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Preface to A Berean's Discernment Tool for *The Purpose Driven Life*

One frustration experienced by readers of *The Purpose Driven Life* is that most of the Biblical citations fail to designate which translation is cited in a specific text of the book. The reader must go to the footnotes for the particular chapter to find out which passage is referenced and in which translation. The other problem is that Rick Warren often employs partial citations of verses rather than the whole verse. These problems make it difficult to discern whether the Bible actually supports the point that he is making.

We have created a series of files that resolve this problem--one for each day of the 40 days of purpose. In the left column on each page we show the passages that Warren cites *just as he cites them*; and in the right column next to Warren's verse we show the full verse from the New American Standard version of the Bible. What you have at your fingertips is the chapter, verse and translation used by Warren alongside the same passage from the NASB.

It is up to you to determine if Warren has made valid use of the passage. The NASB is one of the most literal and accurate English Bible translations available. If the passage Warren cites is in substantial agreement with the NASB that will be readily seen. However, in many cases he uses loose paraphrases that depart from the meaning of the Biblical text. That will be readily seen as well.

Here is the simple way you use this tool.

- 1) Print out the tool for the chapter that you or your group is studying.
- 2) When you come to a Bible citation in *The Purpose Driven Life*, find it on the left side of the comparison chart; we have included page numbers to make it easy.
- 3) Compare his citation with the NASB version of the same verse. If they are substantially in agreement, then you know he likely cited the passage accurately.
- 4) If Warren's citation is quite different from the NASB, look carefully at the point he is trying to make in his book. If the literal NASB version would not support the point, then there is a problem.

- 5) Even if the version Warren uses is in substantial agreement with the NASB, make sure the verse supports the point he is trying to make. Because you have the chapter and verse at your fingertips, you can also bring your own Bible and look up the context of the passage.

This tool will help you be a “Berean” and search the scriptures to see if the claims being made are true.

Bob DeWaay