THE CLEAR WORD

The Clear Word is a result of over 10 years of Dr. Jack Blanco’s devotional study of the Bible. It developed as a result of his writing down what each verse meant to him, using many sources to add to his understanding. It was done for his personal devotional study. In sharing some of his thoughts with his Sabbath School class at church, he was encouraged to publish his work. It is my understanding that Dr. Blanco was reluctant to publish it, and that he did not chose the title for the book. The first edition was published as The Clear Word Bible. Dropping the word Bible from the title probably won’t change the perception of most readers that they are indeed reading the Bible since it begins with Genesis 1:1 and goes through Revelation 22:21. The publishers could have made the title clear by stating plainly what it is. The Clear Word is really a devotional interpretation and expansion of the Bible through the “eyes” of one man. On the first page of the preface in the first edition Blanco states, “The amplification and expansion of each text came from lexicons, translations, commentaries, doctoral theses and numerous other helps.” The first sentence of this preface states that it is a paraphrase, not a translation. **Blanco further states that it is not to be used for serious study of the Bible, or to be read in church.** It would have been helpful if the extra biblical material was printed in different type or in brackets as in the Amplified Bible so anyone who read would know what was Bible based, and what was added information and ideas.

I am not criticizing Dr. Blanco’s work. However, my concerns about the Clear Word are:
- Some believe it is an “Adventist Bible”
- People read it for the Bible, believing it is the Bible, and accept it as the Bible
- Because it is easy to read, many read it instead of the Bible
- Some may not search the real Word because it seems to answer most of our questions.
- It is clear. Nothing is left unclear, or difficult. But that is not realistic. The Bible is not that clear. Dr. Blanco makes everything clear. He also makes it clean and pretty. As I read it through, I felt like it often was Jack’s clear word, but not necessarily God’s clear Word.
- There are many omissions in the Clear Word, e.i. in Psa 35:13 a full sentence is omitted – “When my prayers returned to me unanswered…”
- In some passages, the author puts words in God’s mouth. This is what troubles me most about the Clear Word, having Him say what is not stated in the Bible. Deut 32:50,51 is one example of this. This is part of what he adds to God’s words in verse 51:
  “It was not in My plan to do this…To overlook this would make the people call into question my justice and doubt that I mean what I say.”

In almost every instance where Dr. Blanco changes or adds to the text, I agree with what he wrote. It is just not what the Bible says.

My suggestions for reading the Clear Word are:
- Read the passage from the Bible first
- Read it for devotional intent
- Remember, it is not the Bible
- Remember why Dr. Blanco wrote the material
  - Comply with the author’s requests stated in the first edition: Don’t use it for serious study of God’s Word, or for reading in Church.

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