

Fulton County Gospel News

"The Churches of Christ Salute You"

Second Class Postage Paid at Mammoth Spring, Ark.

Volume 12

Mammoth Spring, Arkansas 72554

May 1973

Number 29

The Best Translation

Owen D. Olbricht

"The King James is the best translation!" "No, I like the Revised Standard better." "I can understand the Today's English Version best." Have you heard discussions like these?

What are translations? A translation is the act of turing into another language or that which is produced by turning into another language. In our age we have translation upon translation that has been made of the Bible. In the process of making a translation the attitude in approach tends to determine the nature of the translation itself. Some feel no necessity to give an exact word for word representation of what is in the original Hebrew or Greek while others feel that the best way to translate is to represent as nearly as possible what was in the original language.

Which of these translations that we have, then, is best. Those of us who believe that God gave the words to the writers (1 Cor. 2:11-13) and caused them to write what they did, not from their own attitudes or thoughts, but through the direction of the Holy Spirit (Matt. 10:19, 20), feel that the best translation is the one that as nearly as possible represents what was stated in the original, which sometimes means a word for word translation and sometimes, when no English word is the same as the Greek word, a transmitting of the thought into the nearest possible English manner of expression. Usually the committee works that have the viewpoint of an exact presentation of the original language is the best of translations, such as King James, American Standard, Revised Standard, etc.

Besides Bible translations there are other translations Christians should be concerned about. God has taken His hidden self and translated His nature into human understanding by sending His Son. God wanted mankind to have an exact translation of himself and, therefore, sent that exact representation to man to let us know of His own person. Jesus is the Word made flesh (John 1:1, 2, 14, 18) to give man a knowledge of God. Jesus is an exact and perfect translation of God.

Another translation Christians should be interested in is the translation of Jesus
(Continued on Page 4)

Searching The Scriptures And Understanding Them

WHO ARE GOD'S CHILDREN?

"For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ", Gal. 3:26-27. These "by faith" had been baptized "into Christ". How many were "in Christ"? "As many" as had "been baptized into Christ". ONLY as many as had been "baptized into Christ" were in Christ! No one else! No one is "in Christ" today, unless he has been baptized into Him! So whatever benefits that one may enjoy "in Christ", he can only enjoy them AFTER he has been baptized into Christ!

IN CHRIST

"In whom (Christ is the antecedent of the pronoun "whom") we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins", Col. 1:14. Please note that "redemption" and the "remission of sins" BOTH take place "IN CHRIST", and NO WHERE ELSE! So if ONLY baptism can put one into Christ WHERE FORGIVENESS IS, THEN NO ONE CAN BE SAVED BEFORE BAPTISM! "ALL SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS are "IN CHRIST" Eph. 1:3, Forgiveness of sins is a spiritual blessing and is ONLY in Christ.

BORN OF WATER AND THE SPIRIT

Jesus said that "Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God", John 3:5. To be born of the Spirit is to be "begotten" (spiritually conceived) by the word of the Spirit (John 14: 26 and 16: 13), or "born again" by the word of God, 1 Pet.

1:23; 1 Cor. 4:15; James 1:18. Born of water is when one is BURIED BY BAPTISM INTO CHRIST, INTO HIS DEATH, THEN ARISE TO "WALK IN NEWNESS OF LIFE", Rom. 6:3-5. ONLY those who have been "planted (baptized) in the likeness of His death" shall be "in the likeness of his resurrection", Rom. 6:5.

