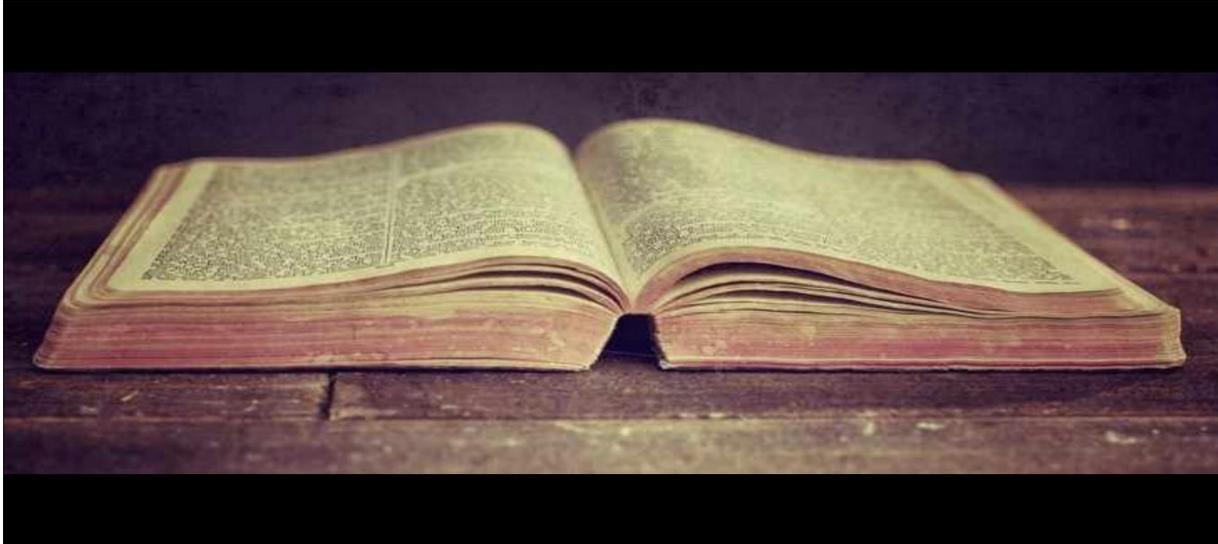


Why I love the English Standard Version of the Bible...

BRETT CODY / NOVEMBER 19, 2016



The Bible is such an amazing treasure! I love it so dearly because by it I can see Christ more clearly and enjoy Him more deeply. I pray we all understand how blessed we are to have an English translation of the Word of God. I would rather people read any translation of the Bible than read no translation of the Bible. God uses all translations to bless and save people!

Personally, I spent time considering the notion of switching from my New American Standard translation to a less “wooden” translation several years ago. At that time I used the NASB 1995 updated version of the Bible. When the ESV started increasing in popularity, I noted several of my seminary professors as well as theologians I deeply respected and read were involved in the translation efforts. I also traced the “lineage” to the manuscripts they used and discovered their desire to give the kind of cadence and literary excellence that the KJV exhibited with the strict adherence to a formal (word-for-word) rendering of the text.

I further considered how important it would be to settle into a translation that I was comfortable memorizing and would commit to it for the remainder of my life. Knowing the standard of translation discipline was of the highest caliber and that the translators desired to avoid any personal impositions on the text, I am hopeful that the ESV becomes the standard translation for as many English speaking Christ-followers as possible. If you have more questions or would like to know more about the ESV compared to other translations, please feel free to ask me as I would love to discuss further.

***from* The Preface to the English Standard Version**

...The ESV is an “essentially literal” translation that seeks as far as possible to capture the precise wording of the original text and the personal style of each Bible writer. As such, its emphasis is on “word-for-word” correspondence, at the same time taking into account differences of grammar, syntax, and idiom between current literary English and the original languages. Thus it seeks to be transparent to the original text, letting the reader see as directly as possible the structure and meaning of the original.

In contrast to the ESV, some Bible versions have followed a “thought-for-thought” rather than “word-for-word” translation philosophy, emphasizing “dynamic equivalence” rather than the “essentially literal”

meaning of the original. A “thought-for-thought” translation is of necessity more inclined to reflect the interpretive opinions of the translator and the influences of contemporary culture.

Every translation is at many points a trade-off between literal precision and readability, between “formal equivalence” in expression and “functional equivalence” in communication, and the ESV is no exception. Within this framework we have sought to be “as literal as possible” while maintaining clarity of expression and literary excellence. Therefore, to the extent that plain English permits and the meaning in each case allows, we have sought to use the same English word for important recurring words in the original; and, as far as grammar and syntax allow, we have rendered Old Testament passages cited in the New in ways that show their correspondence. Thus in each of these areas, as well as throughout the Bible as a whole, we have sought to capture the echoes and overtones of meaning that are so abundantly present in the original texts.

As an essentially literal translation, then, the ESV seeks to carry over every possible nuance of meaning in the original words of Scripture into our own language. As such, the ESV is ideally suited for in-depth study of the Bible. Indeed, with its emphasis on literary excellence, the ESV is equally suited for public reading and preaching, for private reading and reflection, for both academic and devotional study, and for Scripture memorization.

...We know that no Bible translation is perfect or final; but we also know that God uses imperfect and inadequate things to his honor and praise. So to our triune God and to his people we offer what we have done, with our prayers that it may prove useful, with gratitude for much help given, and with ongoing wonder that our God should ever have entrusted to us so momentous a task.

Soli Deo Gloria!—To God alone be the glory!

<http://www.esvbible.org/resources/esv-global-study-bible/preface-to-the-english-standard-version/>