

Truth For The World

Newsletter

FIRST QUARTER 2016

The Law Was Our Schoolmaster (Galatians 3:24) - Part 2

THE PAIDAGOGOS

The term that is used by the inspired apostle Paul serves to describe one of the purposes of the Law of Moses. Here are some translations of the term found in various versions. It is translated “schoolmaster” in the KJV. The word is translated “tutor” in the 1901 ASV and NKJV. It is translated “was put in charge” in the NIV. The word is translated “guardian” in the ESV. The word is translated “child-conductor” in Young’s Literal Translation. While most versions translate the word in a noun form, the NIV translates the word as if it were a verb. One states that “schoolmaster” and “tutor” are not proper translations, and that “guardian,” or some other term is better. This statement is made by Vincent:

Paul speaks as a Jew of Jews especially. Schoolmaster (παιδαγωγός) is an error. The word means an overseer or guardian. See on 1 Corinthians 4:15. Tutor (Rev.) is defensible on the ground of etymology, tueri to look upon, thence to guard. In civil law a tutor is a person legally appointed for the care of the person and property of a minor. So Bacon (Adv. of Learning, ii. 19): “the first six kings being in truth as tutors of the state of Rome in the infancy thereof.” The later use of the word, however, in the sense of instructor, has so completely supplanted the earlier, that the propriety of the Revisers’ rendering is questionable. The law is here represented, not as one who conducts to the school of Christ; for Christ is not represented here as a teacher, but as an atoner; but rather as an overseer or guardian, to keep watch of those committed to its care, to accompany them with its commands and prohibitions, and to keep them in a condition of dependence and restraint, thus continually bringing home to them the consciousness of being shut up in sins, and revealing sin as positive transgression.”

Vincent points out that the term “tutor” has shifted in meaning, as well as the term “schoolmaster.” He therefore uses terms that are synonymous with the definition of the term “tutor,” such as “overseer” and “guardian.” Most of the newer versions, such as the ESV, have taken this view of the text. Some commentators think that the introduction of the aspect of “teaching” within the words “schoolmaster” and “tutor” is to corrupt the meaning of the word. J. Noel Meredith makes this statement:

Wuest thinks ‘the metaphor of a paidagogos seems to have grown out of the word kept (phroureo) of verse 23, which means ‘to guard.’ Thus the word refers to a guardian of a child in its minority rather than to a teacher...’ Hogg and Vine say, ‘The paidagogos was not the instructor of the child; he exercised a general supervision over him and was responsible for his moral and physical well-being. Thus understood, paidagogos is appropriately used with ‘kept in ward’ and ‘shut up’, whereas to understand it as ‘teacher’ introduces an idea entirely foreign to the passage, and throws the Apostle’s argument into confusion....’

Brother Burton Coffman makes this comment about the translation of the term in his commentary of the book of Galatians. He states:

‘The Law is become our tutor...’ This rendition is unfortunate, for ‘The Law was our schoolmaster (tutor) to bring us unto Christ’ (AV) is far better. The Law of Moses is not in this dispensation, in any sense whatever, ‘our tutor.’ Although the Greek will bear the translation ‘has become our tutor,’ it is clear from verse 25, below, that Christians are not under it. The translators need to do a little further work on this verse, for neither ‘schoolmaster’ nor ‘tutor’ conveys the thought of the Greek, where the word is ‘pedagogue.’

(CONTINUED ON OTHER SIDE)

Coffman's statement about the "Greek will bear the translation 'has become our tutor'", has reference to the specific Greek text edited by Alfred Marshall. This is the Nestle Greek Text which is a minority text upon which most, if not all, modern-day translations are based. Coffman is not stating that he believes this rendering; to the contrary, he is stating that the rendering is incorrect. It might be interesting to do some research into the KJV's choice of the term "schoolmaster" to determine what the term meant when it was selected by the translators to convey what they believed the Greek text to mean.

Lee Davis

Presentations in 2016

Dear friends,

I hope everyone is doing well in this third month of 2016. Time flies! But we must use the time that God has given us to reach the lost. That is the reason that the Duluth Church of Christ oversees the work here at Truth For The World. This is world evangelism! If you would like to partner with us in this great endeavor, and want more information, please contact us with a request to come to the congregation of which you are a member, and we will see if we can set up a presentation. Call us at: 770-622-1525. God's blessings be upon you as you do His will.

Lee Davis, TFTW Director

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In Memory of Mary Katherine Davis

Given by: Mike & Tracie Lanier

In Memory of Mary Katherine Davis

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In Memory of Mary Katherine Davis

Given by: Billy & Peggie Rhodes

Upcoming Mission Trip

Please keep Benjamin Bruce, our Internet & Mobile Services Coordinator, in your prayers as he travels to Loreto, Peru March 17-31 to preach the Word and edify the church there.



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