

NIV & OTHER PSEUDO-VERSIONS

A. **Solomon** said, “of making many books there is no end” (Ecc 12:12) – this applies to the Bible today.

1. New translations or revisions have averaged one per year since 1881.
2. The Scripture is the verbally inspired word of God (1 Cor 2:10-13; 2 Tim 3:16-17).
 - a. That fact alone necessitates our caution in regard to translations.

B. **There** are at least three motives behind the publishing a Bible translation.

1. Profit for the publishing houses.
2. To promote & advance the word of God.
3. To promote a sectarian interpretation – with regard to the latter...

Good News Bible in Today's English Version

Called “The Bloodless Bible”, because the translator (Robert Bratcher, 1966, 1971) avoided using the phrase “blood of Christ” & used instead “sacrificial death of Christ”

In 1992, the American Bible Society issued a revision of this Bible with gender-neutral language.

In 1995 the ABA published the Contemporary English Version that was intended to replace the TEV.

What follows are common errors in these translation.

Salvation By Faith Only:

Rom 1:17 – For the gospel reveals how God puts people right with himself: it is *through faith from beginning to end*. As the scripture says, “The person who is put right with God through faith shall live”

* **Rom 3:27-28** – What, then, can we boast about? Nothing! & what is the reason for this? Is it that we obey the Law? No, but that we believe. *For we conclude that a person is put right with God only through faith, & not by doing what the Law commands.*

Holy Spirit Baptism For All Christians:

Acts 2:1-4 – When the day of Pentecost came, *all the believers were gathered together in one place*. Suddenly there was a noise from the sky which sounded like a strong wind blowing, & it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then they saw what looked like tongues of fire which spread out & touched each person there. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit & began to talk in other languages, as the Spirit enabled them to speak

Saturday Serving Of The Lord's Supper:

Acts 20:7 – *On Saturday evening we gathered together for the fellowship meal*. Paul spoke to the people & kept on speaking until midnight, since he was going to leave the next day.

Church Founded On Peter:

Matt 16:18 – And so I tell you, *Peter: you are a rock, & on this rock foundation I will build my church*, & not even death will ever be able to overcome it.

Detract From Jesus' Deity:

John 3:16 – For God loved the world so much that *he gave his only Son*, so that everyone who believes in him may not die but have eternal life.

BEGOTTEN: “Single of its kind.”

Only son is incorrect ([Lk 3:38](#); [20:36](#); [Rom 8:14](#); [Gal 3:26](#); [Heb 12:5-8](#))

New Living Translation

Total Inherited Depravity:

Eph 2:3 – All of us used to live that way, following the passions & desires of our evil nature. *We were born with an evil nature*, & we were under God's anger just like everyone else.

Psa 51:5 – For *I was born a sinner* – yes, from the moment my mother conceived me

Salvation By Faith Only & Unconditional Election

Eph 2:8 – God saved you by his special favor when you believed. And *you can't take credit for this* [for salvation or belief, bj] it is a gift from God.

Premillennialism:

2 Tim 4:1 – And so I solemnly urge you before God & before Christ Jesus – who will someday judge the living & the dead *when he appears to set up his Kingdom*:

Isa 2:2, 4 – In the last days, *the Temple of the LORD in Jerusalem will become the most important place on earth*. People from all over the world will go there to worship....The LORD will settle international disputes. All the nations will beat their swords into plowshares & their spears into pruning hooks. All wars will stop, & military training will come to an end.

Law of Moses Still Has Power:

Matt 5:17 – Don't misunderstand why I have come. *I did not come to abolish the law of Moses* or the writings of the prophets. No, I came to fulfill them.

Eph 2:15 (nkjv) – *having abolished [to render powerless or ineffective] in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances*, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace,

Detract From Jesus' Deity:

John 3:16 – For God so loved the world that *he gave his only Son*, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.

Isa 7:14 – *A young woman* who is pregnant will have a son.

Isa 7:14 (RSV, 1952)– Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, *a young woman* shall conceive & bear a son, & shall call his name Immanuel.

Jn 3:16 (RSV) – For God so loved the world that *he gave his only Son*, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

Amplified Bible

Instrumental Music In The Church:

Speak out to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, *offering praise with voices [and instruments]* and making melody with all your heart to the Lord,

In the Living Bible (paraphrased) you can find some cursing & street language (**1 Sam 20:30 Gen 19:5 2 Sam 11:4 Jn 9:34**).

So people view Bibles in the same way they view churches. “*Don't worry about the variations, just choose one that suits you.*”

But truly there is a version for every interpretive slant on the Scripture.

We are witnessing through modern versions a bold attempt to undermine the truth faith, of which there is only one, with denominational dogmas.

The methods used to accomplish this are things like paraphrases, deletions, insertions, footnotes & commentaries within the text.

Creeds are subtle & dangerous, but they are even more insidious when they are presented in a “translation” of the Bible claiming to be the actual the word of God.

The devil operates as an angel of light (**2 Cor 11:14**).

New Translations Aid & Comfort The Atheist

American Association for the Advancement of Atheism
(annual meeting, & statement about modern versions)

“They are saving the ship of Christianity by throwing the cargo overboard...the virgin birth, atonement, & the resurrection. **How long will men sail the sea in an empty ship?** They will go ashore & enjoy life with the Atheists. We welcome the aid of the modernists & pledge them our fullest cooperation in ridding the world of any serious acceptance of Christian theology.” (As quoted by A. G. Hobbs, *Contending for the Faith*, April 1983, p. 7).

Principles For Choosing A Translation

Today, people want a translation of the Bible that’s easy to read & understand, but the problem with that idea is that it focuses on clarity instead of accuracy.

While we want to understand what we’re reading, we must not overlook the need for accuracy in translating God’s Word.

What good is an understandable translation of the Bible if it is teaching error?

So consider the following principles:

1. First, be aware that no translation is inspired.
2. Find out if it is the work of one man or a group.
3. Find out the philosophy of the translating committee (Word to Word or Word to Thought).
4. Find out if verses have been omitted, which are found in the tried & true translations (ASV, KJV).
5. Compare it with the ASV & KJV, because translators of the new versions generally acknowledging the accuracy & reliability of those older translations.
 - a. Compare these passages: Luke 1:3; Mark 16:9-20; Acts 20:7; 1 Cor 2:14; Eph 2:1-3; Matt 16:18; Jas 2:24; Rom 1:16-17; 3:27-28
 - b. Psa 51:5 (“born in sin”)
 - c. Isa 7:14 (“young woman”)
 - d. Jn 3:16 (“begotten” left out or replaced with “one and only”)
 - e. Matt 5:17 (if “abolish” then Jesus did not do what Paul said he did in Eph 2:15).

CLOSING

A. Next week we want to focus on the New International Version.

1. This version, if used exclusively, will not adequately support our calling & mission as God's people (1 Tim 3:15).
2. Keep in mind that a translating committee doesn't have to mistranslate every passage in order to accomplish an unholy goal.
3. The NIV has been selling very well for 30 years or more.
 - a. It used to be, & probably still is, the best selling Bible for Baker House.
4. Christian parents are buying the NIV for their children, & while the parents may be able to identify the error it contains, it is doubtful that they relate that information to their children?

5. "But a member of the church was on the translating committee!"

- a. That's one man out of 115, & one man doesn't a good translation make.

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