

Assignment 1-1

Mary Rice

Select 5 translations that we talked about in this chapter. Select a passage from the Bible (it must be at least 2 verses long) and write out how these translations render this passage. Next, mark or highlight the differences amongst the 5 translations. Write a paragraph summarising what you have observed comparing the translations.

NIV 1Cor 9:24-27

Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize. Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last for ever. Therefore, I do not run like someone running aimlessly! I do not fight like a boxer beating the air. No, I strike a blow to my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.

God's Word Translation 1Cor 9:24-27

Don't you realise that everyone who runs in a race, runs to win, but only one runner gets the prize. Run like them so that you can win. Everyone who enters an athletic contest goes into strict training. They do it to win a temporary crown, but we do it to win one that will be permanent. So I run, but not without a clear goal ahead of me. So I box, but not as if I were just shadow boxing. Rather, I toughen my body with punches and make it my slave so that I will not be disqualified after I have spread the good news to other.

NKJV 1Cor 9:24-27

Do you not know that those who run in a race all run but one receives the prize. Run in such a way that you may obtain it, and everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it, to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. Therefore I run thus, not with uncertainty, thus I fight, not as one who beats the air, but I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest when I have preached to others, myself should become disqualified.

New World Translation 1Cor 9:24-27*

Do you not know that the runners in a race all run but only one receives the prize. Run in such a way that you may win it. Now everyone competing in a contest exercises self control in all things. Of course they do it to receive a crown that can perish, but we one that does not perish. Therefore. The way I am running is not

aimlessly. The way I am aiming my blows is so as not to be striking the air, but I “pummel” my body and lead it as a slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself should become disapproved somehow.

KJV 1Cor 9:24-27

Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize. So run that you may obtain. And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown, but we an incorruptible. I therefore so run not as uncertainly, so fight I not as one that beateth the air. But I keep under my body and bring it into subjection, lest that by any means, when I have preached to others I myself should be a castaway.

New Living Translation 1Cor 9:24-27

Don't you realise that in a race everyone runs, but only one person gets the prize? So run to win! All athletes are disciplined in their training. They do it to win a prize that will fade away, but we do it for an eternal prize. So I run with purpose in every step. I am not just shadow boxing. I discipline my body like an athlete, training it to do what it should. Otherwise I fear that after preaching to others I myself might be disqualified.

Translations

I have selected 6 translations of the scripture 1Cor 9:24-27. Five are the ones mentioned in the study book and one a New World Translation (Jehovah's Witness Bible) because I spent years in that congregation and I like that rendition of that scripture too.

The new New World Translation has “pummel” my body. Pummel means to strike repeatedly with the fists. Apostle Paul says here that he puts his body into subjection and exercises self-control with it. NKJV has “discipline my body” which means the same thing and KJV has “keep under my body and bring it into subjection.”

All the Bible translations mentioned have “prize” which is what the apostle Paul wants to achieve and us to achieve, prize being an entry into eternal life after death. NLT has “eternal prize” which I feel is far better than “imperishable crown” as in NKJV.

However, KJV is an old English translation and I like the phrase and word “Therefore I run, not as uncertainly so fight I not as one that beateth the air.” It's uncertainty in the NKJV and aimlessly in the NWT and shadowboxing in NLT.

Interesting because God's Word Translation has "without a clear goal ahead of me" which is quite apt, because in the NLT when it talks of shadowboxing the apostle Paul talks of "running with purpose in every step" which is the opposite.

What I have observed by comparing these translations is that they all say the same thing, but slightly differently. The apostle Paul has clearly in mind how he wants to preach the gospel with a clear purpose in mind for eternal life. But he uses the analogy of a runner and a boxer to teach us because their purpose is a goal simply to win and beat their opponent. Our goal is simply to win the prize to qualify for eternal life.

I guess our opponent is Satan. He does not want us to qualify for eternal life and so he will whisper in our minds anything to distract us from thinking how Jesus wants us to think. By comparing translations I have observed that strict discipline is required in a Christian life with a clear set goal to look forward to once we leave this Earth.

Assignment 1-2

Do you agree that the Bible is a divine human book? Why or why not?

I agree that the Bible is a divine human book because when I'm reading it God seems to speak to me. I can get answers to questions that are on my mind through prayer when reading the psalms. It is true what 2 Tim3:16-17 says that all scripture is inspired of God for our correction, for doctrine etc, spirit breathed, to thoroughly equip the man of God for every good work.

What is textual criticism? How is it possible to have a high view of the authority of the Bible and a positive view of textual criticism at the same time?

Textual criticism is a technical discipline that compares the original Hebrew or Greek scriptures to a modern interpretation, eg an English translation. These could include New King James Version, New Living Translation and even King James Version of yesteryear, because it wasn't in the original language of Hebrew or Greek. They do this because the original Bible among many was written for the Hebrews and Greeks and found in 1947. Therefore many Bibles had to be written for us today.

It is possible to have a high view of the authority of the Bible because it was written by 40 different authors, has 66 books over about 1500-1600 years. It was God breathed according to 2 Timothy so when the scribes interpreted the scriptures for our benefit every care was taken to get it right.

What is a Bible translation? Why is translation not a simple exercise? Describe the 2 main approaches to translation discussed in this chapter. Which approach do you feel most comfortable with? And why?

A Bible translation is a copy of the Bible in our own language, other than the one it was originally written in, Hebrew and Greek. Translation isn't a simple exercise because in English, we sentence ours like "and Jesus rebuked the demon and it came out of him" Matt 17:18 but in the Greek it is written "and rebuked it, the Jesus and came out from him the demon" Matt 17:18. Therefore it doesn't make sense to English speaking persons. So there needed to be an English translation as languages differ over time. You have the source language, Hebrew or Greek, and the receptor language, English. The receptor language could be Italian if you were looking to produce a Bible to non-English speaking peoples. Everyone wants a Bible in his or her language so that is why Bible translations came about.

I feel comfortable with the New King James Version because I find the KJV difficult to understand.