

4th & Stewart church of Christ

"...upon this rock I will build my church;
and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."
~ Matthew 16:18



August 2, 2015

Contact Us:

3201 4th Street
Brownwood, TX 76801
325-646-7102
www.4thstreetcoc.org
office@4thstreetcoc.org

Meeting Times:

Sunday:

Bible Study9:45 AM
Worship10:40 AM
Care, Inc. Service 2:30 PM
Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday:

Ladies Bible Class.10:00 AM
Bible Study 7:00 PM

Elders:

Gene Bannister..... Billy Chism

Deacons:

Mike Bannister..... Don Smith

James Thomas

Preacher:

Johnny McCaghren

Works We Support:

Cherokee Home for Children
Gospel Broadcast Network
Heart of Texas Bible Camp (Bangs)
House to House, Heart to Heart
Mission Printing
Rohan Jones, Africa
The Truth in Love
World Bible School

Let us know if you want to study
the Bible to know more about
Christ and His Church.

Most of the English speaking world has no idea how blessed we are to have so many English translations of the Bible. There was a time when making an English translation of the Bible was illegal and there are many places around the globe where people would do anything to have a copy of the Bible in their native tongue. But with various English translations of the Bible, there are some things we need to understand.



At the risk over simplifying this matter, here are five things I think Christians need to know and understand about Bible translations:

1. We Do Not Have the Original Manuscripts

You probably already know this, but the Bible is comprised of 66 books and these books were written in Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek by about 40 different inspired men, "as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit" (2 Peter 1:21). Because they were written thousands of years ago, the original handwritten manuscripts have long since deteriorated and turned to dust.

But before they disappeared, they were meticulously copied by thousands of scribes over thousands of years. Many of these scribes were not translating the Scriptures into a different language; they were simply making fresh copies (sort of like an ancient form of Xerox) to faithfully preserve God's word. We have thousands of these manuscripts in the languages in which they were originally written.

There are understandably some variations and discrepancies between these thousands of manuscripts, some manuscripts are older than others, and some manuscripts are considered more reliable than others. But because most of the scribes were very meticulous, there are relatively few variations and when all the manuscripts are compared to one another, we can be confident we know what the inspired authors originally wrote.

Understanding this helps us to understand that the more manuscripts we discover, and the more we learn about the original languages, the more accurate our translations become. Some people are hesitant to trust newer translations. I understand that, but I think we need to recognize that we have far more information now than people had in 1611, for instance, when the King James Version was first published. Therefore, in some ways, some of the newer translations are superior.

2. Translators Have Different Philosophies

In addition to the manuscripts used, translations vary based on the publishers' philosophies and principles of translation. In the front of most Bibles you can usually find a page explaining the translation philosophy. I can't overemphasize how important it is for you to pay attention to this page in your Bible.

One difference in translation philosophy is word-for-word vs. thought-for-thought. You see, translation is not always an exact science. There is not always an exact English equivalent for every Greek, Hebrew, or Aramaic word. Furthermore, the inspired authors often used idioms that made perfect sense to the original audience, but would not mean the same thing to us if translated word-for-word.

Consider our idiom, "It's raining cats and dogs." English readers understand that phrase, but if it were translated word-for-word into another language, people might look to the sky for falling ca-

(Continued on page 2)

"And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelist, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,..."

Ephesians 4:11-13

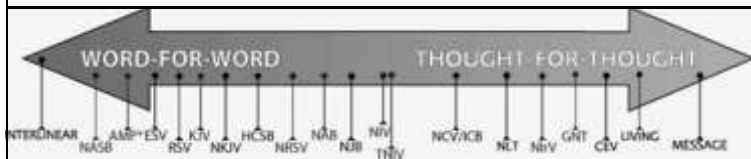


(Continued from page 1)

nines and felines. So if you translated that phrase as, "It's raining really hard," that would be a far more useful translation than a literal word-for-word translation.

So there are times when translations are more useful when they translate thought-for-thought, rather than word-for-word. However, I believe this is the exception, rather than the rule. If translators go too far in this direction they can easily start telling readers what they believe the text means, rather than what the text says. Which is why I favor translations that lean more toward a word-for-word philosophy and I steer away from the thought-for-thought translations.

