

**The Doctrine of Scripture: Why all the translations and which should I use?**

I. Key Questions:

Why do translations differ? Why do we keep making new translations?

Which one should I/we use?

II. Three Key Issues that

A. \_\_\_\_\_

B. Translation Philosophy

1. \_\_\_\_\_

The translators seek to render the original language into the target language as close as possible to the individual words and grammar of the original language. Literal translations tend to be less interpretive leaving ambiguities for the readers to interpret.

2. \_\_\_\_\_ Equivalence

Translators seek to render the meanings of the original giving priority to the contemporary grammar, vocabulary and style of the target language. Tend to be moderately interpretive leaving fewer ambiguities for the reader to interpret.

3. \_\_\_\_\_

The translators render the original text into the colloquial expression of the target language exhibiting a great deal of freedom to render the original idiomatically in the target with little concern for the form of the original.

III. Thoughts on translation

A. Praise God for \_\_\_\_\_ his Word. Be confident that we have the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.

B. Translations are inspired to the degree they reflect the meaning of the \_\_\_\_\_ texts.

C. The ongoing need for new translations (for clarity and mission) and the fact that translation involves interpretation means that the church needs to train people to be fluent in the \_\_\_\_\_ languages.

D. Different translations of the NT have more to do with the \_\_\_\_\_ they are for and the philosophy of translation used than the slight differences in the Greek texts behind them. Translations differ because they are done with different \_\_\_\_\_ in mind.

E. Of the translations used by Evangelicals (NIV; ESV; CSB; NKJV; KJV), all get the essential \_\_\_\_\_ across

IV. Guidelines:

- A. Choose \_\_\_\_\_ for regular use—study and memorization (NIV; ESV; NET; NLT).
- B. Use a more \_\_\_\_\_ translation for detailed Bible study (NASB; NIV; ESV; NET).
- C. \_\_\_\_\_ translations in your Bible study (bible.org; blueletterbible.org; biblegateway.com). This will help understanding but it will also make you aware of the different possibilities for the text’s meaning. To see the options invites you to dig in and figure it out.
- D. Illustrate with the \_\_\_\_\_ translations and paraphrases (e.g. The Message; NLT) after determining the meaning with a more \_\_\_\_\_ translation.

V. Care Group Questions:

- A. Take a poll of your group. Find out which translation each member uses and why they use it. Encourage everyone to have a Bible and stick with it 😊.
- B. Talk with one another about how you engage your Bibles. Do you use it for regular reading? What do you do when you read to help you understand and follow what it says, e.g. do you underline in your Bibles, take notes, memorize key passages, journal, etc.? In particular, talk about any strengths or difficulties of the translation you use.
- C. Either by using the online resources or by using the various translations represented in your group, read and compare how different versions translate Philippians 2:5-6. Mark out the differences and suggest differences in meaning. I hope to return to this in the weeks ahead 😊.