

MBC Adult Sunday School Class  
**How We Got Our English Bible**

March 23, 2018

8:30 AM

**Lesson Four: A Question of Integrity**

**1. Matching:**

- John Wycliffe
- Subjective Inspiration
- Martin Luther
- Apocryphal
- King James I
- Coverdale
- The Great Bible
- The Geneva Bible
- The King James Version
- The Bishop's Bible
- Partial Inspiration
- Textus Receptus
- Intuition Theory
- LXX Septuagint
- Latin Vulgate
- Synod of Hippo
- Gnosticism
- Westcott and Hort
- Codex Alexandrius
- Codex Vaticanus
- Codex Sinaiticus
- Charles Darwin
- The Heptadic Structure
- Verbal Plenary
- Illumination
- Revelation
- Inspiration
- Inerrancy
- Infallibility
- Uncial
- Vellum
- Canon
- a. Translation used by the Reformers and Puritans
- b. Started the Hermes Club and followed Darwin
- c. Vatican Library copy 325 AD
- d. Martyred by strangulation then burned at the stake
- e. Wrote the first German translation of the Bible
- f. Text as it was received
- g. 1850 Manuscript Discovery of a Greek NT
- h. King and Benefactor of the English 1611 translation
- i. What God Himself revealed of Himself
- j. The work of the Holy Spirit to open the eyes
- k. All men have an intuitive knowledge of God
- l. Assistant to Tyndale. Completed the Coverdale Bible
- m. Huge Bible chained in cathedrals.
- n. Greek 3<sup>rd</sup> Century Old and New Testament
- o. The belief that the physical body is evil
- p. 1611 Version of the Bible
- q. 1568 Official Church of England Translation
- r. The Latin translation of the Old Testament
- s. The Bible becomes or contains the Word of God
- t. The Scriptures are inspired only in religious dogma
- u. Hidden or Concealed
- v. The Origin of the Species
- w. Capital letters of writing with no spaces
- x. The Holy Spirit moved holy men to write the Bible
- y. Without error in the original writings
- z. Animal skins for paper
- aa. Every word, the very words
- bb. Absolutely trustworthy – not liable to error
- cc. Measuring Rod
- dd. The fingerprint of God on the text of Scripture
- ee. Entire NT MSS brought to England in 1630
- ff. Time of the Completed Canon of Scripture 393 AD

**2. How were the Scriptures passed down from generation to generation?**

**3. How do we know that the best copies we have are accurate from the original manuscripts?**

1.) The Old and New Testament documents are the most attested of all the earlier manuscripts without a doubt they validate the integrity of the Scriptures.

2.) The gap of time between the original autographs and our earliest manuscripts is earlier than any other secular manuscript under consideration, such as Homer's Iliad, Caesar's Gallic Wars or any other author who wrote previous to the first century.

3.) The original text of the Scriptures can be rendered as 99% certain. Scholars are sure they know what the Biblical authors wrote due to the number of the earlier manuscripts available.

4.) The minor grammatical, wording differences between all the manuscript copies do not change or call into question any theology.

5.) The Gospel of Jesus Christ is clearly presented in all the Greek MSS.

- Robert G. Gromacki

#### 4. How to Choose the Best and Most Accurate Bible Translation:

- What should be the goal of Bible Translators?
- What is Textual Criticism and how is it relevant for our discussion today?
- What is a literal word for word (Formal Equivalence) translation? – A Translation?
- What's the difference between thought for thought (Functional or Dynamic Equivalence) translation? – An Interpretation?

#### Their Mentality:

- Good News Bible: This translation seeks to express the meaning in a manner and form easily understood by the readers.
- New Living Testament: Metaphorical language is often difficult for contemporary readers to understand, so at times we have chosen to translate or illuminate the metaphor.
- New International Version: Because for most readers the phrase, 'the Lord of Hosts' and 'God of Hosts' have little meaning, this version renders them, 'the Lord Almighty' and 'God Almighty.'
- New Century Version: Ancient customs are often unfamiliar to modern readers.
- New Living Translation: We have used the vocabulary and language structures of a Junior High student.
- Reduces the level of vocabulary used by the original authors.
- Drops figurative language and replaces it with literal statements that represent the translator's preferred interpretation.
- Change words that are either too difficult or not how we would say it today.
- Change what the authors wrote to what the translators think they were trying to say.
- Change gender references to reflect current views on gender language issues.
- Chop down the length of sentences to a series of shorter sentences.

#### Five Negative Effects of Dynamic Equivalency:

1.) DE takes liberties in translating the precise wording from the original that we would not tolerate in other areas of life.

2.) DE translations have destabilized the biblical text by multiplying variant translations of many Bible translations.

3.) What the Bible means is what it says, and so DE often makes it impossible to truly know what God says because others have removed from the reader's sight what He actually said in return for what the translator's thought He said.

4.) DE falls short of what we should expect from any book, author or text. We should be able to assume that the translation I am reading from is an actual translation of what was written and the intentions of the author conveyed as accurately as possible.

5.) DE is a logical and linguistic impossibility in that there is no such thing as a disembodied thought divorced from the actual words used by the author.

- Leland Ryken  
Wheaton College

- An Example of Dynamic Equivalence:

Luke 9:44

KJV	King James Version	Let these sayings sink down into your ears.
NKJV	New King James Version	Let these words sink down into your ears.
ASV	American Standard Version	Let these words sink into your ears.
NASV	New American Standard Version	Let these words sink into your ears.
ESV	English Standard Version	Let these words sink into your ears.
HCSB	Holman Christian Standard Bible	Let these words sink in.
NET	New English Translation	Take these words to heart.
NIV	New International Version	Listen carefully to what I am about to tell you.
NLT	New Living Translation	Listen to Me and remember what I say.
CEV	Contemporary English Version	Pay close attention to what I am telling you.
TLB	The Living Bible	Listen to Me and remember what I say.
TM	The Message	Treasure and ponder each of these next words.