NEW CREATURE (BORN AGAIN) in CHRIST

"Therefore, IF any man be in Christ, he is a new creature; old things are passed away; and all things become new" II Cor. 5:17. ONLY those "in Christ" are "new creatures" (having been born again of water and the Spirit). ONLY "in Christ" does OLD THINGS PASS AWAY AND ALL THINGS BECOME NEW. ONLY AFTER BAPTISM is one in Christ. There is no other way according to God! Christ's blood forgives sins, 1 Pet. 1:18-19, this blood was shed in his death, and the only way to get into his death is through baptism. So it is IMPOSSIBLE to be born again OUTSIDE CHRIST! Please note; Impossible to enter kingdom of God and not be "born again"; IMPOSSIBLE to be born again outside of Christ (which is His church, Col. 1:18); IMPOSSIBLE to get "in Christ" without baptism; therefore IMPOSSIBLE to be saved without scriptural baptism! Baptism "washes away" sins (Acts 22:16); "Saves us", 1 Pet. 3:21; puts one "into Christ", Rom. 6:3-4; is for "remission of sins" Acts 2:38! NO, MAN IS NOT SAVED BY FAITH ONLY, James 2:24, 26. If he were the devils would also be saved for they "believe", James 2:19. To be IN CHRIST is to be in his church (Col. 1:18) and only those in the Lord's church will be present to himself, Eph. 5:25-27. So without baptism one is OUTSIDE Christ and he can do nothing, John 15:1-6.

ASSUMPTIONS

I realize that there are those who suppose or assume, that man is saved by faith only, and that man is born again without baptism, then go forth to prove God wrong by their assumption. But would it not be wonderful if these would spend the time they waste in trying to tell others that God does not mean what he says, in understanding and obeying the word of the Lord! Thousands more would be in heaven, including these who try to explain away the Lord's will! WHAT IS YOUR ATTITUDE TOWARD GOD'S WORD?
Glynn V. Purdy

The Fulton County Gospel News

... is a monthly publication distributed free of charge to any who care to receive it. We will be happy to add any names to the regular mailing list. If you send in a name, be SURE to include the Zip Code Number. It must be with each address according to the Postal regulations. This paper is supported by unsolicited contributions for which we are grateful. If you care to know of its financial status and expenses, that information will be furnished upon request.

EDITORS: Erwin Cowen
and James E. Henley.

The Love of God

I think of the love of God and see
The gift of His only Son.
The blood that was shed to set me free—
For I was the guilty one.

I think of the humble, lowly birth—
A stable and bed of hay.
No palace for Jesus upon this earth—
No place for his head to lay.

I see my Lord as he knelt and prayed,
"Please let this cup pass from me!"
With sweat as drops of blood falling
down—
In lonely Gehtsemane.

The kiss of Judas and then the trial—
The angry mob as they cried—
While Pilate washed his hands of the
blood
And let him be crucified.

I hear the sound of the hammer's blows
As the nails are driven in—
And the earth was darkened as the Son of
God
Took upon himself my sin.

Then for a moment God turned his face
From the cross of Calvary—
And the anguished cry "My God, My
God—
Why hast thou forsaken me?"

All this for me because God so loved
That he gave his only Son—
And let him die on Calvary's cross—
While I was the guilty one.
—Rose Leprette

Once Upon A Time I Knew A Preacher

WHO

Was more interested in making trips to the Holy Bible than to the "holy" land!

Was more interested in "what" he preached, than in how many countries he had been in to preach!

Spent more time bringing his character in harmony with God, than in polishing his reputation among men!

Spent more time encouraging other people to "obey God" than in blowing his own horn!

Was more interested in a "thus saith the Lord", than in what all the theologians in the world said or thought!

Thought it more important to see how godly one could live on the way to heaven, than to see how worldly one could be and still go to heaven!

Thought how many books one reads, is not nearly as important as how well one reads and understands THE BOOK!

Thought that the length of time a man lives is not as important as how he lives!

Was more concerned with how well he is known in heaven, than how well he is known among men!

Was more concerned with the number of men he "caught" than the number of bass!

Letter To Editor

Erwin Cowen, ed.
FULTON COUNTY GOSPEL NEWS
Mammoth Spring, Arkansas 72554
Dear Bro. Cowen:

Here in the library of Harding Graduate School we would very much like to have a complete file of FULTON COUNTY GOSPEL NEWS for the use of our students now and for those students who will come later. At this time we lack the following volumes:
v. 1-12 — 1960-72

Would you please insert a notice in your paper of our needs, asking that any readers who hold these issues and who would be willing to help us complete our holdings write to Annie May Alston, lib'n, Harding Graduate School of Religion, 1000 Cherry Rd., Memphis, Tenn. 38117.

