

Theology 101

The Bible - Part IV

Maybe the last lesson in our Bible series???

Review:

- A. The Bible is basis for our doctrine and practice.
- B. God has *revealed* Himself to us through His Word
- C. God miraculously *inspired* the very words of the Scriptures
- D. God has *preserved* the Bible for all generations.
- E. We began looking at the *superiority* of the King James Bible, specifically its *Text* and its *Translators*.

V. Superiority of the King James Bible (cont.)

C. Techniques

1. How a translation is produced is extremely important
 - a) Let's start with John 3:16 in the Greek (Textus Receptus)
 - (1) ουτως γαρ ηγαπησεν ο θεος τον κοσμον ωστε τον υιον αυτου τον μονογενη εδωκεν ινα πας ο πιστευων εις αυτον μη αποληται αλλ εχη ζωην αιωνιον
 - b) How do we get that into English?
 - (1) For fun, here's an extremely rough translation of John 3:16 I put together using Strong's definitions:
 - (2) So as loved the God the world therefore His son own His only gave for all that trust Him not die but have life eternal.
2. Formal Equivalence (word-for-word)
 - a) Seeks to faithfully reproduce the exact words
 - b) Used in the New American Standard, English Standard, Revised Standard, and the King James.
 - c) John 3:16 in the *King James Bible*: "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."
3. Dynamic Equivalence (thought-for-thought)
 - a) Seeks to reproduce the ideas or thoughts but not the exact words.
 - b) Leans more toward interpretation than translation
 - c) Used in Holman Christian Standard and New International Version.
 - d) John 3:16 in *Contemporary English Version*: "God loved the people of this world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who has faith in him will have eternal life and never really die."
4. Free Translation (Paraphrase)
 - a) Drastically rewrites the source
 - b) The general idea is there... somewhere...
 - c) Used in the *Living Bible* and *The Message*.
 - d) John 3:16 in *The Message*: "This is how much God loved the world: He gave his Son, his one and only Son. And this is why: so that no one need be destroyed; by believing in him, anyone can have a whole and lasting life."

5. Only one of these methods (Formal Equivalence) honors the very words of God and lets those words speak directly to us without being filtered or interpreted along the way.
6. Italics
 - a) Ever wonder why there are words in italics in the King James? This is because of the honesty of the translators. Italicized words are not from the original Greek or Hebrew, but are supplied to aid the reader.
 - b) An example - John 3:30 - the second "must" is not in the Greek, but it is implied by the use of contrast in John's statement.
 - c) Another example: Peter quotes the italicized words of Psalm 16:8 in Acts 2:25.

D. Theology

1. Bible translation is about preserving God's Word and NOT personal agendas.
2. Too many times the positions of a translator influence their work, which is opposite of how the Scripture should operate.
3. By the way, there is not a "Baptist Bible"... the Bible makes us Baptists!
4. A few examples of theological changes:
 - a) Mark 9:44,46 - may be omitted
 - b) John 6:47 - may omit "on me"
 - c) Acts 8:37 - may be omitted
 - d) I John 5:7 - may omit the last half of verse
 - e) Revelation 8:13 - probably change "angel" to "eagle"
 - f) Mark 10:24 - probably omits the "trust in riches" phrase, and say that it is difficult to go to Heaven.
 - g) John 5:3-4 - probably omits reference to the angel troubling the water
5. Question: If these modern takes on the Bible were better, where are the better Christians they produce?
 - a) It is logical to me to see that a "purer" Word of God would produce greater results. I just don't see that.