

BAC Podcast Notes

Episode 2: "Why read the Bible? Which translation should I read?"

Why Read the Bible?

The Bible contains everything we need to become a Christian, grow as a Christian, and live as a Christian

- The Bible contains everything we need to become a Christian
 - 2 Timothy 3:15: "...the sacred writings [Scripture], are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus"
 - The Bible shows us our need for Jesus and tells us how we can be saved
- The Bible contains everything we need to grow as Christians
 - Matthew 4:4: "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God"
 - Just as our physical lives are maintained through a regular intake of food, so our spiritual lives are dependent on regular nourishment from the Word of God
- The Bible contains everything we need to live as Christians
 - The Bible is our only source for clear, direct statements about God's will.
 - 1 John 5:3: "For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments"
 - These "commandments" are found in Scripture

We become what we behold

- 2 Corinthians 3:18: "And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another"
- God's glory is transforming → we become more like God as we behold God
- We behold God's glory in the Bible, so we need a steady diet in Scripture to become more like God

Which translation should I read?

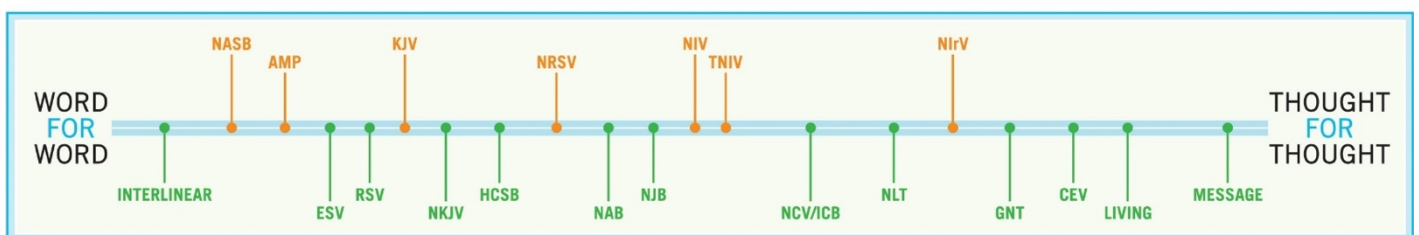
- First, we need to approach this topic with humility → thousands of languages in the world still don't have a single translation of God's Word
- Three main translation approaches:
 1. "Word-for-Word"
 - Prioritizes reproducing the structure of the original language (Hebrew or Greek) into English
 - Strengths:
 - Can allow the reader to see word patterns and make connections throughout Scripture
 - Can be less "interpretive"
 - Examples: English Standard Version (ESV), New American Standard Bible (NASB)

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Quarter 1, Episode 6: “Why read the Bible? Which translation should I read?”

2. “Thought-for-thought”
 - Prioritizes reproducing the meaning of the original Greek or Hebrew into English
 - Strengths:
 - Can be more accurate in preserving the original meaning in cases where a word-for-word approach obscures the meaning
 - Tends to use more natural English and can be appropriate for children or people who speak English as a second language
 - Example: New Living Translation (NLT)
 3. Mediating approach
 - Recognizes the strengths of both the word-for-word and thought-for-thought approaches
 - Uses a word-for-word approach as much as possible but uses a more meaning-based approach when necessary to convey an accurate meaning
 - Examples: Christian Standard Bible (CSB) and New International Version (NIV)
- Remember: **It’s always best to consult multiple translations**
 - The type of translation you use depends on what you’re using it for
 - Word-for-word: word studies, in-depth study
 - Thought-for-thought: general reading, sharing Scripture with children or nonbelievers
 - Mediating approach: “all-around” translations
 - Note: You will also come across “paraphrases” of Scripture
 - The translations listed above were created by committees of dozens of scholars with PhDs and proper credentials
 - Paraphrases are usually one person’s interpretation of Scripture, and they tend to be very far on the “thought-for-thought” side of the translation spectrum (see below)
 - Paraphrases can sometimes be helpful to consult, but we don’t recommend using them as your primary Bible.
 - Example: *The Message* by Eugene Peterson

TRANSLATION CONTINUUM



This continuum shows how different Bible translations fit into the word-for-word and thought-for-thought translation philosophies.