We will greatly appreciate your help in our efforts to collect a complete set of FULTON COUNTY GOSPEL NEWS.

Sincerely,
Annie May Alston, Lib'n.

We urge anyone having any of these copies to mail them to the address above.

Was more interested in what people did about his sermons than what they thought about them!

Thought that a sermon should be "better felt than told", he preached and let God keep the score!

Thought a . . . "good write-up" in the Lamb's book, more important than a "good write-up" in the brotherhood papers!

Was more concerned with getting people to heaven than just "getting them up front."

Placed more emphasis upon people knowing that he had "been with God", than on, long, short, sweet, deep, or hard sermons!

Was not as interested in making a "hit" with the church, as being sure he did not "strike out" with God!

Was more concerned with being "on the ball", than in being able to "hit the ball" on the golf course!

Thought that the state of his relationship with God, of far more importance than the number of states in which he had preached!

Was more interested in converting sinners, edifying christians and glorifying God, than getting other preachers to come hear him preach!

Believed that if he lost his own soul and the souls of those who heard him, then all other efforts and honors were vain!

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT SUCH A PREACHER? WOULD YOU GO TO HEAR HIM TODAY, OR DOES HE SOUND A BIT "SQUARE"?

Glynn Purdy

CONTRIBUTIONS

Elizabeth Church of Christ	\$ 5.00
Grace King	1.00
Agnos Church of Christ	5.00
C. P. Mathis	2.00
Viola Church of Christ	5.00
Williford Church of Christ	5.00
O. T. Russell	2.00
Dellhalf Church of Christ	5.00
Mr. and Mrs. E. O. Shoemate	1.00
J. J. Evans	2.00
Jeff Church of Christ	10.00
Mrs. Ben J. Olbricht	2.00
Freddie Powell	5.00

Nothing is more dangerous than discontinued labor; it is a habit lost, a habit easy to abandon, difficult to resume.

Prophets of Deceit

Adam and Eve sinned in the garden of Eden by eating of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Their Creator had encouraged them to restrain their self-will by providing a law, but the Serpent convinced Eve that she should fulfill her desires and eat of the tree. He assured her that she and her husband would not die if they indulged, even though Jehovah had said they would. Instead, he argued, they would be as gods, knowing good and evil. (Genesis 3:3-6) Satan caused Eve to doubt God's truth. When doubt entered, the defense provided by faith in her Maker gave way, and sin became a reality.

The disobedience of Adam and Eve is significant because it marks the sad beginning of man's foolish practice of following ungodly counsel. The father of lies truly found a weakness of man he could successfully play upon. Man, it seems, has an insatiable desire to listen to someone other than God. Satan's foul play did not end in the garden; to this day he obliges men by telling them what they want to hear. He no longer has to appear personally, however. He has found counterfeit religious leaders with black hearts who are willing to do his ugly work of enticing and capturing his prey for him.

These sinister peddlers of satanic cunning are not something new in the history of God's dealings with man. False teachers make their appearance early in the pages of Sacred Writ. They made the heart of the righteous sad because they prophesied out of their own hearts (Ezekiel 13:2,22). They were workers of deceit that cried peace when there was no peace. (Zephaniah 3:3,4; Jeremiah 6:14) With lies they spoke in the name of the Lord (Jeremiah 14:13, 14), but He was against them. (Jeremiah 23:31) In the 450 year period of moral darkness between the Testaments they had a heyday. They always had the same goal in mind—detour men from the paths of righteousness to the rocky crags of immorality.

As we enter the New Testament era it is not surprising to find false teachers increasing in number and following. They were continual hecklers of John the Baptist as he spoke of the promised Messiah. At the very outset of Jesus' ministry these teachers of false doctrine tried to discredit His teaching by claiming that He was an agent of Beelzebub. (Matthew 12:22-30) After crucifying Him, they went onto vigorously oppose the church He established. Paul, Peter, Stephen, and other preachers of the infant church constantly faced their diabolical scheming.

