

A glowing lightbulb is shown against a dark blue background. The bulb is lit, with a bright yellow-orange glow emanating from the filament. The text "Bible Translations" is overlaid in the center of the image in a black, sans-serif font. The lightbulb is positioned on the right side of the frame, with its base at the bottom and its top at the top right. The background is a gradient of dark blue, with the lightbulb's glow illuminating the surrounding area.

Bible Translations

translation

noun

trans·la·tion | \ tran(t)s-'lā-shən , tranz- \

Definition of *translation*

1: an act, process, or instance of translating: such as

a: a rendering from one language into another *also* : the product of such a rendering

Disclaimer

Please note this is an introductory course. Today's class is to increase and enlighten your overall understanding of Bible Translations. As with all classes and course material it is up to you the individual to make the most out of the information given.



Question what are some of your favorite Bible translations (i.e.) what Bible translation do you use the most and why?



The background features abstract, overlapping geometric shapes in various shades of green, ranging from light lime to dark forest green. These shapes are primarily located on the right side of the slide, with some extending towards the center. The overall aesthetic is modern and clean.

But before we get in depth on translations or good translations.
I want to first discuss some bibles translations to avoid.

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Did you know there are over 450 translations of the Bible in the English language alone? Although most of these translations are not in wide use today, some are commonly used and unfortunately many fail to accurately and faithfully preserve the Word of God.

The Bible and the World



The Holy Bible is the most famous book in history.

To date, **there are more than 2,200 publications of Bibles**, including individual **books of the Bible, New Testaments and Complete Bibles**. While much progress has been made in the world of Bible Translation, there is much work to be done. **Millions of people do not have the life-giving Word of God in their heart language.**

Here is some important information about the work that still needs to be done in translating the Bible for people of all languages and literacy-levels.

6900+

KNOWN LANGUAGES IN THE WORLD

4000+

LANGUAGES WITH NO KNOWN SCRIPTURE

518

LANGUAGES HAVE TRANSLATIONS OF THE WHOLE BIBLE

862

LANGUAGES HAVE ONE PORTION OF THE BIBLE



Canadian Bible Society
The Word. For Life.



LANGUAGES WITH NO KNOWN SCRIPTURE BY REGION



Find Out How You Can Help With Bible Translation

BIBLESOCIETY.CA/TRANSLATIONS



THE BIBLE IN OTHER FORMATS

3%

LANGUAGES THAT HAVE THE BIBLE IN **AUDIO**

250+

LANGUAGES WITH ACCESS TO THE BIBLE IN A **DIGITAL FORMAT**

30

LANGUAGES THAT ARE TRANSLATED INTO **BRILLE**



CURRENT TRANSLATION PROJECTS BY REGION AS OF DECEMBER 2012

AFRICA

135

ASIA-PACIFIC

294

AMERICAS

37

EUROPE/MIDDLE EAST

55

We will review 4 Bible translations that should be avoided all together, “as utilizing them can lead to grave theological errors, the teaching of a radically different gospel, and a counterfeit Jesus.”

An overwhelming number of these translations suffer from the strong bias of an unfaithful group of translators. They attempt to validate their erroneous theological claims by editing the Bible as they see fit.



Other translations have just one translator, thereby single-handedly taking on a role that is meant for a diverse team of renowned biblical translators of various denominations. Some simply cut out sections of the Bible altogether or add ideas that were never in the original manuscripts.

Bible translations are usually broken down into three major categories: *Word-for-word* or *Formal Equivalence*, *Thought-for-Thought* or *Dynamic Equivalence*, and *Paraphrase*.

Word-for-word is a more literal translation of the original language used and puts more of the onus on the reader to discover the intended meaning of the author.

