

Bible Translations...

Titus 3:9-11

New International Version (NIV)

⁹ But avoid foolish controversies and genealogies and arguments and quarrels about the law, because these are unprofitable and useless. ¹⁰ Warn a divisive person once, and then warn him a second time. After that, have nothing to do with him. ¹¹ You may be sure that such a man is warped and sinful; he is self-condemned.

My whole reason for this Bible Study, is because of a group of those who call themselves Christians. Who worship the version of the "King James Bible"! I have even had them insult me by calling my NIV Bible a comic book. Telling me that they read the original Bible, 'The King James'.

It does not go well when I remind them that the original Bible was not written in English. That the King James translation is only 401 years old. And that to read the original Bible you will have to learn several languages which include: Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek.

At the same time as I prefer the NIV, I do not attest to it being the end all be all version of the Bible. The only person who can say as such, is Jesus Himself. I believe that God has preserved his Word in the translations where those have strived for God's Guidance in the translation from the original languages!

This has turned into a stupid and foolish controversy, that has no place in the Christian's life. We are even warned about such!

2 Timothy 2:23

New International Version (NIV)

²³ Don't have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they produce quarrels.

There are two types of Bible's, 1) The Paraphrase(or interpretation) and the 2) Translation.

1) Paraphrase or Interpretation is oral - it refers to listening to something spoken, or reading what is written, then the person(or persons) try to derive a meaning from it and write that meaning.

Example: Setting the captives free, could mean to: let go of prisoners, let go of those under sin, to free those under a dictatorship, or it could even mean to take off your shoes. It interpretation is open to the one or the group who is deciding what it means.

"The Message" is one such Interpretation. Interpretations are dangerous if you rely on them alone. You are relying on someone's interpretation of the Bible, when at times the Bible speaks very differently to each of us.

2) Translation is written - it involves taking a written text (such as a book or an article) and

translating it in writing into the target language.

Example: bonjour comment allez-vous ? - Hello, how are you?

Both NIV and King James are translations, the difference between the two is that King James is a word for word translation. Keeping the words in the same order they were written. NIV is a word for word translation, but the words are moved around so that the sentence makes sense.

Different languages in the world, have different rules for sentence structure. Some words come before others and if translated word for word to English, we could end up with a translation that makes no sense or where the meaning is lost. We have to understand the underlying grammar of each language.

However the challenges with a word for word translation, runs into walls when it is difficult to figure out what the words mean from a language that was written many thousands of years ago. It is indeed a very difficult task to preserve the Bible, its original languages include Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek.

One such word, in Hebrew, was the word of "Ruah". Its a beautiful word that cannot be translated into one Word, with out understanding the context it is in. It is used to mean breath, spirit, and as well "Breath of God". Its the one word that separates us from all creation. Its used to represent how God gave us life. How God breathed life into us all!

With translations of the Bible, in my research, Biblical scholars spent many hours, days, years praying and making sure they have preserved the Word. If there is a preface in your Bible, I suggest you read it. In my NIV they frankly say "Like all translations of the Bible, made as they are by imperfect man, this one undoubtedly falls short of its goals."

They admit, that they have strived their best, but nothing can compare to the perfect manuscripts that are preserved for us in the original languages.

I myself prefer and recommend the New International Version, as it speaks English for today. The biggest problem I have with the King James Version, it that its English is 401 years old. When I was ten years old, I was given my first Bible, which was a King James version. One verse that I could not understand from the King James, was:

Genesis 4:1

King James Version(KJV)

¹And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the LORD.

I thought, of course he knew his wife. How could he not know her?

Then in the early 80's, I was presented with my first NIV Bible. It was translated as

¹ Adam lay with his wife Eve, and she became pregnant and gave birth to Cain. She said, "With the help of the LORD I have brought forth a man."

Now that I understood, it made more sense because it was written in an English that I spoke. Old English is just that, old! Today when we say we know are wife, it is much different then when they spoke that. Imagine going back 400 years and telling a girl you want to get to know her, then wondering why she slapped you.

As well the NIV has the advantage of the discovery of the "Dead Sea Scrolls", which were found on the northwest shore of the Dead Sea. They are the oldest known copy of the Bible with the manuscripts dating around 150 BC. Since the discovery of these scrolls in 1947, it has further helped translate and understand the language of the Bible.

Whats amazing is how God Preserved the Bible for us!

Since the original Bible language includes Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek. I will not be reading the original language anytime soon. I prefer the NIV, but at times refer to the King James, Good News, New King James, and other translations. As well I have investigated the Original words, from Hebrews, Aramaic and Greek. I do this because I want to be intimate with God's word. I want to hear God speaking to me through His perfect and infallible Word!

I ask, "Are you Listening for God...?"

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