

The Messianic Claims of Gail Riplinger

“All for the Greater Glory of Gail”

by Dr. Phil Stringer

“The simple believeth every word; but the prudent looketh well to his going.” Proverbs 14:15

Messiah—“any long awaited liberator.” (Webster Illustrated Contemporary Dictionary, def. 3.)

Megalomania—“a mental disorder in which the subject thinks himself great or exalted.” (Webster Illustrated Contemporary Dictionary.)

It is a shame that this monograph needs to be written. However, the circumstances demand it!

THE GREAT DEBATE

A tremendous debate rages among independent Baptist circles over Bible translation. This influences mission boards, Bible colleges and printing ministries.

On the extremes of this debate are two positions concerning the source texts for Bible translation. One extreme is the “Greek and Hebrew only” group. They believe that all Bible translation must be done directly from the Greek and Hebrew languages.

Another extreme is the “English only” group. They believe that all Bible translation must be done directly from the King James Bible.

This tension is seen in the reaction to the Spanish translation of the Bible headed up by Humberto Gomez. He used three source texts: the 1909 Reina Valera Bible, the Greek and Hebrew Traditional Texts and the King James Bible. These were all diligently compared and studied in an effort to provide the most accurate possible Spanish Bible.

The “Greek and Hebrew only” crowd have viciously attacked Humberto. Calvin George and some (but not all) of the leadership of the Trinitarian Bible Society have vilified Dr. Gomez for using the King James Bible as a source text. However, Gail Riplinger and most (but not all) of her supporters have attacked him aggressively because the King James Bible was not his only source text.

This same scenario is taking place in many languages around the world.

Genuine Bible translators should be able to relate to a section of the famous poem, The Charge of the Light Brigade:

“Cannons to the right of them,
Cannons to the left of them,
Cannons in front of them”

No one is pushing this debate with greater fervor than author and Bible teacher, Gail Riplinger.

Both the King James translators and those that worked with William Carey used multiple source texts. The King James Bible is the most successful Bible translation in the history of the world. Perhaps we could learn something from their work.

The King James Bible translators wrote: (as quoted by Gail Riplinger in *Hazardous Materials*, p. 1019), “the original sacred tongues, together with comparing of the labours both of our own (previous English Bibles) and other foreign languages (Chaldee, Syriac, Spanish, French, Italian, Dutch) of many men who went before us.”

There is a better way to do Bible translation—than either “Greek only” or “English only.” Use as many good source texts as possible.

Perhaps something could be learned from the ministry of William Carey.

Carey was a shoemaker, Baptist pastor, Bible translator and educator.

Carey was born in 1761 and baptized in 1783. He went to India as a missionary in 1793. He served 41 years without a furlough. He died and was buried in India in 1834.

Carey studied at least one chapter of the Bible every day in each of six languages: English, Koine Greek, Latin, French, German and Italian.

He has been called the Bengali Luther, the Wycliffe of the East, the Tyndale of our Time, the Polyglot of India, and a Plodder for Christ. He is commonly known as the Father of Modern Missions. He has been called the greatest linguist who ever lived.

He served as a Professor of Oriental Languages at a secular university (Fort William College, which became Calcutta University). He started a Bible college, a medical hospital, a leper hospital, and a Christian liberal arts university, which accepted non-Christian students.

His mission teams translated the Bible into forty languages and dialects—seven complete Bibles and thirty-three New Testaments. They also produced eight grammars and three dictionaries. Carey produced four translations himself (Bengali, Hindi, Marathi and Sanskrit). He worked with other missionaries on translations and he supervised other translation efforts. In all of these efforts, the advice and aid of nationals was incorporated.

Carey’s translation teams used any and all good sources available and usable by the translators. Greek and Hebrew were used when possible. The King James Bible was always present. Earlier Indian translations were used in producing later Indian translations.

Carey certainly accomplished more than any of the loud voices in the current debate.

Maybe we should be learning something from both the King James translators and William Carey.

Absurdities have arisen on both sides. In a June, 2006 internet exchange, Calvin George castigated Mickey Carter and J. J. Ray and others for suggesting that hundreds of translations have been done from the King James Bible. He and his correspondents mocked Dr. Carter and the others for being uneducated and ignorant. One of the participants called King James Bible believers “retards.”

Calvin George asserted that only four or five translations had been done from the King James Bible.

In reality the original statement that the King James Bible has been translated into hundreds of languages comes not from Dr. Carter or J. J. Ray, but from Winston Churchill (*History of the English Speaking Peoples*, one volume, Commager edition, p. 160).

“It won an immediate and lasting triumph. Copies could be bought for as little as five shillings, and even with the inflated prices of today can still be purchased for this sum. It superseded all other versions. No new revision was deemed necessary for nearly three hundred years. In the crowded emigrant ships which sailed to the New World of America, there was little room for baggage. If the adventurers took books with them they took the Bible, Shakespeare, and later *Pilgrim’s Progress*, and the Bible they mostly took with the Authorised Version of King James I. About ninety million complete copies are thought to have been published in the English language alone. It has been translated into more than 760

tongues. The Authorised Version is still the most popular in England and the United States. This may be deemed James' greatest achievement, for the impulse was largely his. The Scottish pedant build better than he knew. The scholars who produced this masterpiece are mostly unknown and unremembered. But they forged an enduring link, literary and religious, between the English-speaking peoples of the world."

I wish I knew where Churchill got his information! I wish I had a list of the translations he referred to. One thing that I am sure of—he is no "King James retard".

The "English only side" can also be absurd. One Riplingerite preacher recently preached that we don't need to know Greek and Hebrew because you can't order pizza in Koine Greek or Masoretic Hebrew.

I consider myself an expert on ordering pizza. I have been doing it weekly for decades. However, I must confess that there are more important issues in Bible study than pizza.

Gail Riplinger has become a major figure in this debate. More than any other person, her personal claims about herself figure into the nature of this debate.

MEGALOMANIA ON STEROIDS

Listen to the claims that Gail Riplinger makes about herself:

"The reader is in for many surprises, some that will verge on riveting shock. Before *this* book, no one had ever critically examined the authors of Greek and Hebrew study fools." (*Hazardous Materials*, p. 13)

That's right! No one ever understood before Gail Riplinger. Without her, you would be forever ignorant.

"The worse mistake a reader could make would be to suppose that, because an author is not mentioned in this book, his Greek or Hebrew study tools are safe. All tools have been examined and ALL are corrupt." (*Hazardous Materials*, p.37)

That's right! Gail Riplinger has studied everything. She has not missed anything.

"That with which the reader may not agree or which the reader may not understand will be rectified upon reading *the entire* book. All questions have been anticipated and are explained somewhere and in detail. Assuming, 'the author does not know or understand *something*' will only be possible if the entire book is not read." (*Hazardous Materials*, p. 40)

That's right. Dr. Riplinger has anticipated all your questions. She has answered them all. It is not possible that the author misunderstands anything.

When has anyone, male, or female, ever made such claims about their work? All for the "Greater Glory of Gail!"

TRUST DR. RIPLINGER TO TELL YOU WHAT THE GREEK MEANS!

"I have done all of the Greek work for the reader." (*Hazardous Materials*, p. 42).

What a statement! Don't do any research. Don't check out anything for yourself. Gail Riplinger will tell you what the Greek means. Trust her as your authority. What kind of a Baptist allows someone do all of their thinking for them?

This proclamation is all the stranger when you realize that Gail Riplinger does not know Greek.

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In a May, 1994 radio interview with Dr. Wayne House, Dr. Riplinger was forced to admit that she cannot read Greek or Hebrew. While she does not explicitly state in her books that she knows Greek or Hebrew, she makes many statements that would make you think she is a Greek or Hebrew scholar.

