



Which Bible Should I Use?

Interactive Outline

Sunday, 6:00 p.m.

August 09, 2015

Scripture Reading: Revelation 22:18-19

Speaker: Adam Pogue

1) What is the Goal of Bible Translations?

A. Literal

- 1) Defined: is rendering of text from one language to another "word-for-word rather than conveying the sense of the original.
- 2) John 3:16 - Young's Literal

B. Thought for Thought (Dynamic Equivalent, Functional Equivalent)

- 1) *"based on the premise that whenever something in the original text is foreign or unclear to a contemporary English reader, the original text should be translated in terms of an equivalent rather than literally... frequently making interpretive decisions for the reader and adding commentary to the text." (Choosing a Bible, Ryken, pg7)*
- 2) *"commonly results in paraphrasing where a more literal rendering is needed to reflect a specific and vital sense." (NKJV Preface)*
- 3) Matthew 25:13 – NIV vs. NKJV, 1 Peter 4:1 – NLT vs. NKJV

C. Word for Word (Essentially Literal, Formal Equivalent)

- 1) *"the most complete representation of the original has been rendered by considering the history of usage and etymology of words in their contexts... seeks to preserve all of the information in the text, while presenting it in good literary form." (NKJV Preface)*
- 2) An "essentially literal" translation strives to render the original Hebrew and Greek words with their English counterparts while adapting the original grammar to English grammar. (**"Translations" article, Sharp**)
- 3) Acts 8:37 – NKJV, NASB, ESV differences

D. Paraphrase

- 1) Vs. 20 - *"For whenever the author's exact words are not translated from the original languages, there is a possibility that the translator, however honest, may be giving the English read something that the original writer did not mean to say. This is because a paraphrase is guided not only by the translator's skill in simplifying but also by the clarity of his understanding of what the author meant and by his theology. For when the Greek or Hebrew is not clear, then the theology of the translator is his guide along with his sense of logic." (The Living Bible Preface)*
- 2) John 3:16 – The Message

E. Your Options:

- 1) Literal: Interlinear, Young's Literal
- 2) Dynamic Equivalent (Thought for Thought): New International Version, Today's NIV, New Living Translation, Common English Bible, Contemporary English Version, Good News Bible...

- 3) Essentially Literal(Word for Word): New American Standard Bible, English Standard Version, King James Version, New KJV, Revised Standard Version, *NRSV (gender neutral)...
- 4) Paraphrase: The New Testament in Modern English, The Living Bible, The Message, The Street Bible..

2) Does It Really Matter?

A. Yes!

- 1) Bible Verses
 - a. Psalm 119:111
 - b. 1 Corinthians 2:2-4, 12
 - c. Matthew 4:4
 - d. Revelation 22:18-19

B. Problems with Dynamic Equivalent & Paraphrase Translations:

- 1) Removes Customs (Psalms 23:5 – NKJV vs. CEV & The Message)
- 2) Oversimplifies (2 Peter 3:15-16)
- 3) Gender Neutral (NRSV, CEB, CEV, TNIV, NCV) (Matthew 9:6; 1 Timothy 3:4; Psalm 34:19-22)

3) Strengths and Weaknesses

A. Dynamic Equivalent

- 1) Strengths
 - a. A substitute for modern language
 - b. Some believe it is easier to read
 - c. Revisions
- 2) Weaknesses
 - a. Sacrifices accuracy for readability and the translator's opinions are added.
 - b. Translators believe they have the duty to make interpretive decisions for the ignorant reader.
 - c. Does not italicize what is translation and what is opinion.

B. Paraphrase

- 1) Strengths
 - a. May help explain in a modern way
- 2) Weaknesses
 - a. Not a true translation

C. Essentially Literal

- 1) Strengths
 - a. Transparent to the Original Text
 - b. Does Not Simplify
 - c. Steward Not Editor
- 2) Weaknesses
 - a. KJV – out dated language
 - b. NKJV – updated language but still did not update
 - c. NASV – maintains “*thee*” & “*thou*” when God is addressed (NASB 95 has been updated)
 - d. ESV – Does not capitalize words when referring to God/Christ