

The NIV is not a literal translation

The NIV is a thought for thought translation as opposed to a literal translation. Each passage of God's Word is rich with thoughts or insights. Each time you read it new insights stand out. If you have ten people read a passage they might each have something different that stands out to them. Of those insights or thoughts, which one should a translator translate for? When the translators translate for a specific insight (thought), it limits the full range of insights and applications to our lives that that can be gleaned and that God intended. When translators translate thoughts rather than words they destroy the translation's usefulness for Bible study. There are many places in the NIV where the thought is similar but words have been left untranslated from the Greek and others have been added that are not in the Greek in order to give the thought that they are "translating". The result is that there are many filler words that are the words of men rather than the Words of God.

Because the NIV does not indicate the words which were added like the KJV does, in reading only the NIV, one has no way of knowing which words were added and are the words of man and which words are the Words of God. Most Christians have had no way of verifying the NIV's accuracy. They have ignorantly relied heavily on it, assuming that it is a literal translation.

There are a number of passages that I have memorized and meditated upon and then read them in the NIV. I discovered that not all the insights could be gleaned in the NIV because of the way they had translated for a specific insight. I further discovered in looking up the Greek that the NIV's selection of words for those passages was not as accurate a translation. This is the type of thing that one cannot discover by a casual reading of the passage. At first glance they appear to say the same thing. An example of translating for a thought rather than literally is in Matt. 19:9 (the exception clause on divorce) where the word for fornication/adultery is translated "marital unfaithfulness." At first glance the term seems to mean the same as adultery. However, "marital unfaithfulness" is a broad term that can give "license" in many situations. There is never a divorce where marital unfaithfulness does not exist. The act of divorce is the ultimate act of marital unfaithfulness. The term "marital unfaithfulness" is not a literal translation from the Greek.

The problem with the NIV is that we may be understanding what the NIV is saying, but is it what God said?

Beware of translations that do not indicate what words are added

The KJV uses italics to indicate words which are not in the Greek which the translators added to make the English flow smoothly. When you see a word in italics you know right away that it is not part of the Greek, and you know not to base insights and interpretations on that word or words. However, when a translation such as the NIV does not use italics, a person does not know which words are translated words and which words are filler words. Therefore a person may be basing an insight or interpretation on the words of men rather than on the Words of God and not know it. By not using italics in a translation where the insight (thought) is translated rather than the literal words (such as the NIV), the words of men are elevated to the same status as the Words of God. That is wrong. There are some verses where not using italics does not make much difference. But there are other passages where it does, especially in a translation like the NIV that is not a word for word translation.

The NIV is affecting the Church's doctrine and the understanding of God's will on the major doctrines facing us today

Version: A different perspective, a different reading, a different understanding, it says something different, a different application can be applied.

Most churches & individuals who use the KJV, from what I have observed, still believe and practice much the same way as they did 20 or 30 years ago.

Many persons and churches who have made great changes in what they believe and practice from 20 or 30 years ago have done so after changing Bible versions. The NIV is more than just another way of saying what the KJV says. Subconsciously, it undermines the authority of God's commands (thus says the Lord) and it subconsciously encourages one to interpret God's commands in whatever way they would like. The New International Version has added words, removed words, retranslated words, and mistranslated words to create it's own version of what God said. People then feel free to create their own version of interpretation of what God says - everyone does what is right in their own eyes.

When there are several different versions of the same thing, which one is correct? Rather than create a better understanding of what God has said, different versions of what God has said undermines the authority of God's Word. Where there are two different versions of the same thing, what is truth? Which one is right? Or is truth open for personal interpretation? Using different versions of the Bible undermines the authority of the Bible; it has undermined the authority of preaching; it has undermined the authority of preachers and teachers of the Word. Change in beliefs and practice are a result, because there are question marks put on what God has said- "Is that really what God meant?" Instead of hearing, "This is what God has commanded us," you hear, "I like the way it says it in _____ version."