Just suspend your conscious mind. Gail Riplinger will tell you what to think.

Dr. Riplinger's claims are reminiscent of those of Charles Taze Russell, founder of the Jehovah's Witnesses. He also presented himself as the sole "interpreter" of the Greek. When he was exposed by Baptist pastor J. J. Ross, Russell sued Pastor Ross for slander. The following exchange took place during the trial:

Question: (Attorney Staunton)—"Do you know the Greek alphabet?"

Answer: (Russell)—"Oh yes."

Question: (Staunton)—"Can you tell me the correct letters if you see them?"

Answer: (Russell)—"Some of them, I might make a mistake on some of them."

Question: (Staunton)—"Would you tell me the names of those on top of the page, page 447 I have got here?"

Answer: (Russell)—"Well, I don't know that I would be able to."

Question: (Staunton)—"You can't tell what those letters are, look at them and see if you know?"

Answer: (Russell)—"My way. . . (he was interrupted at this point and not allowed to explain)

Question: (Staunton)—"Are you familiar with the Greek language?"

Answer: (Russell)—"No."

Walter Martin, *Kingdom of the Cults*, p. 43-4.

Pastor Ross was found not guilty of slander.

You can be sure that if Dr. Riplinger had any legitimate credentials in Greek and Hebrew she would be loudly trumpeting them.

Anyone can claim to know Greek and Hebrew and demand that you trust them to tell you what the Greek and Hebrew means. No wise person will believe them.

Gail Riplinger presents herself as a "new messiah" come to set Baptists free from the influence of Greek and Hebrew. All for the "Greater Glory of Gail."

Will you let someone do all of your thinking for you? What megalomania it takes to offer yourself as the one to do the thinking for everyone!

IS GAIL RIPLINGER REALLY GOD'S SECRETARY?

In the January-February 1994 edition of the "*End Times Victorious Living Prophecy Newsletter*," Gail Riplinger stated:

"Daily, during the six years needed for this investigation, the Lord miraculously brought the needed materials and resources—much like the ravens fed Elijah. Each discovery was not the result of effort on my part, but of the direct hand of God—so much so that I hesitated to even put my name on the book. Consequently, I used G. A. Riplinger—God as author and Riplinger as secretary."

That is an incredible statement in Baptist circles. It is literally a claim to divine inspiration.

She further expands on this claim. In "*Testimony, Question and Answer*" (tape of an interview) she explains her role as God's secretary:

“I used to look out the window at the little old ladies and think, *Oh, if I could rake the leaves or if I could just get out of bed.* But what God did over that period of six years—and I said to the Lord, I said, “Lord, you know I quit my job to do this research for you. Why would you put me in such an incapacitated state where I can’t do research?” And the Lord showed me over a period of years, that it wasn’t gonna be me and research and library, it was gonna be the Holy Spirit showing me things, and He was gonna take me aside, just like He did Ezekiel—Ezekiel was on one side for a year and on another side for a while, and he was dumb, and everything else. And the Holy Spirit was gonna do the work and this was gonna be His book, and it wasn’t gonna be my book at some head, cognitive research-type thing. It was gonna be something that He was gonna do. . . And, essentially, what would happen I would lay in bed all day—not through laziness—I was, I couldn’t move, I couldn’t—I was in so much pain, it was just, ah, it’s on the 50 on the Richter Scale with pain. And, so, ah, I’d lay in bed all day and I’d be in so much pain.

Well, when you lay in bed all day you can’t sleep at night. And, so, He would, He would say to me at about ten o’clock at night, He’d say (laughs), He’d say, “Well, get up and work on the book,” (laughs) and I’d say, “no, I’m too sick (laughs).” And He’d say, “Get up and work on the book,” and I’d say, “No.”—You see, we fought for 15 minutes every night for six years (laughs) and, ah, then after I told Him I was too sick, He’d say, “you’re in too much pain to sleep, aren’t you?” and I said, “Yeah, I know,” and, so, He said, “Well, get up and work on the book.” And, so I would always say, “I’m a woman and I don’t think women should do this.” (laughs) and He goes, “Get up and work on the book!” And, so, He goes, “Women make fine secretaries—that’s all we need here (laughs).” So, um—but every night for six years we had this little fifteen-minute battle and I’d get up and I’d work on it, and I would sit there in that chair, for six years. And I don’t know if you’ve ever been on a roller coaster but you know how white your knuckles are when you’re holding on for dear life, you know, because you think you’re gonna fall out. Well, I was in so much pain that I would hold on with one hand to the chair—white knuckles—and in the other hand I’m writing this book. And I’d sit there for the first—next—ten minutes and finally, I said, “This is ridiculous, this is ridiculous (laughs).” I’d say, “Okay, Lord,” you know. And then the devil whispered in my ear and he would tell me, “If you quit working on that book, if you throw away what you’ve found, I’ll leave you alone and you won’t be in any pain.” And I said, “Get thee behind me, Satan. We’re goin’ forward with this thing.” You know. I said, “In the, ah, Inquisition, people put up with this kind of stuff,” and I said, “I can put up with it (laughs) too.” . . . And, so, for a period of six years, I worked on the book for about six to eight hours a day, researching, collating.”

As of July 26, 2010 this recorded interview was still being sold on Gail Riplinger’s website.

This is a very amazing story with very specific claims. She claims that God inspired her just like He did Ezekiel. She claims that she was just a secretary—the words were the Holy Spirit’s. She claimed a nightly conversation with God for six years. She claims that Satan made a specific offer to heal her if she would stop serving as God’s secretary.

No wonder that Gail Riplinger often compares herself to the prophetess Deborah.

In 1993, Gail Riplinger debated James White on radio station KRAS. He challenged her on her bizarre “acrostic algebra” (her own private form of numerology).

Her only defense was, “The Lord gave that to me one night.” And then, “The Lord gave me that formula.”

When you bring this up, Dr. Riplinger’s followers either try to change the subject or claim that she didn’t mean for her words to be taken literally. However, you can’t ignore this. Her entire “ministry” is based upon her claim to be “God’s Secretary.”

Do you believe that Gail Riplinger actually heard the voice of God every night for six years? Did she hear a voice? Did Satan directly speak to her? Was she inspired like Ezekiel?

Her claims are very specific! They are crucial to her “ministry.”

If she really had these supernatural conversations—was it really God that she heard? Demons delight in impersonating ghosts, outer space aliens, gods, angels, the Holy Spirit and God.

If Gail Riplinger didn't hear voices nightly, then her entire ministry is a fraud. If she did hear voices—how do we know that one of them was God (she claims that the other was Satan).

You can't avoid this issue or hide from it.

By definition, Baptists believe that the Bible is our sole authority. We don't believe that God speaks audibly to anyone today. Our only authority is the plain, clear statements of the Scripture.

Charismatics might believe such a story like Gail Riplinger's (she used to attend an Assembly of God church), but Baptists by definition, cannot.

The first question that anyone evaluating Gail Riplinger's “ministry” must answer is this—“Do I believe her claims to divine inspiration?” Is she really God's secretary? Everything depends on this.

Is Gail Riplinger really a modern-day Ezekiel or Deborah as she claims for herself? Is everything really for the “Greater Glory of Gail?”

What kind of megalomania does it take to compare yourself to Deborah or Ezekiel? All for the “Greater Glory of Gail.”

Now you know why someone who has no training in Greek and Hebrew can consider herself the greatest living authority on Greek or Hebrew. She is just “Gods' secretary.” The words are God's. Now you know. Gail Riplinger can offer new doctrines. According to her, the words come from the Holy Spirit.

CLAIMS OF SUPERNATURAL VISITATIONS

It is common for religious teachers to claim supernatural visitations and communication. No one can count all the religions and religious movements that have been started by such claims.