WORD-FOR-WORD

Form Equivalence

MEANING-FOR-MEANING

Closest Natural Equivalence

THOUGHT-FOR-THOUGHT

Function Equivalence

PARAPHRASE

Retelling

NASB

ESV

NET

KJV

NKJV

GW

CSB

NIV

NLT

NIRV

MSG

GNT

CSB Christian Standard Bible

ESV English Standard Version

GNT Good News Translation

GW GOD'S WORD Translation

KJV King James Version

MSG The Message

NASB New American Standard Bible

NET New English Translation

NIRV New International Reader's Version

NIV New International Version

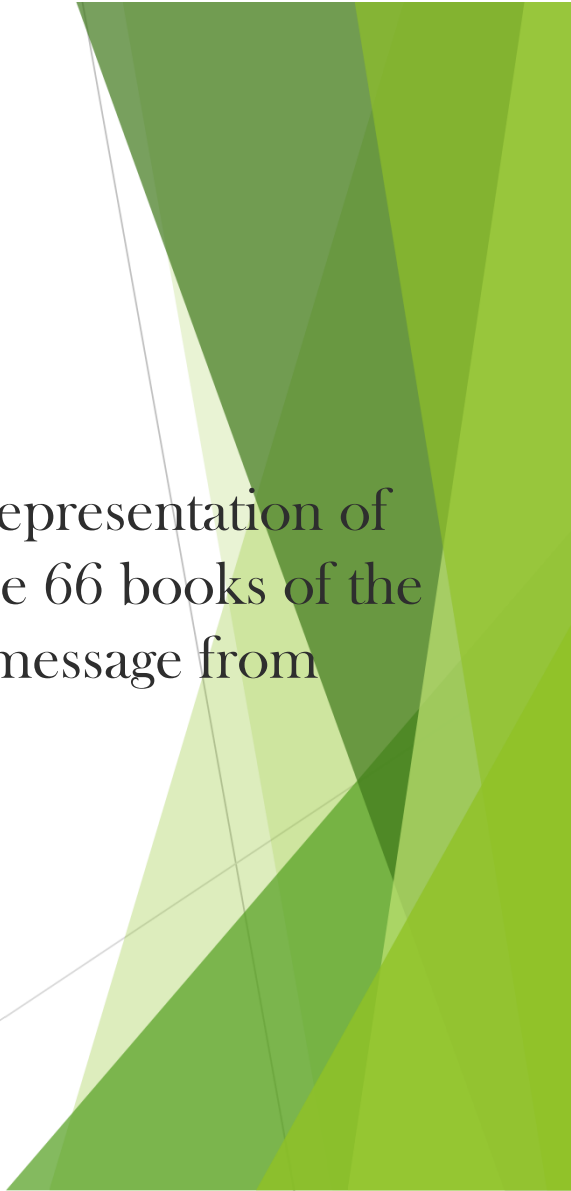
NKJV New King James Version

NLT New Living Translation

Thought-for-thought presents the intended meaning of the author, which the original audience would have understood during the time the writing was originally created. Therefore, readers put a great deal more faith in the translators, as they are trusting their interpretation.

Paraphrase is often written by a single author who “translates” the Bible in their own words, sometimes not even using the original biblical languages as a foundation.

Bible translations will vary between these three categories and it is important to know which translation falls into which category, along with other attributes that will make the translation either a faithful representation of the original, infallible, and inerrant Word of God or a misleading book posing as a Bible.



When studying the Word of God, one needs an authentic representation of the original autographs (the original manuscript of each of the 66 books of the Bible) while avoiding sources that would distort the original message from God.

The Message (MSG) - This translation is a paraphrase by Eugene Peterson. It is specifically targeted toward U.S. English speakers with its use of American contemporary slang. The Message's technique in translating the original text is so casual in its approach that NavPress, publisher of *The Message*, says, "It's not meant to replace your current version of choice. Rather, it is designed as a reading Bible that can give you a fresh perspective on a familiar phrase or passage."

It shouldn't replace your current Bible translation. So one has to question why would one even publish this version of the Bible?



Translation Comparison - 1 Corinthians 6:9-10

The Message (MSG): *Don't you realize that this is not the way to live? Unjust people who don't care about God will not be joining in his kingdom. Those who use and abuse each other, use and abuse sex, use and abuse the earth and everything in it, don't qualify as citizens in God's kingdom.*

English Standard Version (ESV): *Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.*

LET'S Discuss



The Passion Translation (TPT) - This is another paraphrase translation like The Message. The Passion is the work of sole translator, Brian Simmons, whose work has been heavily critiqued by the scholarly world.



