

## ***The Bible: Additional Resources for Further Study***

Rene Pache, *The Inspiration & Authority of Scripture*.

Pache's Book is kind of the Bible on the Bible. He deals with everything from inspiration to the canon and transmission of the text.

J.I. Packer, *God Has Spoken*

Billed as a sequel to Packer's book *Knowing God*, it is a call written by one of the church's modern giants to encourage believers to read and study the Bible.

Edward Goodrick, Edited by Ray Lubeck, *Is My Bible the Inspired Word of God*

Dr. Goodrick was an esteemed professor of Biblical languages at Multnomah Bible College, and editor of the *NIV Exhaustive Concordance*, and other language tools. This book has recently returned to print with the help of another professor at Multnomah.

Howard Hendricks, *Living By the Book: The Art and Science of Reading the Bible*

An overview of practical inductive tools to help find the meaning and application of the Bible.

Chuck Smith, Jr, *Epiphany*

An overview of tools and study methods to help find the meaning of the biblical text. Written by a pastor with the lay people in mind.

Gordon Fee, *How to Read the Bible for All It's Worth*

Yet another book that looks at genre and style and gives approaches to correctly interpreting the various literature of Scripture

Ray Lubeck, *Read the Bible for a Change*

Dr. Lubeck teaches Bible Study Methods and Text and Canon classes at Multnomah Bible College. This book comprises much of the approaches he uses as he teaches an inductive method of scriptural study.

### ***Some Thoughts on Translations***

At FBC we do not adhere to one translation of the Bible over and against another translation. For simplicity sake, we will generally teach out of the New International Version (NIV) on Sunday mornings because it is used by so many people, and is generally an accessible translation. Some may ask why there are so many different English translations of the Bible, and what makes them unique. There are even branches of the church that believe that there is only one acceptable translation (usually the King James Version), and that all the others are corrupt. While we don't ascribe to this belief, the question is important enough to give some thoughts to it. Below are reasons why we have various translations of the Scriptures and a list of those that are generally worth looking into.

#### ***Reasons for Various Translations***

- The Bible was written originally in Hebrew and Greek
- Anyone who has studied a foreign language knows that no language translates cleanly into another language. For example the French have a phrase, "J'ai le cafard," which literally means, "I have the cockroach." The meaning of this phrase is more closely related to the idea, "I am depressed."

- When scholars set out to translate the Bible, one of the initial questions they will wrestle with is whether they want to translate in a manner that seeks to preserve as close as possible a word for word translation (functional equivalency), or in a manner that strives to communicate idea for idea (dynamic equivalency). The reality is both happen when one translates, but the major difference between versions is whether the translators sought to primarily convey the words and structure of the original language, or instead sought to primarily transmit meanings, ideas and concepts from the original language to an accurate English usage. So for example, when scholars came across Jesus using a Hebrew idiom, “Let these words sink into your ears,” those that sought a more word for word translation came up with the above, while those that sought a translation that conveyed meaning and ideas, translated the above, “Listen carefully to these words.”
- Another reason for the variety of translations is because language is dynamic and changing. Some of us at FBC used to use words like “groovy”, most of us don’t anymore. A great example of this is in regards to the King James Version (KJV). This version served the English speaking church well for over 400 years, and is still popular even today. The reality is most of us no longer speak Elizabethan English, and we therefore find reading things written in this older English difficult. Hence over time new translations have been introduced to reflect the changes in our own language.
- In addition, there are also paraphrases of the English text that seek to make the meaning even clearer. Examples of this are *The Good News Bible*, *The Amplified Bible*, and *The Message*. All of these have some value, but should generally be treated as an addendum to another modern translation.
- Finally, some of the differences on the book store shelf have more to do with marketing than anything else. Do you want a leather copy or a hardback? Do you want something you can carry in your purse, or that has larger text for older eyes? Do you want additional study notes and a concordance to enhance your own reflections on God’s word, or do you want the biblical text by itself?

*Recommended Translations (In no particular order)*

Translation	Reading Level	Translation Philosophy
English Standard Version	8.0	Word for Word
New American Standard Version	11.0	Word for Word
New International Version	7.8	Idea for Idea
New Living Translation	6.3	Idea for Idea
King James Version	12.0	Word for Word
New King James Version	8.0	Word for Word

In the end we encourage you to find a translation that works for you – and use it. Even better, we encourage you to consider having multiple translations, particularly one from each of the translation camps.