Baptists (who by definition believe that the Bible is the sole authority) reject all such claims of modern supernatural revelation. Baptists believe that such revelation ended with the inspiration of the Book of Revelation.

Modernist Bible translator J. B. Phillips claimed that he was visited by the “ghost” of author C. S. Lewis. In his book about Bible translation, *Ring of Truth* (p. 118-119) he claims:

“Many of us who believe in what is technically known as the Communion of Saints must have experienced the sense of nearness, for a fairly short time, of those whom we love soon after they have died. This has certainly happened to me several times. But the late C. S. Lewis, whom I did not know very well and had only seen in the flesh once, but with whom I had corresponded a fair amount, gave me an unusual experience. A few days after his death, while I was watching television, he ‘appeared’ sitting in a chair within a few feet of me, and spoke a few words which were particularly relevant to the difficult circumstances through which I was passing. He was ruddier in complexion than ever, grinning all over his face and, as the old-fashioned saying has it, positively glowing with health. The interesting thing to me was that I had not been thinking about him at all. I was neither alarmed nor surprised nor, to satisfy the Bishop of Woolwich, did I look up to see the hole in the ceiling that he might have made on arrival! He was just *there*—‘large as life and twice as natural.’ A week later, this time when I was in bed, reading before going to sleep, he appeared again, even more rosily radiant than before, and repeated to me the

same message, which was very important to me at the time. I was a little puzzled by this, and I mentioned it to a certain saintly bishop who was then living in retirement here in Dorset. His reply was, ‘My dear J—, this sort of thing is happening all the time.’”

Bible believers know how to respond to this claim of supernatural revelation. We do not believe that the ghost of C. S. Lewis appeared to J. B. Phillips. There are three possible explanations for his story. Either a demon appeared to him and falsely claimed to be C. S. Lewis (see I John 4:1-4), or Phillips is crazy as a loon or he lied about the experience. No matter which story you believe, Phillips is clearly not qualified to be a spiritual leader.

Oral Roberts claimed that a 90-foot high Jesus appeared to him and told him that he must raise several million dollars quickly or God would kill him. I do not know a single Baptist who believed him.

There are three possible explanations for his story. Either a demon deceived him or he was crazy or he lied to his followers as part of a fund-raising scheme.

Mohammed claimed that angels appeared to him and dictated the teachings of the Koran to him. There are three possible explanations for his story. Either he was misled by demons, he was crazy or he was a fraud.

Charles T. Russell claimed to “hear” the voice of God speaking to him audibly. Based on what he learned from the “voice of God” he began the Jehovah’s Witness movement. Baptists don’t believe his story. There are three possible explanations for his story. A demon spoke to him, or he was crazy, or he was a fraud.

Ellen G. White (Seventh Day Adventists) claimed that the Holy Spirit possessed her. Both Victor Paul Wierwille (The Way) and Moses David Berg (The Children of God) claimed to audibly hear the voice of God. Joseph Smith (Mormons) claimed that angels appeared to him. Both Aimee Semple McPherson and Kathryn Kuhlman claimed direct revelation from God.

Bible-believing Baptists know how to respond to such claims. Either a demon deceived these people, or they were crazy or they were frauds. What is different about Gail Riplinger’s claims to divine revelation? Do you really believe she is “God’s secretary?” Did God get by without a secretary for 2,000 years and then suddenly develop a need for one? Why would he pick Gail Riplinger to play a role no one has played for 2,000 years? How do you distinguish between Gail Riplinger and all the others who claim to be the agents of divine revelation?

Baptists, by definition, do not accept claims like those made by Gail Riplinger. Her entire ministry is based upon such claims!

By the way, Dr. Riplinger should not be blind to the possibility of demonic deception. Her second husband, Frank Kaleda, (the one she began in the “ministry,” with) wrote a book about demonic deception called, *The Shining Ones*.

ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS

Dr. Riplinger’s supporters claim that her “supernatural communications” are not the only basis for her “ministry.” They point out her impressive academic qualifications.

At first glance the “about the author” section of her books looks very impressive: college degrees, textbooks written and published, experience as a professor at Kent State University, academic awards, etc.

Many pastors promote Gail Riplinger as a well-qualified linguist and historian. They talk about her training, teaching and experience in these areas.

One website lists her as a Harvard professor. Several websites list her as a graduate of Cornell and Harvard.

At second glance, her “resume” is very, very vague. She allows her supporters to fill in the blanks.

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In reality Mrs. Riplinger received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Interior Design in 1978. She received a Master of Arts degree in Home Economics in 1980 and a Master of Fine Arts degree in 1983. All of these degrees are from Kent State University.

Her six textbooks (which most pastors think dealt with linguistics and history) are as follows:

1. *Restaurants: A Guide for Architects, Designers and Developers* (published originally as her M.F.A. thesis, 1983).
2. *Plants & Interiors: Guide for Environmental Designers* (publication year not specified).
3. *Design Process: A Guide for Designers & Architects* (published in 1983).
4. *Forms & Space Function: Beginning in Environmental Design* (published in 1983).
5. *Visual Merchandising & Store Design* (published in 1983).
6. *Offices: A Guide for Designers* (published in 1982).

She never explains what her “post-graduate” work at Cornell or Harvard involved but she is not a graduate of either school.

She claims that her textbooks were accepted for publication by Prentice Hall (a very large textbook publisher), but Prentice Hall never published any of them.

She mentions that she is in several editions of *Who's Who*. She forgets to mention that anyone who is willing to pay the fee can buy a listing in any of the *Who's Who* publications. She mentions an invitation to participate in President Reagan's Citizen Ambassador Program. She forgets to mention that the program was available to any academic who was willing to finance their own trip abroad.

Dr. Riplinger allows her supporters to misrepresent her qualifications. I wonder how many books she would have sold if she had honestly listed her college degrees and textbooks written. I wonder how many Baptist pulpits she would have stood behind if she had been open and transparent about her qualifications.

Gail Riplinger's supporters claim that she is a linguistics expert. She describes herself that same way. In an interview with the Action 60s program, she states:

“And, ah, so far as my background in linguistics, I taught English for three years, Ah, and in my classes, it was English for the foreign born. . .none of which spoke one word of English, and I had to teach them. . .the English language. So, of course, I became a linguistics expert after three years of doing that.”

That's right, Gail Riplinger thinks that three years experience in teaching English as a second language makes her an “expert” in linguistics.

I pastor in Chicago. There are many people who teach English as a second language—hundreds, if not thousands. I know several. Not one of them would claim to be an expert in linguistics. To claim to be an expert with such slender qualifications is really an advanced case of megalomania.

In a November 19, 2009 interview with a Baptist radio station, Dr. Riplinger claimed to be a teacher of “history and linguistics.” She may be, but she is a teacher without any qualifications.

Dr. Riplinger is a self-appointed “scholar” and a “self-proclaimed” expert.

QUOTATIONS AND CITATIONS

Mrs. Riplinger's followers are fond of saying that she has proved her positions through extensive documentation and quotations.

Actually Dr. Riplinger is sometimes capable of very good research. If an idea of hers can be supported by the facts she will do an excellent job presenting the facts. There are chapters in her books with impressive ideas and accurate documentation.

However, when her ideas cannot be supported by the facts she presents her ideas anyway. She blatantly misrepresents authors and the themes of their books. She routinely misquotes authors and manufactures quotes. This is very obvious and has been documented in many places.

A favorite tactic of Dr. Riplinger is to quote someone and to offer several pages in different parts of a book as the documentation for the quotation. She pieces different statements together as if they were one statement. Of course, when she does this she is always misrepresenting the person she is quoting. This is always improper and dishonest. She would never do this if she could use a real quote. She never allows the facts to interfere with any of her ideas.