One such critic is biblical scholar and translator, Andrew G. Shead, who said in his article, Burning Scripture with Passion: A Review of The Psalms (The Passion Translation), that Simmons abandons “all interest in textual accuracy, playing fast and loose with the original languages, and inserting so much new material into the text that it is at least 50% longer than the original.





I'm not sure you heard me. Let me run that back one more time.



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“The result is a strongly sectarian translation that no longer counts as Scripture; by masquerading as a Bible it threatens to bind entire churches in thrall to a false god.” The Passion Translation is even promoted by churches that share Simmons’ own theology (for example removing rebuking and correcting from [2 Timothy 4:2](#)).



Translation Comparison - 2 Timothy 4:2

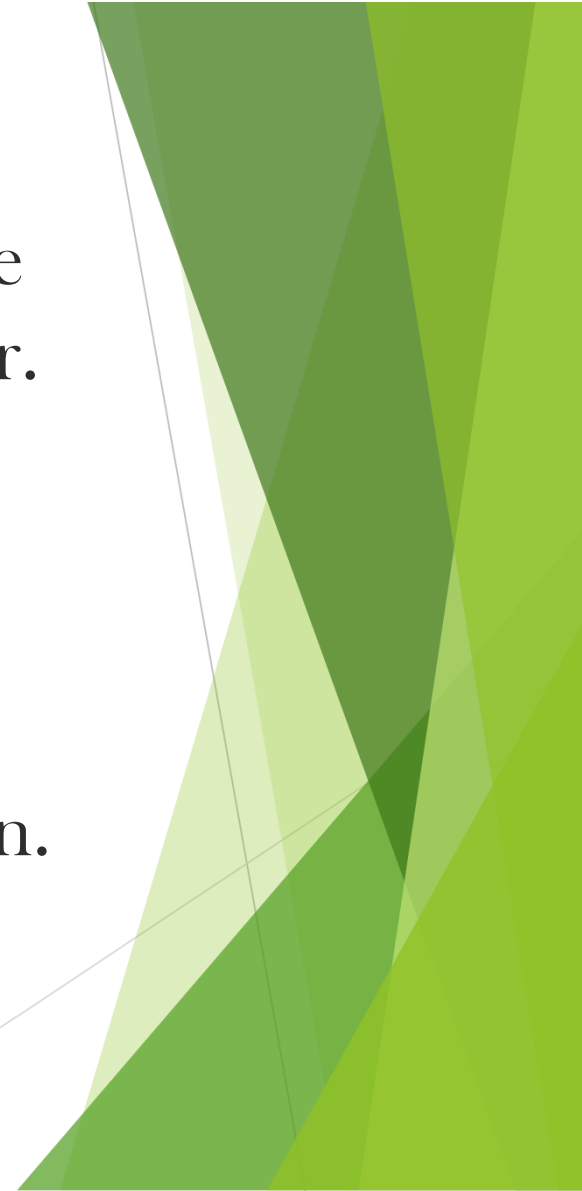
The Passion Translation (TPT): *proclaim the Word of God and stand upon it no matter what! Rise to the occasion and preach when it is convenient and when it is not. Preach in the full expression of the Holy Spirit—with wisdom and patience as you instruct and teach the people.*

English Standard Version (ESV): *preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.*

LETS Discuss



The Living Bible (TLB) - First published in 1971, The Living Bible is another paraphrase translation by sole translator, Kenneth Taylor. However, Taylor does not follow the typical biblical translation process of using the original language manuscripts to create his translation. He instead uses the 1901 American Standard Version as his foundation.



Taylor's lack of understanding of Hebrew and Greek and absent use of the original manuscripts has led to disingenuous passages and verses such as his translation of John 12:15. A word-for-word translation like the ESV translates this as “*Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey’s colt!*”

The Living Bible translates this as, “*Don’t be afraid of your King, people of Israel, for he will come to you meekly, sitting on a donkey’s colt!*” Taylor’s use of “don’t be afraid” is evidence that he does not realize that the common Hebrew expression of “fear not” means to “have confidence.”