Thus the NIV and many of the other modern translations are undermining the Church's doctrine and the understanding of God's will on the major issues facing us today.

What does "I Believe what the Bible says" mean?

When a person says that they believe what the Bible says: what Bible are they talking about? Which version of the Bible are they basing their beliefs on? The NIV and KJV in many places do not say the same thing. Two totally different interpretations and applications result from reading and following the two different versions of the Bible. In addition to the NIV and KJV, there are over 100 different English versions of the Bible. With such a large number of versions and many saying things different, especially the thought for thought (dynamic equivalent) versions, what is the final authority?

The standard response has been that the Bible is the final authority. However with such a large number of versions of the Bible and many saying things different, that response has become ambiguous. Each person can pick and chose from the smorgasbord of Bible versions the readings what he or she likes best and then do what is right in their own eyes. Subconsciously each person becomes the final authority rather than the Bible.

It is in the subconscious that the authority of the Bible has been destroyed the most. Most Christians would still verbally say that the Bible is still the final authority for faith and practice. However, that is only lip service. When it comes to specific doctrines (they are often incorrectly called issues- a term that allows them to be viewed as controversial issues rather than as sound doctrine or false doctrine), we soon see that each person is setting themselves up as the final authority rather than the Bible.

The Church needs one standard, one foundation, one version of the Bible to stand upon as the final authority. Not that we hold that English translation as an inspired English translation, in which the

translators were inspired in the same way the original writers were inspired by the Holy Spirit. The Church needs one translation which we can hold as the infallible Word of God which we can confidently trust in as having the very Words of God. We need one translation upon which to stand as the final authority rather than many in which to swim.

Of All the English versions, the KJV is still the best translation for the Church to stand on. For many, many years the KJV has been the foundation upon which the Church has stood. In more recent years scholars have lead us to doubt its authority and to question it. However, we see the scholars have led us in error with corrupt Greek manuscripts, misguiding facts, and a man made NU Greek text. When we strip away all that error and the translations made from the man made NU Greek text, we see that of the translations based on the Textus Receptus, the KJV is still the translation that the Church trusts the most.

We Wrestle not against flesh and Blood

God has told us that "we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places" (Eph. 6:12). This is especially true with a spiritual subject of this significance - the Word of God. It is not man that we are dealing with, but Satan himself who is behind all of this. Satan is out to destroy everything that he can that is of God. God also warns us that there "are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. "And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works." (II Cor. 11:13-15)

The Ph.D. pedestal

The Church has put higher education and those with doctor's degrees on a pedestal. Higher Education has become a high place in the church. Subconsciously those in the church today have taken the view that those who are more educated are the ones who have the authority to interpret the Bible and say how it applies to society today. Those who are less educated are hesitant to speak authoritatively on Bible doctrine because they do not have the education that other's do. This view by Christians is a mistake. Jesus rebuked the professors and scholars (the scribes and Pharisees) over and over because they did not understand the Scriptures. Jesus called these highly educated religious leaders: you fools, hypocrites, blind leaders of the blind, whited sepulchers, serpents, and brood of vipers (Matt. 23).

It would be a mistake to say that every highly educated person teaches error. The Apostle Paul is a New Testament example of a highly educated man who spoke the truth, and God used him mightily. However, his education was not what qualified him for the Lord's service. It is also a mistake to assume that a highly educated person is best qualified to interpret Scripture and to say what is truth and error. The error and misinformation that the scholars have taught us about the NIV and the NU Greek text is only the tip of the iceberg of false teaching that we are receiving from scholars today. In researching other doctrines, I am discovering that there are many, many things which are being stated as fact and are believed as fact by many highly educated people, but it does not line up with historical evidence or other passages of Scripture. I am discovering that many are not true scholars. They are merely puppeting what others have told them. There are few who have searched the real evidence for themselves. Many are relying on the research of others, and are merely repeating what they have read or been told not realizing that it is not accurate information.

