

read them over and over and never knew what they meant. Never stopped to think. "Of his fulness have all we received and grace for grace." What does that mean, grace for grace? Does He give me grace in return for the grace I give Him? What does it mean? NIV says, One blessing after another. Which is clear to us what you are saying.

We have a tough problem today which we have to face. Thirty years ago all our people understood the KJV. I should not say all understood but read it. They were all content to go along with it and all could read it, in unison. We have a great blessing in the unified use of a version. Today we find people using ~~x~~ various versions. People are entitled to read a work in a way they can understand it. Many of your older folks are devoted to KJV. To its lovely language. But the purpose is not to have people enjoy lovely language, but it is to have people understand the Word of God.

Be careful for nothing. I wish I'd been more careful last Sunday! It's ridiculous (for us) to say be careful for nothing! But it was perfectly right 300 years ago. Careful was full of care and of anxiety. Today it doesn't mean that to anybody. I was shocked to read a paper by a very scholarly preacher, a man who ordinarily has shown pretty good sense in ~~xxxx~~ lots that he writes. But to read his criticism ~~x~~ of a translation of the Bible in which he says re only-begotten is deleted. Why, he said, Only God could have an only-begotten son! The reason I was shocked was because this man knows most of the Bible. He's been through it a good many times! I would think he would have realized that it says in Hebrews that Abraham was ready to offer up his only begotten son. So a man can have an only begotten son.

Certainly in the sense that only begotten would seem to mean, I think it was not an only begotten son. He begat a number of sons. At least one of them was begotten before Isaac was. It means his unique son. It means his son in a category in which no other son is. I tried to get him to change it. I don't know exactly how to get the idea across. But only begotten to the world and it does not convey the meaning.

So we have a problem in getting people to read the Bible and understand it, and yet we have this problem about memorizing it and reading it in unison. I was very glad about a year ago to speak at a church of about 600 members where they were putting the NIV as a pew Bible . . . That takes courage, and careful thought. I just wish our evangelical people could agree on a translation and switch to it in our day. To me its not so important which translation it is as that it is (up to date). I just noticed a thing today I'd never noticed before. In KJV of Luke 22:31 (a verse I have on occasion puzzled over) "The Lord said, Simon, Simon behold Satan has desired to have you that he may sift ~~xxx~~ you as wheat." I've sometimes wondered what that meant. How would you sift a man? But I never realized before what should have been perfectly obvious to me, this goes on in the next verse and does not say I have prayed for you that your faith won't fail (KJV), I have prayed for thee that thy faith