

Which Translation of the Bible Should I Read?

“Earth Has Nothing I Desire Besides You” Sermon Series, Part 8

2 Timothy 2:15

Intro: Why I decided to teach on this topic:

- a. Don't read “THE PASSION” translation of the Bible!
- b. Do read the Bible every day!
- c. We come from a tradition of helping people have the Bible in a meaningful, readable form.

1. The importance of “correctly handling the Word of God.” (2 Tim. 3:16)

- a. _____, because they are _____ words (2 Peter 1:20-21, Isa. 55:8-9).
- b. _____, because we are commanded not to _____ or _____ from God's Word (Rev. 22:18-19, Dt. 4:1-2, Prov. 30:5-6).
- c. _____, because God's Word is meant to be _____ (Deut. 30:11-14, Acts 2:1-6, Rom. 16:25-26).

2. Three general approaches to Bible Translation

- a. _____ Equivalent
 - i. Translated _____ from the original languages.
 - ii. More “_____ for _____.”
 - iii. _____ interpretive judgments.
 - iv. Examples: *New American Standard Bible, English Standard Version, King James Version.*
- b. _____ Equivalent
 - i. Translated _____ from the original languages.
 - ii. “_____ for _____.”
 - iii. _____ interpretive judgments.
 - iv. Examples: *New Revised Standard Version, New International Version, New Living Translation.*
- c. _____ Equivalent
 - i. _____ translated _____ from the original languages.
 - ii. _____ from another English version of the Bible.
 - iii. _____ interpretive judgments.
 - iv. Examples: *Good News Bible, The Living Bible, The Message*

3. The Bible was made available in the language of the people during the Protestant Reformation time period:

- a. John Wycliffe's English translations, late 14th century
 - i. Before these English language translations, the Bible had only been available in Latin, the language of the education elite, for over 1000 years.
 - ii. Since these manuscripts predated the printing press, they were not widely circulated.
- b. The Gutenberg Bible, 1450
 - i. This was the Latin Vulgate version of the Bible, and not able to be read by common people.
 - ii. Nevertheless, it was the first Bible to be mass produced using movable type. Therefore, it set the stage for mass distribution of subsequent Bibles in vernacular languages.
- c. The Erasmus Greek New Testament, 1516
 - i. Desiderius Erasmus collected, recorded and published the extant Greek manuscripts of the New Testament into one volume.
 - ii. He was a scholarly Catholic priest who wanted to reform the abuses of the church and bring the Bible back to the people.
 - iii. Scholars of other countries could then translate the Bible into their own languages using this original language volume.

d. Martin Luther's German New Testament, 1522

- i. First widely published German Translation.
- ii. Used the Erasmus Greek NT, starting a positive trend.

e. William Tyndale's "The Great Bible," 1526-1530

- i. First widely published English Translation. Eventually became the authorized Bible of the Church of England, but not before Tyndale was martyred for publishing it.

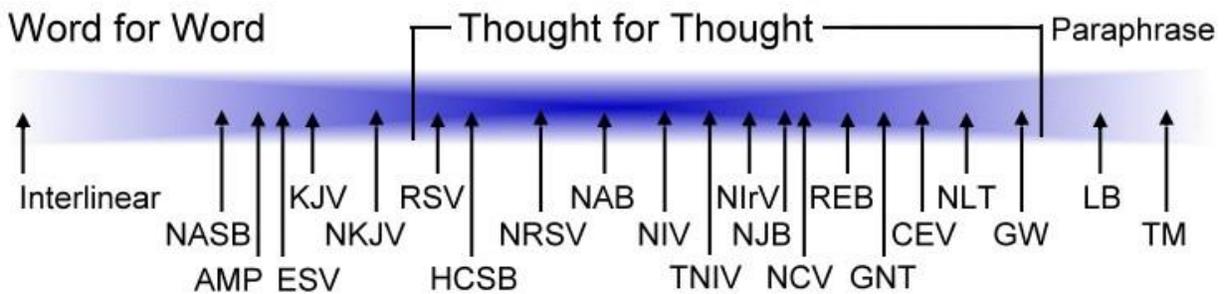
f. The Geneva Bible, 1560

- i. Multiple scholars gathered in Geneva to produce it.
- ii. First Bible to divide chapters into verses.
- iii. Included maps and cross references.
- iv. Was used by Shakespeare.
- v. Was brought to America by the Puritans.

g. The King James Bible, 1611

- i. Used almost exclusively in Christian Churches until the mid-1960's.

English Bible Translation Comparison



NASB - New American Standard (11.5)
AMP - Amplified Bible (11)
ESV - English Standard Version (8)
KJV - King James Version (13)
NKJV - New King James Version (9.5)
RSV - Revised Standard Version (11)
HCSB - Holman Christian Standard (8)
NRSV - New Revised Standard (10.5)
NAB - New American Bible (7)
NIV - New International Version (8)
TNIV - Today's NIV (7.5)

NiRV - New International reader's (3)
NJB - New Jerusalem Bible (7.5)
NCV - New Century Version (3.5)
REB - Revised English Bible (7)
GNT - Good News Translation (6)
CEV - Contemporary English (5.5)
NLT - New Living Translation (6.5)
GW - God's Word (4.5)
LB - Living Bible (8.5)
TM - The Message (4.5)