

Grace OPC High School Sunday Class Topic Summary			
Year:	1 of 4		Date: Weeks 1-3
Quarter:	2 of 4	Bible Study/Survey	
Lesson Title:	Bible Transmission, Translation and Bible Versions		
Lesson Purpose:	To understand in more detail how God preserved the Greek and Hebrew texts of His Word, how they are translated, how we came to have them in English and how to compare the different English versions.		

Lesson 1 – Transmission of Scriptures

- God has miraculously preserved both the Hebrew OT and Greek NT texts
- We can verify the texts we work from by comparing with older manuscripts that become available
- The incredibly small number of variants introduced over time rarely have any significance for the meaning of the text
- We can be confident that our best Greek and Hebrew manuscripts are almost identical to the originals

Lesson 2 – Translation of Scriptures

- There are good reasons to translate the Bible:
 - o So people can have access to God's Word in an understandable form
 - o To avoid the danger of men claiming the sole right to interpret Scripture for the people
- There is Biblical support for translation:
 - o Faith comes through hearing and the Gospel is addressed to the mind. Therefore, God's Word must be presented in an intelligible form.
 - o The New Testament writers made free use of the Septuagint – the Greek translation of the Old Testament
- There are different approaches to translation – Formal Equivalence, Dynamic Equivalence and Paraphrasing (which is not really translation at all)
- The First English Language Scriptures were translated from the Latin Vulgate, beginning in the 7th Century
- At the Renaissance, Greek and Hebrew began to be studied and printing was invented – the Word of God in English was translated from the original tongues and freely distributed
- Today we have many English Language versions

Lesson 3 – Comparison of Bible Versions

- We have very many English Bibles to choose from
- They tend to reflect the doctrinal preferences of the translators
- The methods of translation can significantly affect the meaning of the resulting passage
- Even the translation of prepositions can add or subtract richness of understanding from the text
- Some are much better than others in almost every passage
- We have some useful tools to help us arrive at an understanding of which translations are better
- Paraphrases should generally be avoided. Can you think how paraphrases seem to fly in the face of the doctrine of verbal inspiration?

Further reading:

The Inspiration and Authority of Scripture. René Pache. Moody Press. ISBN 0-8024-4091-6

The Inspiration and Authority of the Bible. B. B. Warfield

Nothing But the Truth. The Inspiration Authority and History of the Bible Explained. Brian H Edwards. Evangelical Press ISBN 0-85234-305-1