This was not a great surprise to them for our Lord had forewarned them of false Christs who would arise to lead disciples away. (Matthew 24:24) False apostles were sprinkled throughout the church before 100 A.D. (Revelation 2:2) Paul plainly told the elders of the church at Ephesus that wolves would enter in among them, not sparing the flock. Even the leaders of the church would try to draw away disciples after them. (Acts 20:29,30) The Holy Spirit taught that in the latter times some would depart from the faith and teach others falsely. (I Timothy 4:1-4) These leaders of religious rebellion taught their damnable doctrines for money (II Peter 2:1-3), to please the whims and fancies of brethren who had "itching ears" (II Timothy 4:3, 4), and to destroy the liberty others had in Christ. (Galatians 2:4) Pride and envy helped them to be preachers of strife and division. (Philippians 1: 15, 16)

It is no marvel that the early saints recoiled in agony as they witnessed this thralldom to Satan by men who professed that they were followers of Christ. (II Corinthians 11:26) How disappointed they must have been in ministers of the gospel who were exposed by those who could try their spirits (I John 4:1) as deceitful workers. These preachers of error claimed divine allegiance as they marched under the standards of that Wicked One. Their over-all aim was the same as the evil trickster they followed—to delude and mislead the disciples of Christ. (II Corinthians 11:13-15)

False teachers pose no less of a problem today than they did then. Satan, the great occuser, still fashions himself into "an angel of light" and dogs men's trails, decoying and enslaving them in his tentacles. It is not strange, therefore, that his servants should pose as teachers of truth and ministers of righteousness. But they are deceitful workers, masquerading as faithful Christians. However busy they may appear to be in supposedly Christian activities, they are still working for their leader, Satan. They pretend to be enthusiastic for the cause of Christ, but their real purpose is selfish and destructive. They may seem innocent enough, but they are wolves in sheep's clothing. (Matthew 7:15)

Dressed in their costumes of holiness, they delude millions who hold that anything that looks good and innocent must surely be that way. I often wonder if saints of the Lord are at all aware of this danger. Since the Lord hates the works of false teachers (Revelation 2:15), it is always surprising to hear unthinking

brethren speak so fondly of the "good work" (?) that men such as Oral Roberts, Billy Graham, and Garner Ted Armstrong are doing. These gentlemen are most assuredly NOT teaching the Bible, but that which damns men's souls.

How can we recognize these prophets of deceit? Can we be certain as to their identity? Some would caution that it is easy to misjudge others and to impute to them unworthy motives. And, to this we agree. Thankfully, we do not have to rely upon our own judgments in determining whether or not a man is a genuine teacher of God's Word. Jesus said, "Ye shall know them by their fruits." (Matthew 7:16) The way we can recognize false teachers is to compare their living and teaching with the Word of God!

What should we do about false teachers? MAY I SUGGEST FIRST OF ALL THAT FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST CEASE EXALTING DENOMINATIONAL LEADERS AND PRAISING THEIR WORKS! They should be branded as teachers of error (Romans 16:17) and be rebuked. (Ephesians 5:11) They are enemies of the cross (Philippians 3:18) who will be rewarded for their vile deeds. Dear reader, do not be misled by these emissaries of hell! Be alert!

—Jim West

Notice!!

There will be a gospel meeting at the Church of Christ in Hickory Grove, Missouri June the 3rd through the 8th. Paul Watson will be the speaker.

The Church of Christ in Hatfield, Missouri will conduct a series of gospel meetings June the 10th through the 15th. Paul Watson will be the speaker.

The Church of Christ in Viola, Arkansas will conduct a series of gospel meetings June the 11th through the 17th. Clifford Dixon will be the speaker.

* * * * *

If you say, behold, we did not know this, does not HE who weighs the heart perceive and consider it? And HE who guards your life, does HE not know it? And shall not HE render to EVERY MAN according to his works?