Here is a chart that I found online many years ago that I find very helpful. I tend to favor the translations on the left side of this graph, like the New American Standard (NASB) and the English Standard Version (ESV).



But the important thing is that YOU research your version's translation philosophy and understand whether your translation is telling you what the text says or telling you what they believe the text means.

3. English Words are Always Changing Meaning

Another element to consider is the changing meanings of English words. For example, consider how the word "gay" has changed over the years. In the King James Version, James 2:3 says, "gay clothing," but the New American Standard says, "fine clothes." The word "gay" means something completely different today than it did when the King James Version was translated.

Because our English language is constantly changing, we will ALWAYS need new translations that help the text to maintain the correct meaning in the current vernacular. One hundred years from now, if the Lord hasn't come back, we will need new translations because the English language will have changed.

4. Theologically Significant Words Shouldn't be Abandoned

While there is something to be said for translating the Bible so it can be understood, we must be very careful not to abandon theo-

logically significant words and phrases simply because many people don't know what they mean. Words like propitiation, sanctification, atonement, justification, and redemption might not be heard in everyday language, but that doesn't mean they need to be abandoned for more culturally relevant words.

In an effort to make the Bible more readable, many modern translations (especially the versions on the right side of the chart above), tend to jettison these words. In so doing, they no longer communicate the depth and beauty of the gospel message. And in some cases, they have actually distorted and perverted the gospel message.

We need to elevate our own understanding to the level of Scripture, rather than asking Scripture to be brought down to our level. If we don't understand what words like "propitiation" mean, we need to do some research and study rather than throwing away important gospel words.

5. Using Multiple Translations is a Great Idea

I believe Christians are making a huge mistake when they limit themselves to one translation. You will have a much more comprehensive knowledge of God's word if you compare, and read from, various translations. So here are a few personal recommendations:

For your primary Bible – the Bible you use for Bible classes, worship services, and personal Bible study – I recommend a more literal "word-for-word" translation.

But when you're just reading the Bible to get the "big picture," you might want to occasionally use a "thought-for-thought" translation so you can more easily understand the narrative aspect of Scripture.

Anytime you are studying, and especially when you don't understand a passage, it's a good idea to compare translations. And rather than having four or five Bible open when you study, you can use a parallel Bible or a website like BibleGateway.com to easily compare the same passage in various translations.

Paraphrase versions are not evil, but if you use a paraphrase version, I recommend using it not like a Bible, but like a commentary.

I hope this gives you a few things to think about when you are considering which translation of the Bible to use.

And may I also suggest we be kind, patient, and gracious when people decide to use a different translation than we use? If you use the KJV, awesome! If you prefer a newer translation, that's great! Just make sure you know why you are using that Bible, don't be afraid to compare translations from time and time, and "above all, keep loving one another earnestly" (1 Peter 4:8).

Wes McAdams (radicallychristian.com)

Television

The Truth In Love (Robert Dodson)

Sunday @ 7:00am on KTAB

In Search of the Lord's Way (Phil Sanders)

Sunday @ 7:30am on KTAB

Life In The Light (Chris McCurley)

Sunday @ 10:30am on KTAB

Radio

Preaching the Word (Michael Light)

Sunday @ 9:00am on KOXE 101.3

Internet

TheGospelRadioNetwork.org

Gospel Broadcasting Network (Gbnv.org)

God's Plan for Redeeming Man

Hear Learn the saving message of Christ's sacrifice (1 Cor. 1:18; Rom. 10:17).

Believe Jesus is the Son of God (John 8:24)

Confess Jesus as your Lord, Lawgiver, and King (Rom. 10:9-10; Matt. 10:32-33)

Repent of your sinful conduct (Luke 13:3,5)

Complete your initial obedience to the gospel by being **baptized** for the forgiveness of your sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16)

Live faithfully (Rev. 2:10; 2 Tim. 4:7-8)

Bible Reading Schedule

Aug. 2 2 Kgs. 20-21

Aug. 3 2 Chr. 32-33

Aug. 4 Nahum 1-3

Aug. 5 2 Kgs. 22-23; 2 Chr. 34-35

Aug. 6 Zephaniah 1-3

Aug. 7 Jer. 1-3

Aug. 8 Jer. 4-6

Aug. 9 Jer. 7-9

"Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."
(2 Timothy 2:15)



Selective Outrage and Misplaced Priorities

Cecil the lion is dead. A Minnesota dentist lured the 13-year-old black-maned African lion out of a national park in Zimbabwe back in late June, shot and wounded him with a crossbow, and finally finished him off with a rifle on July 1. Then he skinned the big cat and took his head as a trophy.