We must be like the Bereans and search the Scriptures diligently for ourselves to see if what we are being taught is truth. A person does not need to be educated to understand God's will and His Word. Jesus in one of His prayers said " I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes. Even so, Father: for so it seemed good in thy sight." (Matthew 11:25,26) Another place God tells us, "I will destroy the

wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent. Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?" (I Cor. 1:19,20)

As Christians we must reject the Ph.d. pedestal and not honor one Christian's teaching over another because of their higher education. In fact the opposite of what is commonly believed is true, the more education that a person has, the less likely they are to understand the truth of God's will and His Word. God tells us in the above verses that He has hid His things from the wise and prudent and has revealed them unto babes. This is true today. There are many highly educated persons who can speak in great and glowing terms but who do not understand the truth of God's Word. If you evaluate what they are saying closely, you will discover that they are approaching the Bible as either a literary book or as a history book; and not as a living book that contains the very Words of God which applies directly to us and our culture today.

The NIV and KJV cannot both be called good translations.

We have before us this situation: The KJV and NIV do not totally have the same content. The NIV does not have much that the KJV has. God has told us that it is sin to remove from His words in the Scriptures. Because of this we cannot call both the KJV and the NIV good translations.

What translation should I use?

The most important consideration is not the translation one chooses but the Greek text that was used by the translation to translate from. At the present there are only a few translations that are based on the traditional text (Textus Receptus): The KJV, the New KJV, the Modern KJV, the Literal Translation and the 21st Century KJV. The KJV is an excellent translation that has stood the test of time. The "out of date" words are easily learned by expanding your vocabulary to include them. I know a number of Christians who did not grow up in a Christian home who use the KJV and have a better grasp of Scripture than many Christians who grew up in Christian homes and who now use the NIV. I had no problem understanding the KJV language as a child.

The New KJV for the most part reads close to the KJV. However there are some questions about its accuracy. I have discovered that the Old Testament is translated from a modern Hebrew text. I do not know much at this point what has been altered in this text. I would appreciate seeing any findings that you have on the NKJV.

Conclusion

Has the NIV been translated from the best ancient Greek manuscripts? NO! It has been translated from a modern Greek text that reads differently than any Greek manuscript that is in existence. It was translated from the NU Greek text which is a modern eclectic Greek text that was pulled together from a handful of ancient manuscripts, of which not one of them reads the same as any other manuscript, while the majority (Around 95%) of the existing manuscripts are in agreement. The result is that the NU Greek text has removed, added, and changed many words in the Bible. Any translation, the NIV included, based upon the NU Greek text is therefore unreliable and guilty of breaking God's command not to add to, or remove His Words.

In addition, the NIV is not a fixed translation. It is still open for additional changes. In the March 29,1997 edition of World magazine they reported how the NIV was quietly going "gender-neutral" in the US. The NIVI (New International Version Inclusive Language Edition) was already being sold in England. After an outcry from Christians, Zondervan and the International Bible Society stated that

they abandoned changes in the NIV in the US — all the while maintaining that the gender-neutral translation would have been more "accurate". In 1996 Zondervan published the New International Reader's Version which was gender-neutral. (They have since the outcry stated that they intend to revise it to change the language.)

The NIV cannot be trusted. Its publisher (Zondervan) is owned by non-Christians that have no interest in serving Jesus as Lord and being faithful to His Word, but only in making money off of gullible Christians. (Why should Christians go into Satan's camp to get their Bibles?) Its Greek text is corrupt and is being continually revised, leaving the NIV with a corrupt and changing foundation. Jesus told us to be like the wise man and build our house upon a rock and not upon shifting sand.

What is your choice? Will you build your Christian life upon the solid rock of God's Word which we find in the KJV and the other accurate translations based on the TR, or will you build your life on the shifting sand of the NIV and other modern translations which are based on the NU Greek text?

