

# TRANSLATING THE BIBLE INTO LIFE

## Introduction

- 1) Story about four preachers discussing the merits of various translations of the Bible
  - a) One preferred his mother's translation – "She translated it into life, and it was the most convincing translation I ever saw"
- 2) Thankful for reliable translations of the Bible from the original languages, but the translation (transfer) of the Bible into my life may be the most important translation of all!
- 3) Each Christian is to be a Bible "translator," becoming a living "epistle of Christ" (2 Cor. 3:3)
  - a) God, of His own will, brought us forth by the word of truth to be "His creatures" (Jas. 1:18)
- 4) **James 1:19-25** – principles are given that are essential to translating the Bible into our lives

## I) **Thorough Preparation to Receive Word (vv. 19-21)**

### A) *Open Our Ears*

- 1) Must be open to hear truth and to put truth into action in our lives (Matt. 13:9, 14-15)
- 2) "Swift to hear" is opposite of "dull of hearing" (Heb. 5:11)
- 3) Being a good, attentive, eager listener is a learned, deliberative, willing act

### B) *Control Our Tongues*

- 1) Better to listen and learn than to spread the ignorance of the unlearned
- 2) We tend to want to talk a subject to death without learning the truth first
- 3) Slow to speak (compare Eccl. 5:2 – let our words be few)

### C) *Calm Our Spirits*

- 1) Ungodly wrath closes the mind and distorts the judgment
- 2) Intense emotions can prejudice our minds against hearing and understanding the truth
- 3) Selfish, defensive wrath does not lead us to exhibit the righteousness of God

### D) *Clean Up Our Lives*

- 1) Must clear away "weeds" that hinder reception and growth of word in the heart
- 2) Filthiness and abundance of "badness" will turn us away from the truth
- 3) Calmness of spirit and a clean life is necessary to translate word into life

## II) **Willing Reception of the Word (v. 21)**

### A) *Proper Reception*

- 1) Put our own desires and opinions aside to receive word with meekness (humility)
- 2) Not matter of whether we like it or not; rather, "Have I submitted my will to His will?"
- 3) Gladly receive the word that will save and change us (Acts 2:41; 1 Thess. 2:13)

## III) **Diligent Examination and Application of the Word (vv. 22-25)**

### A) *Careful Examination and Daily Application*

- 1) To translate truth into life, the doing must be regular and consistent, not on-and-off
- 2) Cannot be "doers of the word" unless there is a daily application and change in our lives
- 3) Forgetful hearer: *glances quickly, departs hastily, forgets immediately*
- 4) Effective doer: *looks intently, does immediately, blessed in doing*

### B) *Blessed Results*

- 1) The effective "translator" of the word of God will be a blessed person!
  - a) Glorify God, help others, increase faith-growth-confidence-hope, safe from error

## Conclusion

Have you been an effective "translator" of the Bible into your life? It needs to be accurate and readable to all! Be a hearer and doer of the word – obey God today!