Her books are a mixture of brilliance, research, emotional ravings, self-serving theology and downright fraud. It takes a lot of time and research to figure out what is what in her books.

THE DISTINCTIVE DOCTRINES OF GAIL RIPLINGER

ONE—THE VERNACULAR TRANSLATIONS WERE ALL INSPIRED ON THE DAY OF PENTECOST

Some of Dr. Riplinger's followers have suggested that it is slander to claim that she teaches this but it is clear in her books.

“The *scriptural* viewpoint of vernacular scriptures shows them as ‘Holy Ghost’ inspired and concurrent with Greek scriptures, via Acts chapter 2. Paul, the one who penned much of the New Testament said, ‘I speak with tongues more than ye all. . .’ (I Corinthians 14:18). As penman of much of the New Testament, the reason for his gift was obvious. His statement would lead to the conclusion that Paul’s epistles would have been ‘inspired’ in numerous languages and he, as well as others, would have had the gift to put the rest of the New Testament into all known languages of the day.” *Hazardous Materials*, p. 647

“Paul said, ‘I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all’ (I Corinthians 14:18). Why did Paul use tongues ‘more’ than any other man? He perhaps wrote most of the books of the New Testament, using Greek, as well as penning editions in other languages as needed.” *Hazardous Materials*, p. 738

“*In Awe of Thy Word* proved that the English Bible came directly from the gift of tongues which provided ‘Holy Ghost’ inspired words and Bibles for those who spoke Gothic, Celtic, Latin, Greek, Hebrew and the other languages.” *Hazardous Materials*, p. 738

“The Acts 2 ‘Scriptures in tongues’ as Wycliffe called them, were created directly by the Holy Ghost and were not man-made translations from ‘the Greek.’ These ‘Scriptures’ would have quickly been available in Latin, Coptic, Celtic, Ethiopic, Arabic, Hebrew and a myriad of other languages.” *Hazardous Materials*, p. 1095

“Inspired vernacular Bibles, in a sense were born in Acts, chapter 2, when the Holy Ghost inspired men to speak the language of every nation under heaven. Gothic, the great, great grandfather of English was a major world language at the time of Christ and the apostles. Gothic benefitted from this gift, by which the Holy Ghost superintended over the preaching of the word in all the world (Colossians 1:5-6) and the translation of the Scriptures ‘made known to all nations’ Romans 16:26.” *In Awe of Thy Word*, p. 34

Would anyone, anywhere believe that Acts 2 refers to writing complete copies of the Scripture unless Gail Riplinger told them that? Who has ever taught that before?

In Acts 2:1-4, Dr. Riplinger finds a record of inspired complete Bible manuscripts (from Genesis to Revelation) in all vernacular languages.

Read Acts 2:1-4 for yourself:

And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Acts. 2:1-4

There is no mention of a written manuscript in any language in the passage. Yet, today anyone who doesn't believe that Acts 2 refers to written manuscripts in all the vernacular languages is called a modernist by the Riplingerites.

Do you really believe that God gave complete copies of the Bible in all vernacular languages on the Day of Pentecost? Is this really a fundamental of the faith?

TWO--THE KING JAMES BIBLE IS A DICTIONARY

According to *In Awe of Thy Word*, p. 1095, Dr. Riplinger claims that the King James Bible translators taught that the King James Bible was a dictionary. Read the Translators Preface for yourself and see if you find any such claim.

Of course, the King James Bible never claims to be a dictionary. No one would know it was a dictionary or how to use it as a dictionary unless they bought books sold by Mrs. Riplinger. Can you imagine what her bank account would be like if she could persuade everyone of this? According to Mrs. Riplinger and her followers, no one can effectively study the Bible without her books. This sounds much like the claims of Charles Taze Russell and Ellen G. White.

THREE—IT IS A SIN TO STUDY THE BIBLE IN GREEK AND HEBREW

Of course it is true that the Bible never commands us to study the Bible in the original languages. Those who teach that it must be studied in the Greek and Hebrew are adding to the Scripture.

It is also true that the Bible never forbids study in the original languages. Gail Riplinger adds to the Scriptures when she attacks the study of Greek and Hebrew.

Throughout the ages there have been many great servants of the Lord who never learned Greek or Hebrew. There have also been many great servants of the Lord who profited from studying the Scriptures in Greek and Hebrew.

To take either extreme position is to say something about the Bible that it never says about itself.

FOUR—THE PRESERVATION OF SCRIPTURE IS A POWERLESS DOCTRINE

Read what the Scripture says about its own preservation. God's preservation of the Scriptures is an extension of His sovereign power.

FIVE—THE CONTINUAL RE-INSPIRATION OF THE KING JAMES BIBLE

Because Mrs. Riplinger has a weak definition of inspiration, she thinks that inspiration must take place continually. She defines inspiration as the power of the Holy Spirit rather than the giving of the very words by the Holy Spirit. She does not understand that the power of the Holy Spirit is inherently in the preserved words of God.

Anyone who doesn't believe these new doctrines of Gail Riplinger is attacked as a modernist and a heretic.

In her book, *Traitors*, she questions the salvation of anyone who doesn't believe these doctrines.

Interestingly, several preachers who support Dr. Riplinger have written books, preached sermons and published articles on the King James Bible issue. Before the last three years none of these publications contained any of these doctrines which are now considered fundamentals of the faith. Apparently all these preachers used to be modernists themselves.

WHY IS GAIL RIPLINGER SO POPULAR?

I would suggest two reasons for the "Gail Riplinger craze!"

First, she has plugged into a real, genuine concern about the abuse of Greek and Hebrew language study. Many preachers and teachers use supposed "Greek and Hebrew expertise" to correct the English Bible. Some seem to think that this is the definition of Bible teaching.

The proper use of Greek and Hebrew is to help you understand the English Bible. Many people are deeply troubled about the misuse of Greek and Hebrew. Gail Riplinger has tapped into this genuine concern about a real problem. Greek and Hebrew can be abused and are done so regularly.

Secondly, many people have a desire to tap into secret knowledge that makes them feel special. This fills people with pride—and it also blinds them to reality!

"I'm more King James Bible than you are!" is a favorite game today. Gail Riplinger gives you the chance to believe that you are privy to some secret knowledge that makes you more special than the people around you.

We would all do well to learn something from the legitimate concerns about the misuse of Greek and Hebrew. However, we would do well to remember that there is no special exalted position in being a follower of Gail Riplinger or any other human leader. It may all be for the "Greater Glory of Gail" for some but for true King James Bible believers it is all about the "Greater Glory of Jesus."

Riplinger's megalomania feeds the needs of other people for self-esteem.

A FEMALE THEOLOGIAN

Some of Gail Riplinger's defenders claim that she is not a female theologian, but rather a linguist and/or a historian. Really!

She exegetes specific verses of Scripture (that is called teaching). She formulates doctrinal positions (that is called teaching). She demands that the entire independent Baptist movement follow her new insights (that is called usurping authority.) She not only does this in writing, she does this from the pulpits of independent Baptist churches. See I Timothy 2:11-12. If Gail Riplinger is not a female theologian, then there is no such thing.

Her followers must stop criticizing women preachers or female theology professors. They are not doing anything that Gail Riplinger is not doing (see I Corinthians 14:34-35).

Gail Riplinger appears to be the first female theologian in the history of Baptists. She is actually more than a theologian, she claims to have brand new information from God. Information that no believers before her ever had. Information that no one can have without Gail Riplinger.

Gail Riplinger has no qualifications as a linguist. You would assume from the statements she makes that she was an expert in Greek and Hebrew. She has been forced to admit that she does not know these languages.

