

It was just a couple days ago that I noticed that the Bible speaks of addiction? What do you think of a person being addicted? Today none of us want to become addicted, do we? But we read in 1 Cor. 16:15 Paul speaks of a friend of his and he said that they have addicted themselves to the ministry of the saints. It's an entirely different use of the word. There are just hundreds of cases.

I feel that one of Satan's great victories has been the result of the great goodness of the translation made 300 years ago. As a result of the great excellence we got the impression that this particular English translation was in some way sacred. The result is we see the Scripture today-- most Christians do-- through a fog, a fog of Old English. Probably very clear to people in that day, but not clear to people today.

F. Schaeffer said to me, I'm so glad this NIV. I've given copies to all my children and grand-children. I'm so glad because they are reading it, and getting so much idea from it. They are reading it so much more than the Bible before.

The need of today is to get the thought of God's Word to God's people, and to get the thoughts of God to the people themselves. Up until recently when I'd speak on this subject, I'd always refer to the need of reaching young people, and how do you expect young people with no biblical background to read Old English and get much out of it. I realized about 20 years ago how difficult it was for one who had not been raised on it.

I thought I'd like to read the essays of Montaigne, and I got a copy and found it written in French, and I found in the Introduction where it said, There have been many translations of Montaigne's Essays, but none has captured the flavor of the original as well as the translation of Florio, so that is the translation used here. That was made c. the same time the KJV was made. As I read it it was such a job to understand material with which I was not already familiar that I didn't get very far in the book.

That would be the situation of young people who have not had great contact with the Bible as you try to reach them for the Lord and you give them a translation in Old English. I thought, O my, let the old people keep on reading the lovely words which they have enjoyed so much, but the people you want to reach for the gospel, put it in their own language.

And it's been only in the last few weeks that I've come to realize that great as the need is to have it in a language for people we want to reach for Christ in language they can understand, it is perhaps every more important that Christian people have the Bible in language that conveys meaning to them, and that they don't simply slip over those words as I have slipped over hundreds of vv. in the Scriptures without pausing to think, What does this really mean?

Inerrancy is very important. Inerrancy does not mean magical words. It does not mean that these words are the only ways in which a particular thought could be expressed. It does not mean you can squeeze any one verse and get all sorts of meaning out of it.