

Fundamentals Of The Church

Translation VS Manipulations

(II Ti 2:15)

INTRODUCTION

1. Good Morning
 - a. Greeting...
2. Series on the "Fundamentals Of The Church."
 - a. We have looked at the Godhead.
 - b. We have looked at proper worship.
 - c. Today we look at "Translations VS Manipulations."
3. When talking about different translations there can be quite an uproar.
 - a. The reason: usually people have grown up with a certain one and are comfortable with it.
 - b. Sometimes it's just because people want to be antagonistic.
 - c. But most of it is based on a lack of study concerning it.
4. Hence we will take a look at it today.
 - a. My hope is that by the end of this lesson everyone will be able to find out if their translation is a translation or a manipulation of the scriptures.

I. Historicity Of Translations

- A. The original languages
 1. Some people actually think the Paul walked around with the KJV.
 - i. I was told of a little ol' lady in TN who told a young preacher that he should that which Paul used. When he replied he did, she said it didn't sound like the authorized Bible to her.
 2. Though some think this most do not but what are the original languages the Bible was written in?
 - i. Hebrew, Aramaic, and Koine Greek
 - a. The O.T. was written in either the Hebrew or the Aramaic, mostly Hebrew.
 - b. The N.T. was written in Koine Greek.
- B. Translating
 1. This is simply taking something that is written down or spoken and converting it into another language.
 - i. It allows someone to read "the Bible" without learning the other languages.
- C. The Septuagint
 1. The LXX is an extremely important translation of the O.T.
 - i. It was started around the 3rd century B.C. and completed around before 200 B.C.
 2. The LXX is the O.T. translated into Koine Greek.
 - i. Give the reason: Koine Greek was the official language everyone knew and used and the Hebrew people wanted their children to be able to read the O.T. thus the need for the LXX.
 3. Most quotes in the N.T. are from the LXX.

Fundamentals Of The Church

D. Latin Vulgate

1. This is the work of Eusebius Hieronymus or as most know him "St. Jerome."
 - i. He was born circa 340.
2. He was commissions by Pope Damasus I in 382 to revise the old Latin translations.
 - i. Jerome used many of the older Latin translations to make his though he often had the Greek MSS that were available at his disposal.
 - ii. He used, for the O.T., the Hexapla of Origin (Origin's LXX) to revise it.
 - a. He later 390 AD began to translated the O.T. from the original to the Latin.

E. Early English translations

1. John Wyclif is credited with the first English translation in the 14th century.
 - i. There were some partial translations earlier but no complete translations.
 - ii. John Wyclif had two versions he wrote called the Wyclif Bible.
 - a. The first was more of a translation from that Latin that was strong to the word order of the Latin and hard for many to understand.
 - b. The second was written with a common vernacular in mind.
2. Between 1500 to 1800 you had many translations made.
 - i. Tyndale Bible - by William Tyndale.
 - a. Tyndale's was the first to go back to the original languages and used the Latin for his translation.
 - b. Tyndale was the first to use the printing press to get his out to the masses.
 - ii. The Great Bible - 1539
 - a. This is called the first "authorized Bible" because it was authorized by King Henry the VIII to be made and used in the church of England.
 - iii. The Geneva Bible - 1560
 - a. It was one of the first to have chapter and verses.
 - iv. Bishops Bible - 1568
 - a. This was an attempt by Elizabeth I to make a "new authorized Bible."
 - b. This is also the base text translation of the KJV.
 - v. The King James - 1611
 - a. It was "authorized" by King James I and started in 1604 and finished in 1611.
 - b. This made the KJV the third authorized Bible.
 - c. It was translated from the original languages along with the Latin and other translations.

F. Other notable English translations

1. ASV - 1901
2. RSV - 1952
3. NASB - 1971 (updated 1995)

Fundamentals Of The Church

4. NIV - 1978
 5. NKJV - 1982
 6. ESV - 2001
- G. Other translations
1. Living Bible Paraphrase
 2. The Message
 3. The Good News Translation
 4. The Cotton Patch Version

II. Differing Philosophies Of Translations

- A. The word for word translations
1. This philosophy is that the translation will only translate the original language words into the desired language of the translation without commentary.
 - i. In other words they are just trying to give you what the original language says word for word.
- B. The paraphrase translations
1. This philosophy is that the translation will give the thought behind the original without always giving the original. These are sometimes called the thought for thought translations.
 - i. In other words they give the commentary to the original languages rather than the word for word.