Gail Riplinger is uneven as a historian. At times she provides some valuable information. Sometimes she presents spurious information. Sometimes she just gets it wrong.

If Gail Riplinger was only operating as a linguist and a historian she would not get 1% of the attention that she gets now.

If a man was saying the exact same things in a fundamental Baptist Church that Gail Riplinger is saying everyone would call him a Bible teacher.

QUEEN BEE SYNDROME

I have heard Gail Riplinger compared to other women who have founded their own theological movements.

Mary Baker Eddy was also divorced twice. She also used trial lawyers and the threat of lawsuits to try to keep her followers under control.

Ellen G. White claimed that God was giving her new information. To this day her followers debate whether this new information was given by inspiration or was given by God in some different way. (I have never understood the difference.) Mrs. White claimed to be evangelical and her books include some very good information about Christian history. Many of her early supporters were evangelical preachers—some of them Baptists.

Aimee Semple McPherson was responsible for the production and distribution of some excellent materials opposing evolution and the secularization of the American culture. She never spoke without mentioning the necessity of a personal relationship with Christ. She was able to maintain an unofficial movement for many years before it was organized into an official denomination.

Preacher McPherson could be as sweet as honey when flattering a supporting preacher. They were all one of the most important preachers in America. She built her movement by sweet-talking preachers. But she could be as ferocious as a wild boar when anyone crossed her about anything—anything.

Whenever anyone asked McPherson about her two divorces, she immediately targeted them for destruction. They were the enemies of God and they must be run out of “the church.” There could be no other reason why anyone could have a question.

A similar story could be told about Kathryn Kuhlman. She claimed to have a gift of “a word of knowledge” as well as healing. She was a popular female preacher. She claimed regular verbal, audible communication with the Holy Spirit.

Dallas Billington, Baptist preacher from Akron, Ohio, challenged both her claims to healing and to verbal revelation from God.

Her ministry was scandalized by her divorce! Followers were forbidden to discuss it. If they did they were labeled as agents of Satan and traitors. She kept a trial lawyer on retainer to threaten anyone who discussed her divorce.

Interestingly, Joseph Chambers (a prominent Pentecostal preacher) has labeled the “Holy Spirit” who spoke to Kathryn Kuhlman as a demonic spirit guide.

All four women clearly suffered from “Queen Bee Syndrome.” They wanted to be the only female voice in an all male choir. All four saw to it that no other females rose to position of prominence in their movement. They got their self-esteem from being the only female under discussion.

Gail Riplinger is clearly the Queen Bee for some independent Baptists. She teaches doctrine in some churches where no other female would be allowed to lead in prayer. She is the only female to play a role in the current doctrinal disputes among independent Baptists. To my knowledge, she is the only female theologian ever in independent Baptist circles. I wonder, would any other females be admitted to the debate?

Should independent Baptists have a queen bee? Is everything for the “Greater Glory of Gail?”

HOW DOES SHE GET AWAY WITH IT?

Several people have asked me how Gail Riplinger gets away with what she does in Baptist circles. In the history of the fundamental Baptist movement, no female has ever played the role that she plays.

There are several factors in understanding her influence.

Mrs. Riplinger is a master of flattering pastors on the phone. She knows how to make pastors feel like they are so very important to the “cause.”

She also knows how to play the “helpless female victim.” I think that she has been “cut a lot of slack” because she is a female. I do not believe that any male could have gotten away with what she has gotten away with.

She knows how to be cold-blooded, vicious and intimidating. She has threatened to sue several preachers for disagreeing with her. She seems to be totally without conscience when she is dealing with anyone who disagrees with her.

She gets away with a lot because few people actually read all of her long books. *Hazardous Materials* runs 1,203 pages. *In Awe of Thy Word* runs 1,184 pages. I have asked several of her supporters if they have actually read these books all the way through. So far no one has said yes. Many pastors don't actually know what she is teaching.

She is bold and aggressive and it is difficult for anyone to stand in her way.

Instead of a meek and quiet spirit, she possesses a bold and loud spirit. She is the boldest, loudest woman in independent Baptist history.

ARE YOU SURE?

Anytime that anyone disagrees with Dr. Riplinger about anything, they are immediately accused of conspiring against the King James Bible and desiring to replace it with another English Bible.

Her disciples are adamant that no one could be genuinely concerned about issues like divorce, lawsuits, and woman preachers. But how do they know no one is really concerned about these things? They are not reacting to specific statements or actions. They are discerning motives, reading minds and judging hearts without any information or proof.

Legal records prove that Mrs. Riplinger has been married three times and divorced twice. Her third marriage took place a few weeks after her second divorce. She has claimed that she was not divorced or remarried. After the publication of the relevant legal records she now claims that she has only been married once in God's eyes.

Of course there are no Biblical qualifications for a female theologian because there is no such thing as a Biblical female theologian.

Christians disagree about the appropriate roles for divorced and remarried Christians.

Many of us will go a long way in supporting divorced and remarried Christians as long as they are honest and do not try to glorify their divorce. I personally would have no problem with Mrs. Riplinger's marital past if she simply acknowledged that there were unfortunate mistakes in her past and that now she is trying to faithfully serve the Lord. However, Gail Riplinger can't admit to any mistake.

What will happen if her attitude towards divorce begins to be copied in the churches that she is promoted in? What if church members divorce a spouse of eight years and marry someone in a few weeks and then claim a special dispensation from God? How can Dr. Riplinger's followers be so sure that no one is genuinely concerned about this? Are they that good at mind reading?

Preachers who have divorced their wives after entering the ministry are already rallying around the ministry of Gail Riplinger. For some reason, she makes them feel comfortable.

How can Dr. Riplinger's defenders be so sure that none of her critics genuinely are concerned about her role exegeting the Scriptures and formulating doctrines?

The American Baptist Convention already has many female theologians teaching seminary classes and many female pastors. There was a time when no one could have believed that could happen in a Baptist church.

Will other women be allowed to teach doctrine in independent Baptist churches? If not, why not? How can the followers of Dr. Riplinger be so sure that no one is concerned about that? Are her supporters really that good at judging people's hearts?

Dr. Riplinger has threatened to sue several Baptist preachers for disagreeing with her. How do her defenders know for sure that no one is really offended by those threats (they are clearly a violation of I Corinthians 6)? Are they that good at discerning motives? What will happen if all of the church members in churches where she is promoted start following her practice? Will they start threatening to sue their pastors every time they disagree with the pastor about anything?

Those who promote Dr. Riplinger are opening a "Pandora's Box."

If there is a dramatic increase in divorce among the churches that support Gail Riplinger, don't be surprised. If women start to demand theological roles in churches that support Gail Riplinger, don't be surprised. If church members start filing frivolous lawsuits against the pastors who support Gail Riplinger—those pastors will just be reaping what they have sown!

IS GAIL RIPLINGER INFALLIBLE?

Dr. Gail Riplinger issues seven challenges (p. 1193 *Hazardous Materials*) and then dares anyone to answer them. Dr. Riplinger also calls Pastor Kirk DiVietro "one true Bible believer" (*Hazardous Materials*, p. 598). Dr. DiVietro has accepted her challenge and written the book, *Cleaning up Hazardous Materials*. He answers her seven challenges.

In her book, *Traitors*, Dr. Riplinger attacks Dr. DiVietro for daring to critique her book, *Hazardous Materials*. Apparently she did not really want her challenges answered. Apparently Dr. DiVietro is no longer "one true Bible believer." Who is he—just a mere man—just a mere pastor—to analyze one of her books?