Whether one favors or opposes “big game” hunting in general, this case sparks justifiable disgust and outrage. The dentist himself has apologized. His web site, Facebook page, and phone have been flooded with negative comments and even threats. At least one Congressperson is calling for him to be investigated. Zimbabwe authorities want to prosecute him. A petition has been started asking that the U.S. government extradite him to Zimbabwe to stand trial.

Meanwhile, a pro-life group has publicized its under-cover videos of Planned Parenthood officials bargaining to sell various body parts of aborted human babies. One video shows an abortionist calmly eating a salad and drinking a glass of wine while describing how to kill an unborn child by crushing various parts of its body without damaging the other parts that might be sold.

Ghastly, did you say? Ghoulish? Yes, indeed! And one Planned Parenthood official has apologized – not for what the organization does, but for the cavalier way in which the salad-eating, wine-drinking abortionist talked about it!

And, yes, disgust and outrage came quickly – but not in the way you might think. Official government outrage is being directed toward the makers of the under-cover videos, not toward the baby-parts merchants of death at Planned Parenthood. Both the California Attorney General and the United States Attorney General are investigating the film-makers. You may rest assured that neither will investigate Planned Parenthood.

The primary God-ordained duty of civil government is to protect those who do what is right and punish those who do wrong (Romans 13:3, 4). Perhaps the authorities in Zimbabwe will hold the Minnesota dentist accountable for his crime. If so, that is as it should be. We can only wish that the baby-butchers at Planned Parenthood would face legal consequences for their barbarism. Human life ranks higher than that of animals – even if the animal is a noble 13-year-old celebrity lion. Where is the outrage that thousands of tiny humans are being summarily slaughtered every day, some of them being carved up and sold? Unfortunately, civil government often fails to do what God ordained it to do. Our job is to warn, to pray, to present a godly example, and to work in every way we can to influence people toward God and His righteousness.

Joe Slater (justinchurchofchrist.com)

Celebrate

"Rejoice with those who rejoice..." (Romans 12:15)

August Birthdays: Joe Dennis (9), Jessica Dennis (13), Don Smith (14), Royce Ford (16), Anita Alexander (25), Roy Dodson (29).

August Anniversaries: Chipper & Susan Bridges (1), Matthew & Kaci Churchwell (15), Terry & Pam Teague (16), Don & Darlene Smith (29).

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Johnny know...



Records

	July 19, 2015	July 26, 2015
Bible Class	62	42
AM Worship	71	59
PM Worship	41	47
Wednesday PM	36	42
Contribution	\$2,469	\$1,797

Next Week: 8/2/15		Next Week: 8/9/15		August 2015 Make Announcements: Joe Dennis Prepare Communion: Randy & Laura Huckaby Clean Building: Dennis / Guthrie Hostess Committee: Laura Huckaby's group September 2015 Make Announcements: John Barnum Prepare Communion: Lisa Greer Clean Building: Huckaby / Bland Hostess Committee: Laura Huckaby's group
Sunday AM:	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Song Leader: Mike Bannister		
Greeters	Stormy & Juanita Barnum	Tom & Carol Wilcox		
Opening Prayer	John Barnum	Randy Huckaby		
Communion	Don Smith*, James Thomas Randy Huckaby, Hank Wheeler	Tom Wilcox*, John Barnum Ken Maninger, Chase Churchwell		
Closing Prayer	Gene Bannister	Hank Wheeler		
Attendance Cards	Caleb Dennis	Chase Churchwell		
Sunday PM:	Song Leader: Ken Maninger	Song Leader: James Fuller		
Opening Prayer	James Fuller	Gene Bannister		
Scripture Reading	Joe Dennis	Don Smith		
Communion	Don Smith	Tom Wilcox		
Closing Prayer	Billy Chism	Allen Bland		
Wednesday Devotionals:	August 5 Singing Night	August 12 Prayer Night	August 19 Joe Dennis	August 26 Tom Wilcox

