



TRANSLATIONS – APPLES AND ORANGES

Translations are indeed a big problem and that is mainly because people do not understand what a translation is. Some say, “If the KJV was good enough for the Apostle Paul, then it is good enough for me!” Or, “Don’t confuse me with the facts.” There is so much misunderstanding that, in my view, is so misplaced!

For example, someone recently commented, “NIV stands for Not Inspired Version.” I understand that KJV person’s frustration, but I believe much of his frustration could be eased if he understood the purpose of the NIV is to be a *bridge* translation while the purpose of the KJV is to be a *word-for-word* translation.

It is unfair to compare translations of different styles since that is like comparing apples with oranges.

Once every two years I take an hour to review the PowerPoint lesson (free download in this section) that I developed on translations. That is a very educational way to help people understand the varieties in translations...and also that there are no perfect translations. (For example, “God” is not found in ANY Greek text for Romans 6:2 so this is one place where the KJV is not literally correct but yet it is still a great translation.)

I always begin my message by saying, “If you are happy with the KJV, then you are happy with an excellent translation and there is no reason for you to change. However, everyone is not like you. So what should they use in order to understand the Bible?”

Being a pastor, I want my people to understand the Bible, so which translation helps them to better understand the Bible?