

## Grasping God's Word - Assignment 1

Carlo Tedesco - 0412 342 941

Select five Bible translations we've discussed.

*Select a passage from the Bible (it must be at least two verses long) and write out how the translations render this passage.*

Next, mark the differences among the five translations.

### Matthew 16:26–27 New King James Version

26 For what **profit** is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and **loses his own soul**?

Or what will a man give **in exchange for his soul**?

27 For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then **He will reward** each according to his works.

### Matthew 16:26–27 English Standard Version

26 For what will it **profit** a man if he gains the whole world and **forfeits his soul**?

Or what shall a man give **in return for his soul**?

27 For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then **he will repay** each person according to what he has done.

### Matthew 16:26–27 New Internation Version

26 What **good** will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet **forfeit their soul**?

Or what can anyone give **in exchange for their soul**?

27 For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then **he will reward** each person according to what they have done.

### Matthew 16:26–27 Amplified Bible, Classic Edition (AMPC)

26 For what will it **profit** a man if he gains the whole world and **forfeits his life [his blessed life in the kingdom of God]**?

Or what would a man give **as an exchange for his [blessed] life [in the kingdom of God]**?

27 For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory (majesty, splendour) of His Father with His angels, and then **He will render account and reward** every man in accordance with what he has done.

### Matthew 16:26–27 Holman Christian Bible

26 What will it **benefit** a man if he gains the whole world yet **loses his life**?

Or what will a man **give in exchange for his life**?

27 For the Son of Man is going to come with His angels in the glory of His Father, and then **He will reward** each according to what he has done.

***Write a paragraph summarising what you have observed by comparing the translations.***

Having read and somewhat scrutinised the five “translations” of the same verse, as per the previous page, it seems one may surmise that the translators’ objective was to compile a most accurate and perhaps succinct version of these verses which would put forward a clearer message thus reducing the cognitive load on the reader without omitting any vital information and to do so using vocabulary and language contemporary for its time. Yet, even so and remembering that the translators’ source documents would have largely been the same, it is interesting to note that the end product, in each case, were written in such a way that in key places within those two short verses, different words have been utilised which are supposed to mean the same thing, as these verses should have the one and the same weighty message, yet in comparison, one translation may be construed as meaning something different to the other, whether the difference being subtle or otherwise.

Carlo, I find it interesting that, to my reading of them, these translations say pretty much the same thing, but in slightly different ways. You mention “that the translators’ source documents would have largely been the same” – some of these translations use, or put more emphasis on different textual sources, but it appears to me that with these two verses there have not been any differences.

The assignment is about comparing two verses – which you have done well – but I think it is beneficial always to look at the context – I have copied below what I consider to be helpful in understanding.

(NKJV) Matt 16: 13-28

<sup>15</sup> He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” <sup>16</sup> Simon Peter answered and said, “**You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.**”

<sup>21</sup> From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that **He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day.**

<sup>22</sup> Then **Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, “Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!”**

<sup>23</sup> But He turned and said to Peter, “Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men.”

<sup>24</sup> Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. <sup>25</sup> For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.

These two also relate to the subject - Matt 19:23-29 also Luke 12:13-34 – the parable of the rich fool – and worth reading for context.

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

I must, in faith, life testimony and by the power, counsel and prompting of His Holy Spirit, agree that the Bible is a divine-human book, after all, Jesus Christ is fully God and came to earth as fully man. Jesus plays a more than integral part with regards to what the Bible proclaims and offers to the hearer/believer. He is the living word. The Bible and its divine-human preservation through the ages is another of God's promises of His provision being fulfilled. After all, faith comes by hearing, hearing by the words of God/Jesus Christ. ***"All scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness..."*** 2 Timothy 3:16; ***"Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth."*** John 17:17; and we could go on and on.

What is a Bible translation? Why is translation not a simple exercise.

Google definition - Translation: ***"the process of translating words or text from one language into another"***, so a Bible translation is where a Bible written in one language is translated into another language. While early English Bibles were generally based on a small number of Greek texts, or on Latin translations, modern English translations of the Bible are based on a wider variety of manuscripts in the original languages, mostly Greek and Hebrew.

***It is quite a subject, but the more texts available can "muddy the waters" – because not all are as accurate – even though they might be older - at those that were available (textus receptus). It makes honest textual criticism even more important.***

Translation not a simple exercise but rather complicated because no two languages are exactly alike.

Describe the two main approaches to translation as discussed.

The two main approaches to translation as discussed are;

1. ***"word for word"*** and
2. ***"thought for thought"***

1. ***"word for word"*** : also referred to as "formal" translation aims to make as minimal change to the text as possible, leaving some things ambiguous particularly so with translating Hebrew or Greek manuscripts into English ***as the English language is so starved of vocabulary***. Readers may need to do some additional research to understand the text.

***A comment on your statement here, Carlo – there are some words where the Greek can be far more precise than English, e.g. the different words for love in Greek. Generally, English is a very expressive language, and I would not say it is starved of vocabulary – far from it. This can be a problem in translation because a technically valid English word can be used that conveys a subtly different meaning to what was intended by the Author - the Holy Spirit. A good example of this is found in the KJV (and NKJV) – the intention being to give authority to a church hierarchy – Hebrews 13:17 "Obey those who rule over you" - the Greek word translated "obey" more correctly means "be persuaded" – and "those who rule over you" more accurately "your leaders". This fits better with what Peter wrote – "nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock" and what Jesus taught His disciples – how they should behave in the assembly.***

1. **“thought for thought”** : also referred to as “dynamic” Bible translations, try to reproduce the original text using more “modern language” to communicate the broader meaning of the text.

It would be fair to say that numerous Bible translations/versions have been produced as different readers have different needs. Some value **word-for-word** translations because of their accuracy and faithfulness to the original texts. Others prefer **thought-for-thought** translations, which prioritize clarity and relatability.

We all have the need to hear what is accurate and faithfully transmitted – but thought for thought can make for more clarity for those who need it – if that “thought for thought” is faithful to the meaning – which is why these have to be checked against the word for word – and sometimes the Greek or Hebrew text – to make sure.

Thankyou Carlo.