What is Dr. Riplinger afraid of? Is she afraid that some of her theological teachings will be answered by an independent Baptist preacher? Is she afraid that some of her quotations will be examined? Is she afraid that some of her "facts" will be investigated? Since God "gave her" her books, is it blasphemous to critique what God "gave?" Maybe preachers should read *Cleaning up Hazardous Materials* for themselves and then decide.

Of course, Dr. DiVietro is now considered a conscious conspirator against the King James Bible. He must be labeled a traitor and banned from "the church" (as defined by Gail Riplinger).

One of the issues that Gail Riplinger threatened to sue Dr. and Mrs. Waite over is Mrs. Riplinger's claim that Dr. Maurice Robinson is an editor of Berry's *Greek Interlinear New Testament*. The Waites claimed that she was in error when she made this statement and she threatened to sue them over it.

As Dr. Robinson himself has pointed out, it is impossible for him to have been an editor on Berry's *Interlinear* because it was edited before he was born. That should be conclusive.

Dr. Riplinger simply made a mistake. It happens to everyone. But Dr. Riplinger and her disciples can never acknowledge any mistake on her part. They are still adamant that Dr. Robinson edited a book that was released before his birth.

One Riplingerite website suggests that the Illuminati planted false marriage and divorce records in Ohio courthouses to discredit her. Perhaps the Illuminati also took Dr. Robinson to the past in a time machine. We all know Dr. Riplinger can't be wrong. All for the "Greater Glory of Gail."

On page 191 of *Hazardous Materials*, Gail Riplinger claims that the inhabitants of the Kingdom of Munster (16th century Germany) are the forerunners of today's Baptists.

Actually that is a false claim used at the time to discredit Baptists. Blaming the Baptists for the fanatics in Munster is similar to blaming Christians today for the actions of terrorists like Timothy McVey.

This false charge has been answered by Baptist historians like J. M. Cramp, John Christian, Robert Torbet, H. C. Vedder, Jack Hoad, William Cathcart and Richard Cook. The Munsterites actually baptized babies and believed that they were getting new revelations from God. They were not Baptists. Of course, Dr. Riplinger's followers can't accept that. All the Baptist historians are wrong! Gail Riplinger can't be wrong. All for the "Greater Glory of Gail"

Since Dr. Riplinger gets her information the same way that Ezekiel got his (inspiration) how could she be wrong?

THE FRUIT OF GAIL RIPLINGER'S "MINISTRY"

King James Bible believers had never been so divided. This is directly the result of Gail Riplinger's "ministry." Her followers have forgotten who the enemy is. They turn all their wrath on those who will not follow the person of Gail Riplinger. They divide King James Bible believers into smaller and smaller groups.

The door has been opened for female theologians in fundamental Baptist institutions. In some Protestant denominations, a majority of the theology teachers are women. In one prominent seminary all of the theology teachers are women. But long before a majority of theology teachers were women, there was a first female theology teacher. I'm sure a good excuse was given for breaking that barrier.

Opposition has been provided for many good translation projects. Received-text Bible translators now face even more challenges and opposition from Riplingerites than they do from the Critical Text crowd.

Bad translations are flourishing. Men do the first draft of a translation and call it "inspired." That is what Dr Riplinger has taught them to call their work. Translators then become closed to any kind of purification process like the one followed by the translators of the King James Bible or the teams lead by William Carey. Shallow translators stubbornly defend their first draft on the grounds that it is "inspired."

The Bible doctrine of preservation is belittled by the followers of Dr. Riplinger. According to Dr. Riplinger, preserved words are "museum words or accurate but lifeless equivalencies." *Hazardous Materials*, p. 1133. Where in the Bible do you find such nonsense? IN REALITY GOD'S PRESERVED WORDS ARE FULL OF ALL THE STRENGTH AND MAJESTY OF THE SOVEREIGN GOD WHO GAVE THEM.

In actuality the Riplingerites have weakened the doctrine of inspiration. They use the word inspiration often but they provide a weak definition of it. Gail Riplinger defines inspiration as "a divine influence upon human beings, as that resulting in the writing of the Scriptures." She gets this definition from Webster's New World Dictionary (see *Hazardous Materials*, p. 1138).

According to the King James Bible, inspiration is much more than influence. Inspiration is the giving of the Scripture. Inspiration is more than influence, guidance or superintendence. Inspiration is God giving the very words of Scripture (see my 1999 book, *The Means of Inspiration*).

Some modernists admit that the Bible is influenced by God. They don't admit that God gave the very words. Charismatics refer to inspiration but they often define it as an ongoing apostolic gift. Any definition that falls short of seeing inspiration as God giving the very words of Scripture is a door opener for future modernism.

Of course the critics of the King James Bible try to lump every King James Bible believer in with Gail Riplinger. They try to paint all of us with the same brush. They blame all of us for her lack of integrity. They mock of all of us because of her emotional fantasies.

Gail Riplinger is currently the most effective weapon that Satan has for the undermining of the King James Bible and other good Received Text translations around the world.

DOESN'T GAIL RIPLINGER TEACH SOME GOOD THINGS?

The answer is yes! Ellen G. White wrote passionately about religious liberty. That does not make her a godly Christian leader.

J. K. Van Baalen popularized the statement by J. Stafford Wright, "The essence of deception is to speak 90 per cent truth and 10 percent error." This is from *Chaos of the Cults* (my college cults textbook), p. 425.

In spite of all the good in her books, she has caused more harm than good.

WHO ARE YOU KIDDING?

It is time for the devoted followers of Gail Riplinger to quit pretending that they care about the King James Bible. They regularly trample on the King James Bible at I Timothy 5:19; I Timothy 2:10-15; I Corinthians 6:1-8; I Corinthians 14:34-36; I Peter 3:4; Mark 10:12; and II Timothy 2:23. All for the "Greater Glory of Gail."

It is also time for the followers of Gail Riplinger to stop calling themselves Baptists. This is the United States and you have the legal right to follow any teacher that you choose. However you have an ethical obligation to be honest in your identification.

By definition Baptists believe that the Bible is the sole authority for faith and practice. Gail Riplinger introduces new doctrines never taught by anyone before her. These doctrines are not taught by any Bible in any version in any language, anywhere. Both Dr. Riplinger and her disciples treat these doctrines as fundamentals of the Christian faith. If your doctrine was invented by Gail Riplinger, you have no ethical right to call yourself a Baptist. The fact that you were once a Baptist does not give you a right to the name once the Bible is no longer your sole authority for faith and practice.

The followers of Gail Riplinger have "taken a hard turn to the left" and they should be honest about the basis for their faith—the "Greater Glory of Gail."

If you are a Riplingerite, you should be honest enough to say so!

The "ministry" of Gail Riplinger is a back-door attempt by Satan to undermine the authority of the King James Bible.

SO WHO IS A RIPLINGERITE?

Let me be crystal clear. You are not a Riplingerite just because you quote Gail Riplinger. You are not a Riplingerite because you agree with Gail Riplinger about something. We all agree with Gail Riplinger about something.

You are not a Riplingerite because you have profited from some of Dr. Riplinger's research. There are sections in all of her books where she has done good research, backed with valid sources. You always have to double check her work because she has done so much faulty research in places. But, in some places she has done excellent work!

You are not a Riplingerite just because you are naive about her real claims and teachings.

However, some people do deserve the title Riplingerite.

If you believe Mrs. Riplinger's claim about divine inspiration—you deserve to be called a Riplingerite.

If you believe doctrines invented by Gail Riplinger—you deserve to be called a Riplingerite.

If you have changed your doctrinal statement (as some Baptist organizations have done) to make it correspond to Gail Riplinger's statements—you deserve to be called a Riplingerite. The Bible is the only proper basis for a doctrinal statement.

If you attack the people that Dr. Riplinger tells you to attack—you deserve to be called a Riplingerite.

