

CHOOSING A BIBLE TRANSLATION

START WITH WHAT MATTERS

*"Thy words were found, and I did eat them;
and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart..."*
~ Jeremiah 15:16

1. The Translation Problem

- a. *"Which Bible translation should I use?" "Which version is best?"*
 - i. This a 1st World Problem: >1 billion do not have a Bible in their language (50%)
 - ii. Wealth affords disbelief, apathy, trust in tools/technology - 1 Tim 6:9, 17-18
- b. Full disclosure: I'm a Bible Believer – every word perfectly preserved in English in KJB.
- c. Formerly, "updating the text, oldest and best", but now, "it doesn't matter which one"
- d. Popular advice: "use many" "latest one" "any will do" "all are good" "best for you"
- e. The dirty secret behind all of this advice → "none are perfect" "all have errors"

2. What Matters Most

- a. Picking a Bible speaks to your preference being primary.
- b. You do not get to choose the Bible you have. God/history gave it. 2 Tim 3:16
- c. Your choice is to let God be true, and His words true - 1 Thess 2:13, Rom 3:4
- d. If God is true, pure, perfect, then his words are - Prov 30:5, Ps 19:7, 12:6-7
- e. Believers submit to God's words; the world requires God's words submit to us.
- f. If you won't let the words of God change you, you have no business holding them.
- g. What matters most for your faith are the words of God – Rom 10:17, Luke 4:4
- h. Believe the Bible, read the Bible, use it before you resolve this issue - Jer 15:16
- i. The subject of which translation is not merely a secondary/trivial issue for the church.

3. Wrong Ways to Choose

- a. How do you know which translation is the right, best, the one, or does it even matter?
- b. Wrong ways to know:
 - i. *"Show me a verse!"* Lol An unserious response of those who don't know (sign?)
 - ii. Readability – The most common argument against KJ, but not most important.
 1. Want an "easy read"? Choose a summary, paraphrase, child's version.
 - iii. To get understanding – Translation does not help with difficult doctrines.
 1. Want understanding? You need to learn to use the Bible you have.
 - iv. Based on function – Formal, informal, children, unbelievers, study, etc.
 - v. Forget it (It doesn't matter) – God speaks to us outside the Bible.
- c. If I didn't believe God preserved his words, I wouldn't care which book you read.
 - i. Bibles are different – you must decide if it matters.

4. Why Which Translation Matters

- a. Words matter, and the words are different (words that change meaning).
 - i. *Or, "It doesn't matter what words you use as long as the meaning is there."*
- b. Purity matters, and some have errors, introduce uncertainties, challenge doctrine.
 - i. *Or, "No major doctrine affected." "Doubtful passages don't matter."*
- c. History matters, the text must be preserved, unchanging, in use through history.
 - i. *Or, newly discovered, ever changing, not used in history by the church.*
- d. Language matters, most debase the language, remove helps/precision, lost its savour.
 - i. *Or, "Thou is too hard" "There are old words we don't know" "Learn Greek"*
- e. Results matter, many cause disunity, discourage memorize/study, not proven (<30 yrs)
 - i. There is one English translation unequaled in communion, use, fruit, and effect.
- f. If any (or all) of these things matter to you, then you know how to choose.