



Church Seed

"The seed is the word of God." Luke 8:11

Translation Principles

Believing Bible translation, ultimately, to be the work of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God to be verbally and plenary inspired and inerrant in the original texts divinely preserved for us in the Masoretic text of the Old Testament, the Textus Receptus of the New Testament and the English of the King James Version, I/we set forth these guidelines for all translations produced, in part or whole, aided, checked, or assisted in any way by me/us the undersigned servant(s) of God in His work of translation.

1. All translation projects or assistance will be preceded by, developed with, and finished in prayer to God for His Divine help to deliver His preserved Words into the receptor language.

2. All involved in the actual translation work of the Scriptures including checking for accuracy and making decisions on word choice and grammatical structure will be those who have professed faith in Christ alone for salvation, are baptized members of a gospel-preaching, Bible-believing local church, and are members in good standing, blameless in the eyes of the church, and of good report. They will be certified translators who have been trained in both Greek and Bible translation principles.

3. Believing the local church to be the instrument of God's working in the world today, all translation work will be done under the authority of and with the blessing and cooperation of a gospel-preaching, Bible-believing local church and with the cooperation of other such churches as will be using the translation. Alternatively, where there is not yet a local church, the sending church of a gospel-preaching, Bible-believing church planter will be the authority.

4. Believing the Bible to be necessary for church planting and growth and the church necessary for the proper preaching and teaching of the Bible, all translation will be done with the intent of edifying current Bible-believing churches and/or planting Bible-believing churches. Bible translation will not be attempted where there are not churches or church-planters to preach and teach the Word of God.

5. Believing the Bible to be the very words of God Himself, I/we will use every resource available to ensure that the translation will be as accurate as possible including proofreading by people of the churches. This also includes having someone with the oversight of the checking of the accuracy of the Scriptures by means of "experts" in the field of Bible translation.

6. Believing the spread of the Word of God to be the duty of every Christian, we hold this work to be a ministry of the church and its people. As such, any monies for the translation project will be considered love gifts for the ministry. While every effort will be made to ensure adequate giving for the project to justly compensate for time and work, this is not guaranteed. It is a work of faith and is done with faith in God's provision.

7. Believing God's Word that all things in the church should be done decently and in order, careful accountability of the highest standard will be upheld throughout the project. This includes honest and accurate reporting of both work compensated and monies used. In this way we will provide "for honest things, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men."

8. Believing God's words to be preserved for us in the Hebrew Masoretic Old Testament, the Greek Textus Receptus New Testament, and the English King James Version of the Scriptures, all translation projects will use these Hebrew and Greek texts as the basis of translation with the King James Version being compared to check the accuracy of the translation.

9. Believing every word of God to be pure, all translations will be done with the emphasis on a word for word translation from the source texts to the receptor language. Understanding the necessity at times for adjustment to the receptor language, we will adjust as needed to bring the meaning of the texts while always attempting as formal a translation as possible. The translation philosophy held by the translation group is "As literal as possible, as free as necessary." These priorities will guide all translation projects: (1) The meaning of the translation should take priority over grammatical structure (2) Contextual meaning should take priority over verbal consistency (3) The oral reading of Scripture should take priority over the written form and (4) Future needs should have priority over past or present needs. (these priorities from *Biblical Bible Translating* by Dr. Charles Turner)

10. Understanding that many times translations will be needed where there is already a Bible in the receptor language, the translation team will ensure the understanding of the churches for the need of a more fundamental translation. This should be done by teaching the churches or by literature developed to show the problem areas of the current Bible. This should be done carefully so that the current Bible can still be used until a better translation can be produced and so that there will be a spirit of cooperation among the fundamental churches and the translators and not division among them.