It is amazing how some of her followers will blindly repeat Gail Riplinger's attacks on people.

In January of 2010, Dr. Riplinger sent Dr. and Mrs. D. A. Waite a letter threatening to sue them over issues as important as what address a letter was sent to.

This is a direct disobedience to I Corinthians 6. I publically challenged her on this abomination. She claimed that her 17 page letter was "gentle and private." Her drones immediately began to repeat the "gentle and private" mantra.

Have you ever received a "gentle" letter threatening to sue you? Have you ever received a gentle letter in which you were mocked, belittled and attacked on every page? Her letter is posted on the Dean Burgon Society's website.

Perhaps someone should contact trial attorney Hugh A Richeson, Jr. (Florin, Roebig Trial Attorneys) and ask him if a lawsuit is a private matter.

Dr. Riplinger often makes statements like this, "I never defend myself publicly. God is my defense." She actually made this statement in her letter threatening to sue Dr. and Mrs. Waite. Actually, she is obsessed with defending herself over every little detail. Her followers believe her every vicious attack on anyone who disagrees with her about anything.

Some Riplingerites are what I call "professional internet theologians." Their entire "ministry" consists of spending hours every day attacking people on the internet. They do not have a ministry that involves dealing directly with real-life people. I try to ignore all internet theologians. Their close personal relationship with their computers warps their judgment and discernment. Of course, there are many other internet theologians than the followers of Dr. Riplinger and they are not always easy to tell apart.

THE COONEYITES

When I first heard about Mrs. Riplinger's claims about the constant re-inspiration of the King James Bible I knew I had heard that somewhere before! I couldn't remember where, but I knew it wasn't from Baptist preachers.

Just check books and articles from the past written by the current Baptist preachers who promote this unbiblical theory. Even though this doctrine is now considered a fundamental of faith they all forgot to mention it in their previous publications.

Recently, I saw the book *Heresies Exposed* by William C. Irvine on a book shelf. It was supplemental reading in my Bible college cults class 38 years ago. I hadn't looked at it in years, but it stirred a memory. In this book there is a chapter on the COONEYITES, (p. 73-78). This cult never calls itself by this name but uses geographic names instead. They call themselves the "Church at Kent" or the "Church at San Antonio", etc.

The Cooneyites only use the King James Bible. They oppose any reference book that they do not produce. They claim that even the King James Bible is dead until it is reanimated by the Holy Spirit through the ministry of one of their teachers (they allow female teachers). For them the King James Bible must be continually re-inspired.

I have a little personal experience with this group. They do not have many branches in the United States but they did have a branch in Kent, Ohio. They would send out young men to infiltrate Bible colleges. The young men would lie on their applications, enter Bible college and distribute their literature and ideas to the student body. They did this at several

colleges. This group sent a young man to Landmark Baptist College while I was the administrator there. He lied to us, was accepted and moved into the dorm.

We eventually found out what was happening. Tragically, he had influenced two students by then. When I confronted him about his lying he told me an interesting story. He told me that he was hesitant to tell me why he did what he did because I would attribute it to a demon. I told him that he was probably right, but to tell me anyhow.

He told me that the Holy Spirit literally appeared to him and audibly spoke to him. The Holy Spirit told him to infiltrate Landmark Baptist College and to lie to us. He believed that made everything all right. He told me that the Holy Spirit continued to appear in his dorm room (never with his roommate present) and continued to guide his actions.

Now, when someone tells you a story like that there are three possible explanations for this story. The voice of the Holy Spirit is not one of them.

Either a demon appeared to this young man, or he was crazy or he was lying. That should be obvious to any Baptist. Yet, that night (it was a Wednesday) a nearby independent Baptist church allowed a student he had influenced to preach for them. They were so anti-Landmark that they were willing to allow anyone else who was anti-Landmark to preach. It is amazing that independent Baptists have no more discernment than that.

Later that night, members of the “Church at Kent” broke into our college chapel to distribute their literature. They then left town.

I cannot directly connect Gail Riplinger to the “Church at Kent.” However, I find it interesting that they both come from the same small town in Ohio, they share the same doctrine of the continual re-inspiration of the King James Bible, they both belittle the doctrine of preservation and they all claim to audibly hear the voice of God.

WHAT IS GAIL RIPLINGER’S DOCTRINE OF SALVATION?

I was astonished when I first read a statement by Gail Riplinger’s pastor, Dewayne Sands questioning the salvation of Pastor Jack Schaap. Sands wrote: “To be called my brother in Christ, he would have had to respond with repentance to the private letter from Sister Gail, the subsequent admonitions by other brothers, and finally the pleas from many in the aggregate body of Christ. That he has not done. Therefore, according to the Bible, I am to treat him as a heathen man (Titus 3:10-11; Matthew 18:17).”

That is the most cultic statement I have ever read in forty years of Bible study. If you don’t support Dr. Riplinger-you are not a brother in Christ. If you don’t apologize for disagreeing with Mrs. Riplinger then the Bible declares that you are not saved. I was amazed to read this from an independent Baptist. Interestingly, Pastor Sand’s article reads stylistically just like Gail Riplinger’s writing (as do many of the emails, letters and articles written by her supporters).

In July of 2009, Dr. and Mrs. D. A. Waite publically exposed Mrs. Riplinger’s lies about her marital status. They did so in a Dean Burgon Society meeting hosted in the church where I pastor. Others had exposed her before that, but Dr. and Mrs. Waite had trusted her and had defended her publicly and privately. They were shocked and felt betrayed when they became aware of the legal record.

Dr. Riplinger threatened to sue the Waites over six small details. She was not challenging their account of her divorces—she couldn’t. She was dealing with issues as small as what address a letter was sent to. None of the issues was important and in general the facts were on the side of the Waites. This was clearly an attempt to intimidate this couple (in their 80s) and to punish them for daring to tell the truth about her record.

I publicly challenged her threat to sue the Waites as unbiblical—see I Corinthians 6. She did not repent of her lying about the Waites or of threatening to sue them.

She responded with a book called, *Traitors*. In this book she designated a number of Baptist preachers as traitors and expelled them from “the church.” She never defines what church that she is the head of and that she is expelling them from. She apparently made the decision by herself.

She claims Matthew 18 as justification. Apparently, she does not know that Matthew 18 refers to a local church setting.

Those who oppose Gail Riplinger are compared to Judas (who does that make Gail Riplinger?). Her opponents are all consigned to the same fate as Judas—an eternity in Hell.

In *Traitors* salvation is based upon your relationship to Gail Riplinger. No leader of any Protestant church can claim such authority. Leaders of some cults make such a Messianic claim. The Roman Catholic pope makes such a claim about his authority. Only a Messiah can claim that those who oppose them are going to Hell. Gail Riplinger actually thinks that II Timothy 3:1-7 applies to anyone who refuses to follow her or who opposes her ungodly lifestyle.

When I first read *Traitors*, I felt sure that every Baptist would immediately see through the papal claims made by Gail Riplinger.

Since Gail Riplinger and her followers believe that salvation is based upon following Gail Riplinger, what reason is there to believe that they understand that we are saved by grace through faith. What is their gospel?

If the shed blood of Jesus Christ is the basis for our redemption then *Traitors* is the worst form of heresy.

Does anyone know of any Baptist pastor, teacher, or evangelist who has ever claimed that they could expel someone from some world-wide church?

Does anyone know of any Baptist pastor, teacher, or evangelist who has ever claimed that those who disagree with them must not be saved?

These are truly Messianic claims. They are genuine megalomania.

A PERSONAL APOLOGY

Others saw through Dr. Riplinger's "ministry" well before I did. Her teaching becomes more dramatic with each new book but it was there in the beginning. Her lack of integrity becomes more and more obvious with each new book and each new smear campaign. However, if you looked close enough—the evidence was there in the beginning.

