

SLIDELL CHURCH OF CHRIST

994 Old Spanish Trail
Slidell, LA 70458-5016

PHONE/ FAX: (985) 643-4826

May 31, 2015

Preacher's Point

By *Dan Schillinger*



Facts about the Bible--Part 1 of 2

The following are various Bible facts that every student of the Word will want to know and understand:

- As many as forty authors wrote the Bible over a period of more than 1,500 years (from 1500 B.C. to about A.D. 100). The thirty-nine books of the Old Testament were composed between 1400 and 400 B.C., the twenty-seven books of the New Testament between A.D. 50 and 100. These forty authors differed widely in their culture and education, and with personality and intellectual perception, and yet the books they wrote do not contradict one another.
- Moses wrote the first books of the Bible, and the apostles John and Peter wrote the last. Moses wrote the first five about 3,500 years ago, and John and Peter (in 2 Peter) the last, 1,600 years later.
- Some thirty authors wrote the books of the Old Testament. Their lives covered a period of about 1,200 years.
- Nine men wrote the New Testament in a period of about fifty years: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Paul, the unknown author of Hebrews, Peter, James, and Jude. At least five of these men were apostles, and all the rest evidently were close associates of apostles.
- The Bible deals with the subjects of history, biography, poetry, speeches, proverbs, songs,

Today's Sermon

a.m. **"By Nature Children of Wrath"**

Ephesians 2:1-3

p.m. **Opportunity for discussion
and reflection on the morning
message**

parables, prophecies, romances, drama, tragedies, sermons, dialog, and ethical teachings.

- The Hebrew/Aramaic Old Testament is traditionally divided into 3 parts: The Law, the Prophets, and the Psalms (or the Writings). Jesus so referred to it in Luke 24:44. The English Old Testament from early Greek Septuagint version is divided into four parts: The Pentateuch, History, Poetry, and Prophecy.
- The New Testament has three main parts: history (the Four Gospels and Acts), teaching (in the Epistles), and apocalyptic (Revelation). The New Testament may also be grouped into Four Gospels, one book of history, twenty-one letters to churches and individuals (thirteen Epistles of Paul and seven General Epistles)--and one apocalyptic book.

* * * * *

Congratulations!

We wish to announce the marriage of our own Walter Ford, Jr. and Kristi Jo Wilson, who were wed in a perfect out-door ceremony yesterday at Palmetto's Restaurant along Bayou Bonfouca here in Slidell. Dan Schillinger officiated. May they have many years together in the Lord!

“REMEMBER IN PRAYER

&

ENCOURAGE”



With Visits, Calls, & Cards

All the flooding victims throughout Texas

Angel Mangus (of Houston, TX, niece of Carl Mangus) - inoperable stage 4 brain cancer, just recently discovered.

Steve Lapinto family - baby **Anthony** is home but faces several future surgeries.

Evelena Bourgeois - successfully recovering from two stents implanted in her heart last week.

Rosa Nunez - good friend of the Vargas family, having serious painful health problems.

Bill Tansil - has an enlarged prostate, a small abdominal aortic aneurysm, fatigue and an abnormal gait.

Phyllis Tansil - seeking pain relief in her lower back by means of recent injection therapy.

Scot Casey & Erin Taylor - both suffering from debilitating bacterial sinus infections.

Family of Greg Bryant - bereaved in the recent passing of his brother Irvin. A funeral service was held in Irvin's memory yesterday afternoon at the building of the Crowder Boulevard church of Christ in New Orleans.

Tod Grabert - may have to have hardware surgery in his lower back redone.

Cecilia McDonald (Kate's mom) - home from the hospital, never has recovered well from her recent medical procedure; she remains weak, suffering from congestive heart failure, pneumonia and low oxygen.

Magel Casey (Scot's mom) - thanksgiving that she is healing well from recent carotid artery surgery.

Deborah Taylor (Evan's mom) - trying to recover from a tree falling through the ceiling in a room in their residence.

Mildred Tymkiw - suffering from a cramped shoulder and dizziness.

Donald Boudreaux (Joyce LeBlanc's brother-in-law, of the Barataria area) - suffering excruciating pain in the area of his recent surgery.

Pray for all who are travelling.

Pray for the Spanish Bible study.

Pray for our elders: Courtney Cheri, Dwight Jones and Gerald Molina.

Pray for President Obama and all our elected officials.

Pray for our men and women in our armed forces, both here and abroad!

* * * *

THE BASIC TOOL: A GOOD TRANSLATION (continued)

Adapted from Fee & Stuart, *How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth* (3rd edition)

The Questions of Language

The problem with a literal Bible translation is that it keeps distance at the wrong places--in language and grammar.