III. Choosing A Translation

- A. How people generally choose a translation
1. Most people choose a translation based on what they were given growing up.
 - i. If you were raised with a KJV you use the KJV.
 - ii. If you were raised with a NIV you use the NIV.
 - iii. If you were raised with a NKJV you use the NKJV...
- B. However this is a huge mistake
1. Some versions are simply better than others.
 - i. People don't want to hear this but it is true.
 2. Children of God need to spend more time knowing their translation to make sure it is a good one.
- C. So which one is the best?
1. This really is not a fair or good question because most translations have their strengths and weaknesses.
 - i. There is no clear cut favorite but there are a few excellent choices over the rest as long as you know their short comings.
 - ii. Remember no translation will be without short coming as all are translated from the original to the common and when crossing languages it is impossible to get it perfect in every way.

Fundamentals Of The Church

2. Obviously the word for word would be better as it allows the reader to make up his mind as to what God was saying rather than man telling us what God is saying.
 - i. Explain...
 - ii. Example: **Ps 51:5**
 - a. "Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me."¹
 1. Now the Bible is clear that children are not born in sin.
 - i. **Ek 18:20; Is 7:15-16; Mt 18:3; 19:4**
 2. However if you believe such and hold to this false doctrine you would possible translate **Ps 51:5** as such.
 - b. "Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me." (NIV)
 1. You can see a difference between the two.
 - c. What was David, inspired by God, saying...that he was born into a sinful word, not into sin himself.
 1. If you don't have the word for word and only have the paraphrase you can see how it can easily lead someone astray and how it leads to a contradiction in scripture.
3. The best word for word translations to date are...
 - i. ASV, KJV, ESV, NASB, NKJV

IV. Why Does All This Matter?

- A. Because we will be held accountable for rightly dividing the truth
 1. **II Ti 2:15** "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."
- B. There are no paraphrase translations that are great or even good translations
 1. That includes the NIV, Living Bible, Message...
 - i. Can some of these be good supplemental versions for your studies, of course, but to use it as your main Bible you will have to rewrite much of it to make it decent.
- C. What I'm not saying about paraphrase translations
 1. I'm not saying burn them all and destroy them.
 - i. As mentioned they can be good supplemental study tools.
 2. I'm not saying you cannot convert people with some of them.
 - i. I grew up with the NIV and converted multiple people with the NIV.
 3. I'm not saying you cannot go to heaven if you own one.
 - i. Just don't have it as your main studying translation.

V. Bringing It All Together

- A. When one studies the Bible they should always try to have...
 1. Multiple translations for comparison.
 - i. The more you have the more you can know what you have is accurate.

¹ All Scriptures are taken from the NKJV unless otherwise noted.

Fundamentals Of The Church

2. One main study translation that you know everything about.
 - i. That means you know all the short comings...
 - ii. For example...
 - a. **Ac 2:27, 31** "Because thou wilt not leave my soul in **hell**, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption...31 He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in **hell**, neither his flesh did see corruption." (**KJV**) (emphasis mine)
 1. Gives the impression Christ was in hell but He wasn't He was in Paradise & thus the correct translation should have been Hades.
 - b. **Mt 19:9** "And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for **sexual immorality**, and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery." (emphasis mine)
 1. Gives the impression one can divorce and remarry for any sexually immoral thing. This is wrong it should have been translated fornication, which is a physical sexual act whereas sexual immorality could be anything including thinking lustfully. But thinking lustfully is not grounds for divorce & remarriage of the offended.
 - c. **Mt 5:17** "Do not think that I have come to **abolish** the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to **abolish** them but to fulfill them." (**ESV**) (emphasis mine)
 1. This gives the idea that Christ didn't come to abolish the law which contradicts other scriptures.
 - a. **Ep 2:14-15** "For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility 15 by **abolishing the law** of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace" (**ESV**) (emphasis mine)
 2. Christ came not to destroy the law but in fulfilling it He abolished it.
 - a. In other words He didn't come to tear it down but fulfill it and thus make it obsolete (**Co 2:14; Ro 7:1-4**).
3. A desire to want truth above all.
 - i. Don't allow egos to dictate reality.
 - a. There will be some here today that will say there is nothing wrong with the NIV, or some other paraphrase version they have however the truth it there is something wrong with it but more than that there is tons wrong with it and the others. Don't allow ego to override truth.

Fundamentals Of The Church

CONCLUSION

1. Brothers and sisters this isn't a KJV only sermon and you know it as my main study Bible is the ESV. But I hope it is a reality check and a wakeup call to the truth concerning translations.
 - a. Get a good solid word for word translation and stick with it, learn it, love it.
2. Invitation
 - a. God's Plan of Salvation
 - i. Hear/Study **Rom 10:17; II Tim 2:15**
 - ii. Believe Jesus Is The Christ **Jn 3:16; 8:24**
 - iii. Repent/Turn To God **Ac 17:30; Lk 24:47**
 - iv. Confess Jesus As Lord **Mt 10:32; Rom 10:9**
 - v. Immersed For The Forgiveness of Sins **Ac 2:38; 22:16; I Pt 3:21**
 - vi. Live A Faithful Life **I Jn 1:7; Eph 5:8**