It took me too long to figure out what was happening. Many of us were just happy to have another defender of the King James Bible on the scene. We were wrong. I was wrong. I have learned my lesson! As recently as March, 2009, I said from the pulpit of the church I pastor, "Gail Riplinger is a gracious Christian lady who has devoted herself to defending the King James Bible. I simply must disagree with her about a few things." I would not say anything similar today.

There is some valuable research in her books. Good men will no doubt continue to use this material and quote from her works.

However, as time goes on, more and more preachers will understand what she is all about.

David Cloud warned us all about Dr. Riplinger in Vol. 11, issue 8 of *O Timothy* magazine in 1994. We should have listened. I should have listened.

I apologize for not coming to grips with this sooner.

LESSONS

What lessons can we learn from the Gail Riplinger story?

First of all we must recognize claims to divine revelation for what they are—false theology. I do not know if she really heard voices or not nightly for six years. I do know that she did not hear the voice of the Holy Spirit.

Mrs. Riplinger is too cunning and manipulative to be crazy. It is easy to believe that her claims are a complete fraud. That may be true.

Jesse Penn Lewis warns that honest souls may be deceived. Her warning is profound:

“Among such devoted believers, lying spirits have worked on their determination *literally* to obey the Scriptures, and by misuse of the letter of the written Word, have pushed them into phases of unbalanced truth, with resulting erroneous practices. Many who have suffered for their adherence to these ‘Biblical commands,’ firmly believe that they are martyrs suffering for Christ. The world calls these devoted ones ‘cranks,’ and fanatics,’ yet they give evidence of highest devotion and love to the Person of the Lord, and could be delivered, if they but understood why the powers of darkness deceived them, and the way of freedom from their power.

The aftermath of the Revival in Wales, which was a true work of God, revealed numbers of ‘honest souls’ swept off their feet by evil supernatural powers, which they were not able to discern from the true working of God. And later still than the Welsh Revival, there have been other ‘movements,’ with large numbers of earnest servants of God swept into deception, through the wiles of deceiving spirits counterfeiting the workings of God; all ‘honest souls,’ deceived by the subtle foe, and certain to be led on into still deeper deception, notwithstanding their honesty and earnestness, if they are not awakened to ‘return to soberness’ and recovery out of the snare of the devil into which they have fallen (II Timothy 2:26).

FAITHFULNESS TO LIGHT NOT SUFFICIENT SAFEGUARD AGAINST DECEPTION

The children of God need to know that to be true in motive, and faithful up to light, is not sufficient safeguard against deception; and that it is not safe for them to rely upon their ‘honesty of purpose’ as guaranteeing protection from the enemy’s wiles, instead of taking heed to the warnings of God’s Word, and watching unto prayer.” *War on the Saints*, p. 47-48

Maybe this explains Dr.. Riplinger’s ministry! Maybe not.

Secondly, we must learn to verify people’s qualifications and claims. This is especially true if their teaching and ministry are based upon their personal experiences. If Baptist preachers had checked Gail Riplinger’s academic credentials before they promoted her, we would not have the problem that we have today.

Thirdly, we must remember that things are not true just because they are sensational.

Fourthly, we should not let anyone else do our thinking for us. Verify for yourself.

Fifthly, being right in one area doesn’t make a person right in another area.

Gail Riplinger is not the first false teacher to come along in independent Baptist circles. She won’t be the last. We should be ready for the next one.

J. K. Van Baalen also popularized the statement that, “The cults are the unpaid bills of the church.” Shallow teaching and thinking create the atmosphere in which cults can make progress. The popularity of Gail Riplinger is a great indictment of the shallowness in independent Baptist circles. We must become more serious students of the word of God.

QUESTIONS THE SUPPORTERS OF GAIL RIPLINGER MUST ANSWER

Gail Riplinger’s followers are fond of trying to bait those who refuse to follow her with trick questions. Here are some real questions that her followers must answer.

Do you believe that Gail Riplinger is “God’s secretary?”

1.

2. Do you believe that the Holy Spirit gives her the words of her books just like He did Ezekiel?
3. Do you believe that it is right for Gail Riplinger to exegete the Scriptures to a mixed audience from the pulpit of an independent Baptist church or an independent Baptist college or seminary classroom?
4. Do you believe that it is all right for Gail Riplinger to threaten to sue those who disagree with her?
5. Do you believe that Gail Riplinger can expel people from “the church?”
6. Do you believe that you cannot be saved if you don’t support Gail Riplinger?
7. Do you believe that Gail Riplinger can forbid independent Baptist pastors from fellowshipping with other independent Baptist preachers?

Until Dr. Riplinger’s supporters answer these crucial questions, none of their questions matter.

CONCLUSION

When you start to challenge Gail Riplinger in anyway, her followers immediately accuse you of being part of a plot to replace the King James Bible with a new English Bible. They discern this with their ability to read minds.

For the records sake, I believe that the King James Bible is pure, perfect, infallible and inerrant. For 399 years it has impacted the world for Christ in a way that no other translation ever has. There is nothing in it that needs to be replaced or changed.

I identify completely with the statement by Pastor Robert Barnett (Dean Burgon Society meeting, July 2010):

“God’s truth in our 1769 Cambridge edition of the King James Bible is truth with no admixture of error for its content because the truth God revealed in His inspired, inerrant, infallible words in the Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek was accurately translated by verbal, plenary, formal equivalence into our English language. As J. J. Ray wrote back in the 1950s—God Wrote Only One Bible so God’s original words of truth accurately translated into any receptor language, German, French, Spanish, Russian, English etc. remains the same body of truth God originally gave by verbal, plenary inspiration in the Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek. ‘. . .things equal to the same thing are equal to each other; this is the first axiom in the *Elements*.’ The body of inspired, inerrant, infallible words of truth within God’s Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek words underlying our King James Bible was accurately translated into our won English language by divine providential preservation so as to remain without need of human correction. By that we mean it has been, is now, and shall ever remain our English Bible standard of truth. God’s Truth to Me, will always be the King James Bible.”

It is because of my belief in the authority of the King James Bible that I must oppose the “ministry” of Gail Riplinger.

I do not expect many of the adherents of Gail Riplinger to change no matter how much evidence they are presented with.

Charles Surret says it well:

“Regardless of what position Fundamentalists have taken on the textual issue, there is always the danger of allowing pride to dominate, hidden behind the mask of ‘conviction.’ Once an individual has publicly articulated his position (as in a sermon, lecture, book, or position paper), it becomes increasingly difficult to ever consider changing that position. Also, loyalties to denominations, institutions, and personalities further complicate the process of seeking the truth at all costs. This is a temptation that Fundamentalists must avoid. As Mr. Joel Spencer, one of this author’s colleagues, has so succinctly stated, ‘It does not matter *who* is right; it matters *what* is right.’” Charles Surret, *Which Greek Text*, p. 112-113.

I conclude with a statement from Gail Riplinger that I agree with. In fact, the statement is profound.

“Bible students are the direct target of the devil. If he can get them, when they are young and impressionable, he can have the whole church that they pastor when they graduate.” *Hazardous Materials*, p. 1,067

Students trained in Gail Riplinger’s theology are already replacing soul winning with a “ministry” of being professional critics of King James Bible believers. They are replacing the teachings of the King James Bible with doctrines invented by Gail Riplinger. What a tragedy!

Never in the history of the United States have our liberties been so threatened! We are sliding into degeneracy and socialism. Never have bold preachers of righteousness been so needed. Yet the main thrust of the ministry of Dr. Riplinger and her followers is to make war on as many King James Bible believing independent Baptist pastors as possible.

Satan must be sitting back laughing!