"If the Bible has been translated and retranslated over and over again, how do we know when we open up a modern English Bible that we are actually reading the words of Jesus and not something else?" – **Dr. Ed Gravely**

(I) WE CAN KNOW OUR TRANSLATIONS ARE RELIABLE BECAUSE:

_____ (1) – The science of attempting to reconstruct the ancient manuscripts of the New Testament.

   (A) Modern translations are based on more _____ (2)

   (B) Modern translations are based on older _____ (3).

   (C) Example – The King James Version.

      (1) It was a fantastic translation in its day and was a _____ (4) translation of the Bible into English.

      (2) However, the KJV was only based on a _____ (5) of Greek manuscripts and those were of a very late date.

      (3) This isn't the fault of _____ (6) or the translators who put the KJV together, they were simply using the Greek manuscripts available to them at the time.

(II) THE MANUSCRIPTS NOW AVAILABLE ARE _____ (7)

   (A) Modern translations of the bible are going back even further into the history of the text because older manuscripts are now _____ (8). Erasmus only had medieval manuscripts available to him.

   (B) We have manuscripts available now that go all the way back to the 2nd _____ (9).

   (C) We have fragments that go back to the early part of the 2nd century.

   (D) All of these older manuscripts are taken into account when new _____ (10) are made.

   * NOTE: The KJV is not the foundation for any modern translation, ancient Greek manuscripts are.

(III) THE MANUSCRIPTS NOW AVAILABLE ARE MORE _____ (11)

  (A) Modern English translations provide a more _____ (12) translation based on:

   (1) More data

   (2) More scientific discovery

   (3) More available manuscripts which are:

    (a) Older and considered by most _____ (13) to be even more reliable than the medieval manuscripts used by Erasmus.

  (B) Now most modern translations use that same Greek text that Greek that been produced by _____(14) from the most ancient of sources.

(IV) TRANSLATIONS

But the question still remains, "How do I know which translation I ought to buy? How do I know which one I ought to use?

  (A) That is not an easy question to answer because translations are like tools. They are not all produced for the same _____ (15).

  (B) Some translations are like hammers and some are like screwdrivers and if you need a hammer, a screwdriver is not going to do the job. When you think in terms translation _____ (16), you've got a continuum.

   (1) On one side of the continuum is the _____ (17) approach.

    (a) Formal Equivalency strives for pure accuracy; to get as close to one English word for one Greek word as possible.

    (b) Formal Equivalency has produced some _____ (18) scholarly translations.

     (i) Types of Formal Equivalence Translations

       - New American Standard Bible

       - Revised Standard Version

     (ii) Problems with Formal Equivalence

       - A little bit hard to _____ (19)

       - A little "stilted"

       - A little "wooden"

       - It's not great for reading in _____ (20)

       - Not _____ (21) for church use necessarily

   (2) On the other end of the continuum is the_____ (22)

(a) Unlike the formal equivalent approach of an English word for every Greek word, the paraphrase attempts to capture the thought of the text (what it means).

(b) Translators read the words of Paul in Greek and ask the question, "What is the best way to translate this thought into English?" There's not always a _____ (23) to words (or sometimes even sentences) its translated as "thought for thought."

   (i) Benefits of Paraphrase Translations

     - They make good children's Bibles

     - They make great Bibles for reading

     - If you want to read through whole passages of the Bible at one time

   (ii) Negatives of Paraphrase Translation

     - Probably not going to be great for *study*

(3) In the middle of that continuum, is something called _____ (24) Equivalence.

(a) Dynamic Equivalence tries to strike a balance between these two extremes

(b) Probably the most _____ (25) translation of all, falls into that category and that is the NIV.

(c) It is word for word in the sense that translators tried to _____ (26) Greek word to English word but they also tried to employ _____ (27), where we have a phase in Greek that is idiomatic and try to capture as an idiom in English.

(d) It is not as _____ (28) as the formal equivalence.

(e) It is not as loose as the paraphrase

(f) But it does strike a happy medium between "hard to read" and "easy to read" which is probably why it so popular.

(4) Supporters of Formal Equivalence

(a) Most scholars

(b) Most students of the Bible

(c) Most New Testament professors

(d) Some great translations

   - New American Standard (NASB)

   - New King James Version (NKJV)

   - English Standard Version (ESV)

(V) SO WHAT DOES ALL THIS MEAN?

    (A) Read your bible.

        (1) The Bible that you have in front of you if you have one of these translations that we have talked about really is a _____ (29) translation.

        (2) It's a very accurate _____ (30) in English of the words of Jesus, Paul, the prophets, and ultimately God.

        (3) You don't need to fear that maybe you're getting some convoluted _____ (31) because of translation history, that's not the case at all.

        (4) We now know more about what the _____ (32) Greek manuscripts actually say.

        (5) We have older manuscripts available to us and we have some of the finest translation _____ (33) ever available and those we all employed in the production of the Bible you have in front of you. So READ it!!!

INTERESTING FACTS

Author	Earliest Copy	No. of Copies
Caesar	A.D. 900	10
Plato	A.D. 900	7
Tacitus	A.D. 1100	20
Pliny the Younger	A.D. 850	7
Thucydides	A.D. 900	8
Suetonius	A.D. 950	8
Herodotus	A.D. 900	8
Sophocles	A.D. 100	193
Catullus	A.D. 1550	3
Euripides	A.D. 1100	9
Demosthenes	A.D. 1100	200
Aristotle	A.D. 1100	49
Aristophanes	A.D. 900	10
Homer (Iliad)	400 B.C.	43
New Testament	A.D. 125	24,000

1. Textual criticism
2. Manuscripts
3. Manuscripts
4. Landmark
5. Handful
6. Erasmus
7. Older
8. Available
9. Century
10. Translations
11. Accurate
12. Reliable
13. Experts
14. Scholars
15. Purpose
16. Philosophy
17. Formal Equivalence
18. Excellent
19. Read
20. Public
21. Perfect
22. Paraphrase
23. Correspondence
24. Dynamic
25. Popular
26. Capture
27. Idioms
28. Precise
29. Good
30. Representation
31. Message
32. Ancient
33. Techniques