

GRASPING
GOD'S WORD

Bible Translations

- Acts 17:10-11 – “The brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea, and when they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews. Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so.”

- 2 Timothy 3:16-17 – “All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.”

- John 14:21 – “He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him.”

THE BIBLE IN ENGLISH

- The Bible was originally written in three languages over a period of nearly fifteen hundred years.
- Unless we want to learn Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek, we need translations.
- Translation is nothing more than transferring the message of one language into another language.

PROCESS OF TRANSLATION

- Inspiration
- Transmission
- Textual Criticism
- Translation

ENGLISH TRANSLATIONS

- John Wycliffe (1382)
- William Tyndale (1526)
- Miles Coverdale (1535)
- Authorized Version/King James Version (1611, 1629, 1638, 1729, 1762, 1789)
- English Revised Version (1881-85)
- American Standard Version (1901)
- Revised Standard Version (1946-52)
- New International Version (1973, 1978, 1984, 2005, 2011)
- New American Standard (1977, 1995, 2020)
- New King James (1979-82)
- New Revised Standard Version (1989)
- New Living Translation (1996)
- New English Translation (1998)
- English Standard Version (2001)
- Christian Standard Bible (2004, 2017)

DIFFERENT APPROACHES TO TRANSLATION

- No two words are exactly alike
- The vocabulary of any two languages varies in size
- Languages have different syntax and stylistic preferences

DIFFERENT APPROACHES TO TRANSLATION

- Dynamic Equivalency – this translation philosophy seeks to accurately convey the same meaning in a new language, but is not so concerned about making sure that the same number of words or equivalent grammatical constructions are used
- Formal Equivalency – very concerned to preserve, as much as possible, the number of words and same grammar as the original

PHILOSOPHY OF TRANSLATIONS:

- I think it is more appropriate to class translations as *more formal* or *more functional*.

←More formal

More functional →

ASV NASB KJV RSV ESV NIV GNB-CEV-Phillips

Philosophy of Translations:

Literal

Dynamic

Paraphrase

Interlinear

KJV

NIV

TEV

LB

Bible

RSV

CEV

The

NASB

NLT

Message

NKJV

Good

News

NRSV

Which ones would
I consider?

ESV

HCSB

Note: The scale is not proportional,
only the relative position of the
translations are significant.

GUIDELINES FOR CHOOSING A TRANSLATION

- Readable English that you can understand
- Based on the best Greek and Hebrew manuscripts
- Translations by the committee, not individuals
- Appropriate for your purpose and demographic
- For serious Bible Study the best translations are NASB, ESV, CSB, NET, NIV