Can We Trust Our English Bible Versions? Part 1

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INTRODUCTION

- In this instance, they wanted the laity not to have access to any portion of the scripture.
- Having any of these books translated into the vulgar tongue, we strictly forbid.
- So my question in this lesson and the one this afternoon is can we be confident in our English Bibles?

1 Absolutely Not, in Some Cases

John 1:1; 1 Peter 3:21

- Can we trust our English versions? And I would say, absolutely not, in some cases.
- That was translated by the Jehovah's Witness Organization, and thus it contains their bias.
- So class, with that little tiny change, they've changed the entire message of the gospel.
- If you're using an English version that was translated by one person, get you another one.
- This translation is not supported, class, by the text, but there it is.

2 Other Versions Should Be Used With Careful Judgment

- Other versions should be used with careful judgment because of the purpose of their translations.
- When you do that class, you introduce the possibility of putting your meaning on the meaning that's there and then putting it in the translation.
- But the primary purpose of a translation is to get everything that's in this original into the new language.
- My recommendation to you is check it with some other translations. And be careful.

3 The Most Trustworthy Modern English Versions

- I'm going to give you five that are translated by large committees from various backgrounds.
- They're produced with the intent of giving the world an accurate word-for-word translation of the best available Greek and Hebrew text.
- The old King James was that kind of a translation. So is the New King James. The American Standard, the New American Standard, and the English Standard Version.
- Complete equivalence seeks to preserve all the information in the text.
- I want people translating the Bible for me who believe it's God's word.

4 Even These English Versions Present Differences

Philippians 1:22

- But even these English versions present the Bible student with differences.

- There are numerous instances in the King James where it's old English that we don't use anymore.
- There are also variations because of many recent discoveries of ancient manuscripts and other documents.
- The 1611 translators of the King James Version did not have access to the three most important ancient copies of the Bible.

5 Different Texts in Different Versions

Acts 8:36–37; 1 John 5:7–8; Mark 16:9–20

- The relative importance given to these documents by the committees of scholars sometimes affects the translation. So different texts in English are in different versions.
- If you're studying with somebody and they happen to be using the ESV and you're using the New King James, your Bibles are different.
- You have at least three versions that have a different rendering of 1 John 5, 7 and 8 with no footnotes.
- Verses 9 through 20 are bracketed in NU as not original. They are lacking in Codex Sinaticus and Codex Vaticanus, although nearly all other MSS of Mark contain them.
- This is God's word. And we have differences between the different versions in English and in other languages.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **There are fundamentals about this subject that every Christian should know.**

MY NOTES