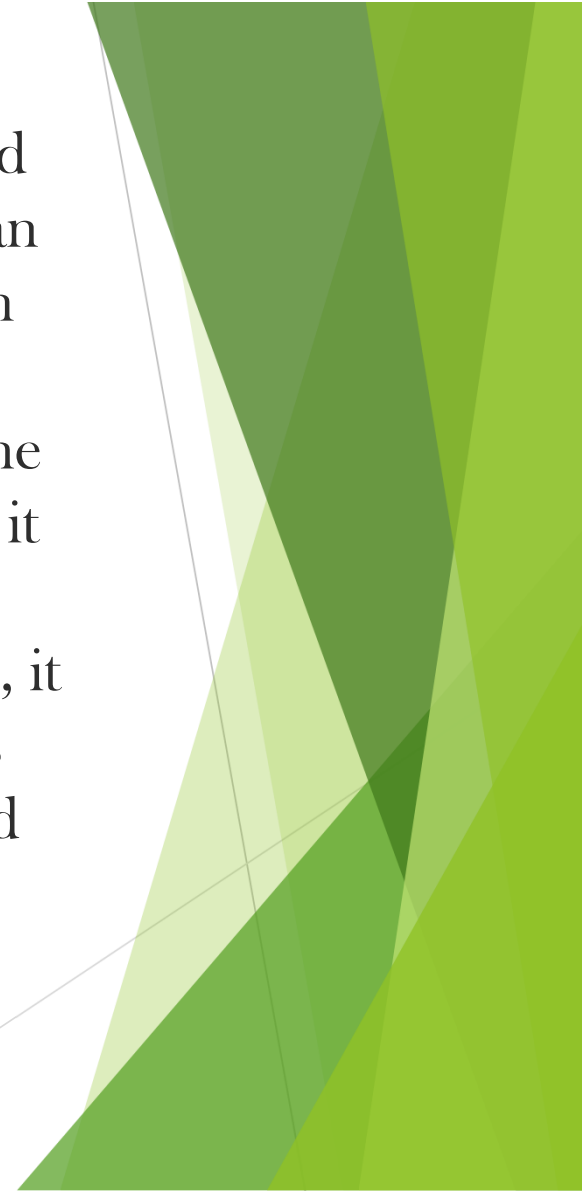


Translation Comparison - Acts 13:48

The Living Bible (TLB): *When the Gentiles heard this, they were very glad and rejoiced in Paul's message; and as many as wanted eternal life, believed.*

English Standard Version (ESV): *And when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord, and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed.*

Good News Translation (GNT) - Also known as the **Good News Bible (GNB)**, the GNT was created by the American Bible Society as a translation that would be simple enough for anyone to easily pick up and understand, including individuals learning the English language and children. The simplicity of the English used in this translation has made it a popular choice for evangelists; it was even used at **Billy Graham** crusades. However, despite this attractive feature, it is not a translation that should be used for the seriousness of Bible study, as the simplistic use of English in the Good News Translation has come at a price.



Many dangerous theological errors are found throughout the GNT, including distortions of the divinity of Christ, removing references to Jesus' blood, misrepresentations of Jesus' virgin birth, removing references to hell, salvation being distorted, etc. The cost of theological confusion is too great a price to pay to rely on this version of the Bible as a source of truth.



Translation Comparison - Matthew 16:16-18

Good News Translation (GNT): *Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”*

“Good for you, Simon son of John!” answered Jesus. “For this truth did not come to you from any human being, but it was given to you directly by my Father in heaven. And so I tell you, Peter: you are a rock, and on this rock foundation I will build my church, and not even death will ever be able to overcome it.