- How do translators translate accurately? (The Grammatical, Historical, Etymological, Cultural Method)

- What is a Paraphrase?

- Ten Reasons for why we can trust literal, word for word translations?

1.) Transparency to the \_\_\_\_\_.

2.) Keeping to the essential task of \_\_\_\_\_.

3.) Preserving the full interpretative potential of the \_\_\_\_\_.

4.) Not mixing personal \_\_\_\_\_ with the translation.

5.) Preserving \_\_\_\_\_ precision with the translation.

6.) Not needing to correct the translation when \_\_\_\_\_.

7.) Preserving what the Biblical writers actually \_\_\_\_\_.

8.) Preserving the \_\_\_\_\_ qualities of the Bible.

9.) Preserving the dignity and \_\_\_\_\_ of the Bible.

10.) Consistency with the doctrine of \_\_\_\_\_.

- **How to Pick and Read the best Bible translation for yourself?**

1.) Understand that just because a version is \_\_\_\_\_ doesn't mean it is necessarily accurate. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you in your selection and then give your loyalty not to a version of the Bible but rather to the God of the Bible. Consider the very lives of reformation translators who were martyred for your right to own a proper, true translation of the Word of God.

2.) Make sure you read a \_\_\_\_\_ Bible. The New World Bible, Jerusalem Bible, Pearl of Great Price, Doctrine and Covenants, Book of Mormon, Koran, or other scriptures that claim divine, God breathed inspiration and revelation are NOT God's Word but have been tampered and changed by men who seek to pervert the true Scriptures.

3.) Decide whether you want a thought for thought or a word for \_\_\_\_\_ translation.

4.) Line up your choices and \_\_\_\_\_ versions and specific verses for accuracy and credibility.

5.) Consider your \_\_\_\_\_: How will you use this translation?

6.) Understand and remember that language \_\_\_\_\_ and words change over time. Some translations lose their meanings because some words are no longer used or some words no longer have the same meanings.

7.) If you choose a thought for thought translation or paraphrase remember do \_\_\_\_\_ take the nuance of the publishers as the intended, true Biblical interpretation or even application for any given passage under consideration.

8.) Read the translators \_\_\_\_\_ to understand the world view, objectives, goals and mission of the translators.

9.) Be leery of "Bible Scholars" who impose their world views or ideas onto any text. Do the research for yourself so you know what is right and what is not right. If using a Study Bible, as tempting as it might be, don't take their interpretation helps as the full or true gospel. Even the best, most trusted Bible scholars, Pastors can and do get it \_\_\_\_\_.

10.) Read the Bible \_\_\_\_\_ for life and spiritual health. Learn to feed on it, letting the Word of God dwell in you richly. Pray before you read, while you read and pray for the strength to apply in obedience what you've read to your life every day.

TIPS: Use the following websites for helpful tips on comparing Bible versions.

- [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com)
- [www.onlinebible.com](http://www.onlinebible.com)
- E-Sword free Bible downloadable Bible program.

- LOGOS Bible Software.
- Olive Tree for your smart phone, computers, Nook's or I Pad's.
- For a holistic approach to Bible Study you might want to consider purchasing the following tools for your own personal library:

- 1.) The NASV, NKJV or ESV for Accuracy: Word for Word.
- 2.) Strong's Word Concordance with numerical numbers for each Old or New Testament word.
- 3.) An Interlinear Greek / English Bible
- 4.) The Amplified Bible
- 5.) A Parallel Bible
- 6.) A Paraphrase such as the Living Bible or the Message to give color to a difficult passage.
- 7.) A trusted word study book such as: Zodhiates, Wuest, Vine's or Robertson's
- 8.) Noah Webster's 1828 Dictionary
- 9.) A good Bible Dictionary such as: Zondervan's
- 10.) A good Bible Commentary in one - two volumes: The Bible Knowledge Commentary, Wycliffe Bible Dictionary. Etc.
- 11.) A good Study Bible with notes.

#### 5. SUMMARY: (See Bible Translation Chart)

- **Strictly Literal / Word for Word:** NASV, AMPLIFIED
- **Literal Word for Word: (translated from the Textus Receptus / KJV, NKJV, RSV (Majority Text - All other translations use the Alexandrian MSS)**
- **Literal with freedom to be Idiomatic:** ESV, NRSV
- **Thought for Thought: Functional / Dynamic Equivalence:** NIV, NJB
- **Paraphrase:** TLB, TNLT, The Message

#### 6. Benediction:

There's something to be said for remembering who's shoulders we stand on in order to have our own English versions of the Holy Bible. The sacrifice of countless believers, who were more than willing to give their very lives so we could own our own English Bible, is worthy of our gratitude, respect, honor and due consideration. The reformers during the time of the Reformation, were principled men whose objective in life was to free the common man from the tyranny of the Church of Rome. They believed the Word of God was given by God for the common man as well as the educated scribe. We owe it to them to get it right and to rightly divide the Word of truth. Man is full of sin and even his best motives are tainted and skewed to be self-serving. The cry of the Reformers during the time of the Reformation were these five solas:

- **Sola Scriptura:** The Scriptures Alone
- **Sola Fide:** Faith Alone
- **Sola Gracie** Grace Alone
- **Sola Christus** Christ Alone

- **Sola Gloria**                      **God's Glory Alone**

**I challenge each of us to be diligent students of the Word of God seeking to be in His Word daily so that His Word will dwell richly in us, in order that His Word will live on through us.**