When William Tyndale Put God First
July 24, 2021

William Tyndale lost everything when he put God first. Even then, he didn't give up. What can we learn from William Tyndale today to help us put God first in our own lives?

In the 16th century, the Roman Catholic Church had prohibited the Bible from being read and understood by regular people. Persecution was certain for anyone who challenged the authority of the church and especially the Pope. The Papacy had become the apocalyptic beast described in the Bible.

During this dark period of human history, William Tyndale was a light that helped change the course of human history by making the Bible accessible in English.

Tyndale’s translation was the first English Bible to draw directly from Hebrew and Greek texts. It was also the first English translation to take advantage of the printing press, the latest technology used at the time for spreading a message. This brought him into direct conflict with the church, which believed that the general population didn’t have the skills to understand the Bible and therefore needed the church to do it for them.

Fleeing England, Tyndale sought refuge in the Flemish territory of the Catholic Emperor Charles the Fifth. In 1535, Tyndale was arrested and jailed in the castle of Vilvoorde (Filford) outside Brussels for more than a year. In 1536, he was convicted of heresy and executed. His dying prayer was that the King of England’s eyes would be opened.
Not long after he gave his life for putting God first, the King James Bible would be compiled and sanctioned by the king of England. The Bible is the foundation of western society, and Tyndale truly helped change the world by bringing the inspired text to the average person who could now understand it.

We are called to go and to help people from all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues understand the Bible so they can find freedom, healing, and hope in Jesus. When we are faithful with our tithe and Promise (regular and systematic offerings), we are helping to take the Three Angels’ Messages to the entire world as God commanded. Putting God first by sponsoring missions and missionaries is crucial. However, we should also invest our time and energy with the people around us, inspiring them to know more about the love of God.

William Tyndale put God first, even when it cost him everything. His courage inspires us today. Jesus gave up everything to redeem us, and His love compels us to put His kingdom first in our own lives. As we return our tithes and Promise, we are challenged to put God first.