On the other hand, there are two problems with a free translation, especially for study purposes. First, in a free translation the translator updates the original author too much. Second, such a "translation" all too often comes close to being a commentary.

The way various translations handle the problem of "historical distance" can best be noted by illustrating several of the kinds of problems involved.

1. *Weights, measures, money.* This is a particularly difficult area. Does one transliterate the Greek and Hebrew terms ("ephah," "homer," etc.), or try to find their English equivalents? If one chooses to go with equivalents in weights and measures, does one use the standard "pounds" and "feet," or does one look to the future and translate "liters" and "meters"? Inflation can make mockery of monetary equivalents in a few years. The problem is further complicated by the fact that measures or money are often used to suggest

contrasts or startling results, as in Matthew 18:24-28 or Isaiah 5:10. To transliterate in these cases will likely cause an English reader to miss the point of the passage.

The KJV, followed closely by the RSV, was inconsistent in these matters. For the most part they transliterated, so that we got “baths,” “ephahs,” “homers,” “shekels,” and “talents.” Yet the Hebrew *’ammah* was translated “cubit,” the *zereth* a “span,” and the Greek *mna* (*mina*) became the British pound, while the *denarius* became a mere penny. For Americans all of these have the effect of being meaningless or misleading.

The NASB uses “cubit” and “span,” but otherwise consistently transliterates and then puts an English equivalent in the margin (except for John 2:6, where the transliteration is in the margin!). This is also the way the NIV chose to go, except for “cubits,” which are turned into feet, and all the marginal notes are given both in English standards and in metric equivalents. Unfortunately they give no note at all in Matthew 20:2, where the fact that the *denarius* was a regular day’s wage is important to the parable; moreover, in Mark 14:5 they abandon this principle altogether by translating the three hundred *denarii* into the equivalent, “more than a year’s wage.”

The *Living Bible*, as may be expected, turns everything into equivalents, but often they are not precise, and the turning of *denarii* into dollar amounts of the 1960s is a precarious procedure at best.

The best procedure to follow is to employ modern equivalents in the text, while using notes to show what is the term in the original language. The use of equivalents is surely to be preferred in the passages like Isaiah 5:10 and Matthew 18:24-28. Note how much more meaningful the TEV renders these verses than does the NASB:

Isaiah 5:10

NASB: “For ten acres of vineyard will yield only one bath of wine. And a homer of seed will yield but an ephah of grain.”

TEV: The grapevines growing on five acres of land will yield only five gallons of wine. Ten bushels of seed will produce only one bushel of grain.”

Matthew 18:24, 28

NASB: “There was brought to him one who owed him ten thousand talents. ... But that slave went out and found one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred *denarii*.”

TEV: “One of them was brought in who owed him millions of dollars ... Then the man went out and met one of his fellow servants who owed him a few dollars.”

2. *Euphemisms*. Almost all languages have euphemisms for matters of sex and biological functions. A translator has one of three choices in such matters: (1) translate literally, but perhaps leave an English-speaking reader bewildered or guessing, (2) translate the *literal equivalent*, but perhaps offend or shock the reader, or (3) translate with an *equivalent euphemism*.

Option 3 is probably the best if there is an appropriate euphemism. Otherwise it is better to go with option 2, especially for matters that generally no longer require euphemisms in English. Thus to have Rachel say, “I’m having my period” (Gen. 31:35 NIV; cf. TEV) is to be preferred to the literal “the manner of women is upon me” (NASB, cf. KJV, RSV). For the same idiom in Genesis 18:11 the TEV is consistent (“Sarah had stopped having her monthly periods”), while the NIV is much freer (“Sarah was past the age of childbearing”). Similarly, “He forced her, and lay with her” (2 Sam. 13:14 KJV) becomes simply “He raped her” in the NIV and TEV.

There can be dangers in this, however, especially when translators themselves miss the meaning of the idiom, as can be seen in the NIV, TEV, and LB translation of 1 Corinthians 7:1: “it is good for a man not to marry.” The idiom “to touch a woman” in every other case in antiquity means to have sexual intercourse with a woman, and never means anything close to “marry.” Here the NAB, which has found an equivalent euphemism, is much to be preferred: “A man is better off having no relations with a woman.”

Our Leaders!

Elders

Dwight Jones
Courtney Cheri
Gerald Molina

Preacher

Dan Schillinger

Deacons

Jesse Fowler
James Richardson
Hector Urbina

Our Services

<i>Sunday Morning Bible Class</i>	9:30 a.m.
<i>Sunday Morning Worship</i>	10:30 a.m.
<i>Sunday Evening Worship</i>	5:00 p.m.
<i>Wednesday Evening Bible Class</i>	7:00 p.m.
<i>Ladies Bible Class</i>	Tuesday 10:30 am.