of hours she was escorted back to the booking desk where the arresting officer was waiting with her personal effects.

He said, "I'm sorry for this mistake. I pulled up behind you while you were blowing your horn, rudely gesturing at the guy in front of you, and cussing a blue streak at him. I saw the 'What Would Jesus Do' bumper sticker, the 'Choose Life' license plate holder, the 'Follow Me to Sunday School' bumper sticker, and the chrome-plated Christian fish emblem on the trunk. Naturally, I assumed you had stolen the car."

- by *Curt Hughes*

Bible Classes

I attend because they help me grow in grace and knowledge. I share in the lessons and thoughts from various ones. There my children learn lessons that will help preserve them from the pitfalls of life and prepare them for heaven and eternity. My participation shows to the world my interest in the church and spiritual things - which may influence others for good. My concern for others, my children and my own soul will not let me willfully neglect such activity.

Now, suppose you make a list of reason why you do not attend the classes:

- *"I'd rather sleep late."*
- *"It's too much trouble to get up and get the kids ready"*
- *"There's something else I had rather do."*
- *"The teacher doesn't interest me."*
- *"I'm good enough and know enough already."*
- *"I need the extra rest (so I can work more overtime and/or engage in more recreational activities)."*

Go ahead, make your list. Then present it to God when you pray! If you think God will accept such excuses, I suggest you read (before you reach judgment day) Matt. 6:33; Matt. 25:1-46, and Rev. 3:14-21.

- by Hershel Patton

The King James Version of the Bible

Like all other translations, the KJV has minor flaws. This is because it was produced by fallible humans. For instance, we find the use of the word 'Easter' in Acts 12:4. If the KJV was perfect, that word would not be there. Instead, it would be properly translated as 'Passover'. In fact, that word is found 29 times in the New Testament, and every other time the KJV translators rendered it as 'Passover'. It is well known that they used the word 'Easter' in Acts 12:4 to accommodate King James - the monarch who had commissioned their work in translating the Bible. Furthermore, if the KJV was the perfect product of God's guidance, why did it undergo numerous revisions before the final form was settled on over 150 years after the original publication? The fact of the matter is that most of us would not be able to make any sense of the 1611 original.

Even those of us who love the KJV must admit that there have been significant advances in the 400 years since the KJV was originally published. Many additional pieces of manuscript evidence have been found. Tremendous amounts of secular writings which quote the Scriptures have been uncovered. And, significant progress in understanding the Greek and Hebrew languages has made the translating process even more accurate.

Without doubt, God is able to preserve His inspired Word, and we firmly believe that He has done so (1 Peter 1:25). But, only the message in the original languages was inspired. Since then, we depend upon translators to put it into our native tongues (not only English, but hundreds of other languages around the world). We have strong evidence that the KJV translators, and the translators of several other good English versions, have done so in excellent fashion.

- by Greg Gwin