Bill and Kate recently bought a brand new home and they are so proud of it! A spacious house it is, complete with the wide front porch and gingerbread trim they've always wanted. Preparing to move, they chose the most professional, acclaimed movers in town. These movers had been to college for their profession and were THE movers in town. In Bill and Kate's 20 years of marriage and in their many travels to other countries they had acquired many valuable items. They wanted everything moved with the greatest of care.

Moving day came and went and Bill and Kate were soon greatly enjoying their new home. They enjoyed entertaining and were soon having friends and neighbors over.

One day Ken and Judy, some old friends of theirs from another state, came to spend a few days with them and to see where they now lived. How happy they all were to see each other. Of course, Bill and Kate immediately showed Ken and Judy through their new home. And they told them how they were so happy with the movers. They were so professional and even wore suits instead of T-shirts and jeans. The movers had the best of manners and spoke with such refined speech.

That night as Ken and Judy were getting ready to retire for the night, they were talking about the house. "They sure do have a nice house!" said Judy.

"Yes, they do," replied Ken. "But something seems a little strange. Their last house was so cramped that they had a lot of their belongings in storage. I would have thought all that stuff would be displayed now that they have all this room. But the rooms were surprisingly empty."

"You know, come to think of it," said Judy, "I didn't see some of the things I liked so much. Like that antique mantel clock, for instance, or the covered bridge painting. They must have a bunch of things in the attic."

The next day as the two couples were visiting, Judy mentioned that she missed seeing the antique mantel clock that she liked so well. "Yeah," said Bill. "It's just one of those things. When you move you always miss something or can't find it. There have been a few things we haven't been able to find."

"Would you like us to help you go through some boxes to look for some things?" volunteered Ken. "I know there's a lot to moving."

"Naw," replied Bill. "We have so much stuff it doesn't really matter. Besides, there really isn't much in the attic."

The longer Ken and Judy were there, the more things they noticed were missing. Judy noticed that half of Kate's best silverware was gone. There were other things such as the handmade rug from India, a

flowered fan from China, a hand blown vase, an old afghan from Aunt Martha, a tiffany lamp, a drawer out of the refrigerator, the rungs off a rocker, the piano bench, the computer keyboard, and one string on the guitar. They kept mentioning more and more things to Bill and Kate.

Finally, on their last day there, Ken and Judy told Bill and Kate, "Look, someone has been pilfering in your belongings. Those movers must have done a professional job of thievery. We think you should go through everything and find out what all is missing and report it. It's obvious something's been going on."

This was too much for Bill. "Look, you guys," he bellowed. "All this stuff isn't that important, okay? We've been making do quite well. So half the good silverware is missing; we'll use the other half. I never really liked Aunt Martha's old afghan anyway. It really doesn't matter! We don't really care! Those movers were the best and very professional and knew what they were doing. Get off the case! We don't like all this slanderous talk!"

"But Bill," persisted Ken, "you have many precious things gone. Judy and my last count was around 400 items. Besides, if this goes on unchecked, how many other people may be stolen from, too?"

"I'm too busy," declared Bill. "I don't have time to see what all is missing and go through all the legal proceedings it would take. Besides, I don't think we ever really had all that stuff. To tell you the truth, I don't really believe we've been stolen from. What I do know is that you've been throwing doubt on the reputation of the best, most professional movers around. With such words you could ruin their business. And it's hurting our relationship, too."

"But don't you understand?" said Ken. "We're only trying to warn you and help you."

"Don't bother," returned Bill. "It's unwarranted and unwanted. Things are fine and better than ever before. By the way, there's a nice, new hotel right outside of town where you might enjoy spending your last night there."

What a ridiculous little story! Most of us would be up in the air if we knew of just one thing that had been stolen from us.

And yet, how many people have had the very words of God stolen out from under their noses and yet either don't know or don't care? How many people bow before The Scholars saying, "You know best. You know best," instead of agreeing with a God who says, "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my **words** shall not pass away." and "Every **word** of God is pure." ?