Lord, Teach Us How To Pray

I would like to pose some questions or maybe to stimulate some thinking about the way we word our prayers. It is becoming more and more prevalent for those that are called upon to pray in public to use the common pronouns, you, your and yours, instead of the more majestic forms, thou, thy, thee, and thine. I am not saying that these forms are at all wrong but they are the forms we use as daily communication to our fellow man. Are we putting "GOD" in this same category. I do not pretend to know anything about the translations of these pronouns from the original language. I do not find in the Bible any examples of prayer using the common forms of pronouns; at least where a petition of prayer is being offered. There is not much difference in the number of times in comparison that the pronouns, you, your, and yours and the pronouns, thee, thine, thou, and thy are used in the King James version or translation. There is a vast difference in the context of when and how these pronouns are used. When man is communicating with or to God, the elevated forms as, thee, thy, thou, and thine are used in most if not all instances in the scriptures. When God or Christ is giving directives or commands in the scripture, the common forms as you, yours, and your are used. In this case why do we use the common forms in our petitions to our creator? When God is all powerful, invincible, omnipresent, infalible, all glorious, all supreme, magnificent, and all wise, why use mans common language when addressing him when there is a more elevated way to do so? Lets check a few scriptures and the language used, even when Christ was praying to God.

Heb. 12-28: Let us...serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.

Matt. 6-9: Hallowed be THY name, THY kingdom...THY will;...for THINE is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.

Matt. 26-39: nevertheless not as I will, but as THOU wilt.

Mark. 14-36: Abba, Father, all things are possible unto THEE.

Luke. 22-42: Father, if THOU be willing, remove this cup from me...but THINE, be done.

John. 17: The prayer offered by Jesus on behalf of the apostles and all believers.

Isaiah. 55-8, 9: For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts. When God

is so far above man, even though we may go to the moon, and some day perhaps much farther than that, who gave man the intelligence to accomplish these feats?

We would think it very much out of line or order to address God in our prayers as "Our Heavenly Daddy", yet the word daddy is a proper word to use in its place. What I am concerned with is this; in our modern trend of expression, change, and actions, will we teach others to depart from and change the context of the sacred scriptures?

Many of our songs of praise and adoration to God would lose their reverence if the common forms of the pronouns were used entirely. For example: Have your own way; I am yours O Lord; We praise you O God; By your return, sweet hour of prayer; Closer to you, near to your side; Guide me O you great Jehovah; Break you the bread of life; These are just a few of the song titles that would not be in reverence to God if the common pronouns were used.

I do not wish to be misunderstood. I think that our feeble efforts in prayer to God is understood from the sincerity and intent from the heart, only if we are Christians as being obedient to the will of God. John 9-31: "Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth."

Some say, "It is too hard to learn to use the biblical forms of the pronouns, thee, thine, thou, and thy". May I suggest to the people of this mind; 2nd. Timothy 2-15: Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not be ashamed". I sincerely hope that no one thinks I am being critical of those that are called upon to direct prayer in public. I do hope that the readers of this article will give careful consideration to the things mentioned.

Jason Y. Frizzell

If you FAINT in the day of ADVERSITY, YOUR STRENGTH IS SMALL.

A person who doubts himself is like a man who would enlist in the ranks of his enemies and bear arms against himself. He makes the failure certain by himself being the first person to be convinced of it.

The Best Translation (Cont.)

and His word into their own lives. Of the Corinthians the apostle Paul wrote, "Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men for as much as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart" (2 Cor. 3:2,3).

This is one of the best of translations and the easiest for many people to read. Many of us as Christians are bad translations. We may argue for exact representation of the original language into the English language, but we often do not seek exact translation of the Bible into our own lives. This is the translation most needed today.

Our attitude toward translation will determine how careful we are to put into practice the things we find in the Bible. Some will seek only for just an average effort to put God's word into action while others will be very careful to do the best they can to completely do all God's teaching. Which of these two will be the best translation?

Is your life a good translation? When people read it, will they find in it the way of God for man or will it have a lot of mistranslated passages in it? Each of us should take care as to how we translate into our lives the truths of God.

Are you the best possible translation you can be?

As men read your life, each line
Should show God's word in us
And should help them fully know
The holy ways of Jesus.

sterling Hackney
Mammoth Spring, Arkansas 72554