

6/9/77

Inspiration

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Which of course it was not. It was a translation made so that the ordinary person could understand it. So they wanted to hold on to Latin but Tyndale and other great leaders translated it into English, and the English-speaking world received tremendous blessing from their translations.

But now the translations of 300 yrs. ago, wonderful as they were, today do not convey the meaning and today we need a translation in our own language. The KJV is tho very excellent is not due to the great scholarship of the men who made it though they were great scholars. It is due to the fact that for 30 years person after person, group after group had been trying to translate the Bible into English, and the very poorest translator can sometimes hit on a happy phrase. I find that true today. Sometimes I use Moffatt's translation of the OT, not often, but James Moffatt's translation I sometimes look into and sometimes I find a Hebrew word which is exactly clear to me what the verse means. There is no question as you read it in the original what it means. But how say it in English. The KJV expresses it in the English of 300 yrs. ago and they like all translations often miss the precise meaning, but I still come to the conclusion the verse has a certain definite meaning. That's only half or maybe a third of the job of translation. The hardest thing is to find a way to say it in your own language without writing a whole paragraph of detail that would give something more or less word for word and give the idea. I've had the experience of looking at Jas. Moffatt's translation and finding he has the verse exactly, wonderfully expressed. Then you go on to the next verse and you find he has thrown the original away and just put down what he thought they ought to ~~have~~ have said. So you can't trust Moffatt's translation at all! But every now and then he hits on the way to express these thoughts of a particular phrase or sentence exactly in our present-day English.

So I say the very poorest translator ~~can~~ can hit on a way to express a thought. Everyone who reads the original may easily get this thought, but the big job is saying it in your own language without necessarily writing a paragraph or whole page. So the KJV when it was made, there had been effort after effort made to render it in English. These men were able to take these translations and look at them and say, This is a poor translation but he just got it in this particular verse. This particular phrase he's just got it. So they took their pick from all of them. Today we have our Greek here and we have people trying to translate it into English, and there have been some very good translations made, and some very poor translations made but probably every one of these translations has an occasional place where it has got a rendering into English that is better than any other. My hope is that the time will come when we will be able to take all these translations and select the best phrases from them and get a translation that will be as good for the next 300 years, if the Lord tarries, as the KJV was for its day and for at least two or three centuries after it was written. Now after 3 and 1/2 centuries it is quite antiquated. Many of its words our people just don't understand.