Search the Scriptures

Be like the Bereans who "received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so." (Acts 17:11)

Studies for the week of August 2, 2015	Sunday Class Acts 10:17ff Wednesday Class Singing Night
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Building a Better Approach to Developing Leaders</u></p> <p>I. What is a leader?</p> <p>A. Christian leaders are servants (Mt. 20:25-28; Jn. 13:1-17).</p> <p>B. Christian leaders are <u>godly</u> servants – character.</p> <p>C. Christian leaders know where they are going – vision.</p> <p>D. Christian leaders have followers.</p> <p>II. Four core leadership competencies – character, knowledge, skills and emotions.</p> <p>A. The leader's character (Be).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Character reflects the heart and soul of the leader (Ps. 78:72) 1 Tim. 3:1-7, Titus 1:6-9 and 1 Peter 5:2 provide the church with the characteristics of elders. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Tim. 3:8-13 provides the qualities for deacons. In 2 Peter 1:3-9, Peter lists qualities for all Christians. Acts 6:3-5 provides some qualities for those appointed to serve in the daily distribution. Gal. 5:22,23 – the fruit of the Spirit that should characterize all leaders regardless of their level of responsibility. Teachability is a vital component of character. <p>B. The leader's knowledge (know). The process of acquiring and processing information.</p> <p>C. The leader's skills (do).</p> <p>D. The leader's emotions (feel).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A leader's emotions affect his mood – and his mood is contagious. Leaders must also recognize other's emotions and help them manage them – empathy. <p>III. The "Better Approach" is the Old Approach.</p> <p>A. Ephesians 4:11-13.</p> <p>B. 2 Timothy 2:2.</p> <p>C. Jesus and His disciples.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Jesus taught truth to His disciples. Jesus modeled truth to His disciples. Jesus served His disciples. Jesus assigned task to His disciples. <p>Leadership development is a must for the church! – Not only are there measurable results to be gained – it is the pattern that is given in Scripture. The development of future leaders is the responsibility of the current leadership.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>John Chapter 10 (2) – Jesus: Rejected By the Jews</u></p> <p>I. The Message of Jesus (1-21)</p> <p>A. The metaphor (1-6): Jesus illustrates His mission on earth by describing two different ways to enter a sheepfold.</p> <p>B. The meaning (7-18): Jesus explains His illustration by giving the characteristics of three kinds of individuals.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Characteristics of the Good Shepherd (7,9,10b-11,14-18): Here Jesus describes Himself. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> His relationship with the sheep. His relationship with the Father. Characteristics of thieves and robbers (8,10a): Their purpose is to steal, kill, and destroy! Characteristics of a hired hand (12,13). Doesn't care for the sheep. <p>C. The mixed views (19-21): There is much confusion concerning Jesus after He speaks these words.</p> <p>II. The Malice against Jesus (22-39): The Jews now attempt to kill Jesus on two different occasions because of his claims to be the Son of God.</p> <p>A. The setting (22-24).</p> <p>B. First attempt (25-31).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Jesus' words (25-30). <ol style="list-style-type: none"> He says they are not His sheep (25,26). He says His sheep listen to Him (27). He says His sheep will never perish and cannot be snatched away (28,29). He says He and the Father are one (30). The Jews' wickedness (31): They ask Jesus if He is the Messiah. When He says He is, they become angry and pick up stones to kill Him. <p>C. Second attempt (32-39).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Jesus' words (32-38). <ol style="list-style-type: none"> He says they refuse to believe in the Scriptures (32-36). He says they should believe in His miracles (37,38). The Jews' wickedness (39): Again they unsuccessfully attempt to kill Him. <p>III. The Meeting with Jesus (40-42): Jesus now leaves Jerusalem for a while.</p> <p>A. The place (40): He goes to where John once baptized.</p> <p>B. The people (41,42): Many meet with Him there and are saved.</p>