

TRANSLATING

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I. Why Revise God's Word?

A. We don't!

1. The AUTOGRAPHS were inspired. While God's message is preserved nearly intact, the copyists weren't prevented from errors.
2. We seek to discover God's Word -- The TEXT
3. We seek to translate God's Word -- TRANSLATION PROBLEMS
4. We seek to understand and apply God's Word -- word for word cp. understanding

B. The KJV was a revision

C. We have more accurate texts

1. Romans 8:1b
2. John 1:18 — 'Son' is 'God' in earlier mss.
3. Isa 33:8 — cities (KJV) is witnesses in Dead Sea Scrolls
4. Sometimes, it is difficult to be 100% certain — people should be told that

D. Changes in the English language

1. 1Th 4:15 — 'prevent' then means 'precede' now
2. Rom 1:13 — 'let' then means 'hindered' now
3. a few other examples beginning with 'a' from the glossary in the back of some Cambridge Bibles. These are words that have changed in meaning. Those which we no longer use are not included.

'abhorring'—object of disgust	'abroad'—out of one's house
'admiration'—wonder	'against'—exposed (to the sun), by the time that
'adventure'—to venture	'agone'—ago
'affect'—to seek after	'allow'—approve
'affectioned'—disposed	'avoid'—to depart
'affinity'—relationship by marriage	'away with'—to tolerate

II. The NT Text

A. By the text is meant the actual Greek words. Textual criticism is an attempt to get exactly what the writers wrote. At no time should the intent be to force the text in a particular direction.

B. A few examples — there are quite a few

1. Mt 6:1 — 'alms' should be 'righteous deeds'
2. 1Jn 3:1 — phrase 'and such we are' should be added
3. Col 1:14 — 'through his blood' should be omitted
 - Is this an attempt to eliminate the blood from the Bible — no! Note, the word occurs in verse 20 and many other places. Those who say such a thing are actually slandering. The only issue is, "What did Paul write?"

III. The OT Text

A. By the text is meant the actual Hebrew words. Textual criticism is an attempt to get exactly what the writers wrote. At no time should the intent be to force the text in a particular direction.

B. Some interesting examples

1. Ex 8:23 — Hebrew has deliverance. All our translations follow the Greek OT
2. 1Sam 1:24,25 — three/one bull cp. a bull of three years. The KJV has a problem.

IV. Some examples of language changes

A. Obsolete words

Gen 43:25 — against J. came = for J. arrival	Lk 17:9 — trow = think
Nah 3:19 — bruit = news or report	2Cor 8:1 — do you to wit = want you to know

B. Ambiguous words

Gen 31:34 — furniture = furnishings	Nu 24:14 — advertise = advise
Dt 24:11 — abroad = outside	2Sam 3:10 — translate = transfer
1Sam 16:16 — cunning = skilful	

C. Misleading words

Gen 20:6 — suffered = permitted	Neh 13:26 — out-landish = foreign
Isa 43:13 — let = hinder	1Sam 17:22 — carriage = baggage
Ps 119:147 — prevented = go before	Mt 13:20 — anon = at once
Phil 3:20,21 — vile = lowly	Mk 6:25 — by and by = right away
1Ki 11:1 — strange = foreign	

D. Embarrassing Words—(I have been embarrassed when using the KJV)

1. "Bowels"—Gen 15:4; (used literally in At 1:18); Phil 1:8; 2:1; Phm 7, 12, 20; 1Jn 3:17, and many other places
2. (unmentionable-10 passages)—1S 25:22, 34; 2K 18:27

E. There is no reason to use 'old english' in worship. For example, the tendency to use 'thou' and 'thee' in a church setting.

V. Some additional comments

A. Italics aren't what they are cracked up to be

1. 'are' or 'art' — Dt. 2:4 cp. 2:18
2. 'even' — Dt. 2:23 cp. 2:22
3. 'this man' — Heb 3:3 cp. 8:3
4. At 10:12 — 'manner of' is not in italics in KJV

B. One word in one language does correspond to many in another language.

1. The issue of the apocrypha — KJV included it
2. The chief value of the KJV is its being the basis for Strong's and Young's concordances.
 - For Bible study, use several translations.
 - For Bible reading use a modern translation — this is why we use such in church

VI. Bibliography

A. Books giving an Overview

1. A. Carson, *The King James Version Debate*, (Baker, 1979)
2. Eugene H. Glassman, *The Translation Debate*, (InterVarsity, 1981)
3. Sakae Kubo and Walter Specht, *So Many Versions?*, (Zondervan, 1975)
4. Jack P. Lewis, *The English Bible From KJV to NIV*, (Baker, 1982)