

"THE GOSPEL - FOR ANIMALS?"

By Dr. Hoyt W. Allen, Jr.

The King James Version (KJV) in Mark 16:15 reads, "...Go into all the world, and preach the gospel to every **creature**."

This version (translation) has puzzled many people. Thus, the question has been pondered, "Are animals to be brought into a church building and set in a pew in order to hear the Gospel (Good News), so that they might accept Jesus Christ as their personal Savior, repent of their sins, confess Him as Lord (with a bark or a meow, etc.), and be added to the church. Thus, appearing in the Christian Standard under "Church Reports" a report might read: "The ABC Christian Church of Anytown, USA reports that on June 1, 1999 they had three baptisms (one poodle, one collie, and one Siamese cat)."

Thus, a greater understanding of the Scriptures is needed. First of all one must realize that throughout the years "words" change as to their usage. The KJV was first translated in A.D. 1611 and has been revised many, many times. The word which has brought confusion to many and the concluding that animals should be preached to is the word "**CREATURE**" in Mark 16:15. Note with me that in many newer translations this has been clarified by translating as in the New American Standard Version (NASV) and the New International Version (NIV) "creation", the New Testament In Modern Speech by Weymouth (WEY) as "mankind", the Amplified Version by the Lockman Foundation as "human race", and the Living Bible Paraphrase by Taylor as "everyone".

In the Genesis 1:21,24 "Creatures" are referred to in the creation of animals. This is the way that mankind normally thinks of the usage of the word. However, the Greek word "ktisis" primarily means the act of creating and is translated: building, ordinance, create, creation, creator, creature. In Mark 16:15 it has the significant special reference to mankind in general. One might say it is a general term of all creation, which includes mankind.

It is a **smart move** on the part of anyone desiring to have a deeper look into the Scriptures to secure a number of different translations. Or better yet to acquire a Parallel Bible, which has several translations on one page which one can see all at one time.

**KYOWVA EVANGELISTIC ASSOCIATION
IS WORTHY OF AND NEEDS OUR SUPPORT
1541 S. 7TH ST * IRONTON OH 45638-2175
Web Page: kyowva.com**