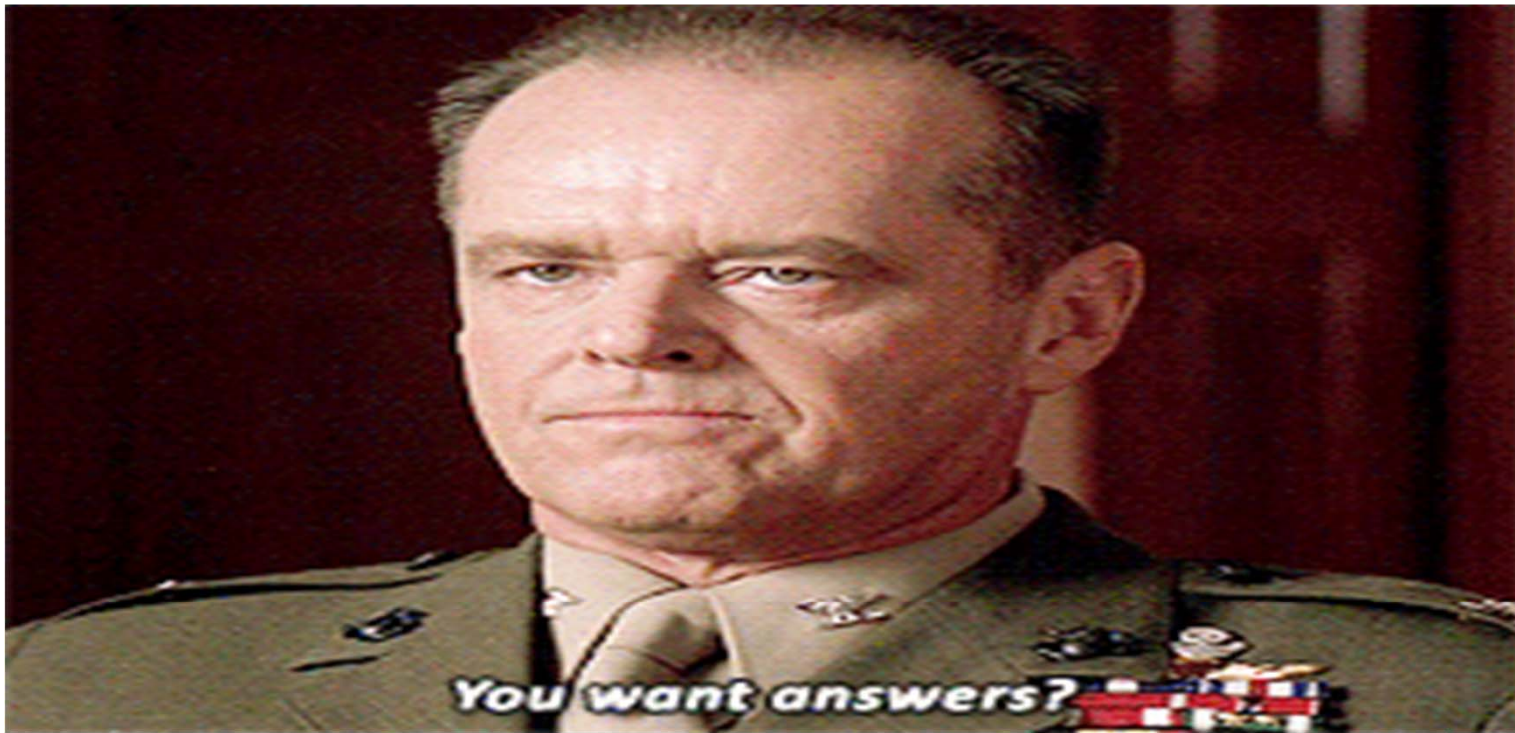
English Standard Version (ESV): *Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*

So I ask you today; do you want the truth?





-I want the truth!



WELL





Do you remember the teaching of the
book of Enoch.



Enoch 104:10

Corrupted Bibles and Commentaries Created

10 Now I know this mystery, that sinners will alter and pervert the words of righteousness in many ways, and will speak wicked words, and lie, and practice great deceits, and write books concerning their words.

Revelation 22:18 New King James Version (NKJV)

A Warning

¹⁸ [a] For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, [b] God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book;



Ephesians 6:12

King James Version

¹² For we wrestle not against flesh and blood,
but against principalities, against powers,
against the rulers of the darkness of this
world, against spiritual wickedness in high
places.



Listen Friends you can no longer not study
the word of God. Your life absolutely
depends on knowing the word for yourself.



Just because a translation sounds good
doesn't mean that it's the
unadulterated word of God.

