

WALKING IN WISDOM (Colossians 4:5) Number #10

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All Scripture quotations from the Editor are from the New King James Version (Bible Resources may be found on: www.johnpolkll.com)

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Are All Bible Versions The Same? by John T Polk II.

QUESTION: What is the difference between a translation, interpretation, or paraphrase of the Bible?

ANSWER: God inspired the very wording of the Scriptures:

"For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain. And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke *as they were* moved by the Holy Spirit." (2 Peter 1:16-21)

1. Scripture did not originate amidst "**cunningly devised fables**," or myths, fables, traditional lore, or made-up stories. There is no fiction in the Scripture narrative! "Once upon a time" is never in actual Scripture!
2. "**Eyewitnesses of His majesty**" means there is no hand-me-down, or go-between person who would have made mistakes in reporting what the Apostles saw happen with Jesus Christ. That means **Matthew, Mark, Luke**, and **John** were written by those who saw the events take place. The Holy Spirit surely revealed the facts as they actually happened.
3. The incident referred to was personally seen by Peter, James and John on the mount when Jesus was transfigured: **Matthew 17:1-9; Mark 9:2- 9; Luke 9:28-36**. They saw, and heard, Jesus be distinguished from Moses and Elijah, and described as God had

predicted through Moses in **Deuteronomy 18:15-19**, transitioning from the Old to the New Law.

4. "**And so we have the prophetic word confirmed**" means that what they saw established for good that what God had prophesied had come to pass.
5. They have accurately written what was seen and done in the life of Jesus Christ on earth, because they were "**moved by the Holy Spirit**." The Old Testament prophecy and the New Testament event were written in words guided by the Holy Spirit, Himself.

"For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual." (1 Corinthians 2:11-13)
True events have been truthfully recorded in human words which the Holy Spirit selected from the writers' individual vocabularies.

6. A "**translation**" will, as accurately as possible, bring the Scripture words into a different language, word-for-word, because God wrote the Scripture word-for-word. Because the original Scriptures were written in Hebrew and Greek manuscripts, the form and thought may need to have words supplied by the translator in the new language. A true "translation" will indicate these supplied words by italics, setting them apart from the actual wording of the manuscripts.

(a) An "**interpretation**" interjects the thoughts of the so-called "translator" so that what is printed in the new language is nothing more than a "commentary," or "private interpretation." When that is sold as "Bible" it is not exactly what God has said, and therefore should not be relied upon for "the faith." READ THE PREFACE TO KNOW WHAT THE WRITER INTENDED TO DO!

(b) A "**paraphrase**" is even worse, for the writer is regurgitating digested Scripture from his/ her/ their "private interpretation." **It is sold as "Bible" under a false title.**

— jtpII, April 25, 2021

8 FIGHTS WORTH PICKING WITH YOUR KIDS:

Saw this somewhere and it was immensely helpful and challenging.

Parenting is hard. Parents have to choose their battles. Here are 8 fights worth picking with your kids:

The Reading Fight:

Make your kids read. Because reading is tied to everything from cognitive development to the ability to focus. Make your kids read now.

The Outside Fight:

Make your kids go outside. The natural world teaches us things. Plus, outside there's sunshine, fresh air, and exercise waiting for them. Most importantly, nature is full of things in short supply in our world: Discovery, wonder, peace, joy.

The Work Fight:

Make your kids work. I'm saddened by how many parents don't require their kids to lift a finger at home. There are priceless life principles you can only learn with a mop in your hand. Let sweat be their teacher.

The Meal Fight:

Make your kids eat as a family. Our lives are a blur of incessant activity. Meals together are a physical pause to recover a truth so easily sacrificed at the altar of busyness. Nothing's more important than family.

The Boredom Fight:

Make your kids live with boredom. Don't show a DVD on each car ride. Kids need unscheduled time. And, odd as it sounds, boredom is a skill. It's hard as a parent to deal with the assault of boredom complaints. But if you give in and fill up their time with external stimuli, you'll raise an activity addict. Make them learn how to be.

The "Me First" Fight:

Make your kids go last. Not every time for everything. But enough to remember that the world doesn't revolve around them. Take the smallest piece. Give up the remote. Do someone else's chores. Get their least favorite choice. They won't like it, but they need it.

The Awkward Conversation Fight:

Make your kids have uncomfortable conversations with you. Sex, dating, body image, values...Your kids will roll their eyes and resist. You will stumble and stutter. They need and want your perspective, lessons learned, and wisdom.

The Limitation Fight:

Learning to live within limits is a valuable life skill. In fact, many adult problems arise from an inability to accept them. Screen time limits, dietary limits, activity limits, and schedule limits are all good.

As a parent, you have to pick your battles. They're not easy, but they're worth the fight.

*Copied from David Morris on Twitter

***Photography by Rebekah Melancon

Jesus Speaks Today

"And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen *do*. For they think that they will be heard for their many words. Therefore do not be like them.

For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him." (**Matthew 6:7-8** NKJV)

Salted Speech Colossians 4:6

~ Politics is the gentle art of getting votes from the poor and campaign funds from the rich, by promising to protect each from the other.

~ "The fool wonders, the wise man asks." --Benjamin Disraeli

~ Forgiveness is a funny thing. It warms the heart and cools the sting.
--William Arthur Ward

~ In any moment of decision, the best thing you can do is the right thing. The worst nothing thing you can do is. --Theodore Roosevelt

Why I am Not Afraid by Gus Nichols

I don't know what the future holds for me;

Not a day of the future can I see.

So I don't know just how the future stands,

But my God holds the future in his hands.

God has been good to me all of my years,

I'll trust him in the future without fears.

He says, "I'll never leave nor forsake thee."

So why fear what could happen unto me?

"Things have always worked together for good,"

To those who loved the Lord, as all men should.

This principle has often been verified,

As when Joseph was sold, and Christ crucified.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of death,

I'll fear no evil in my parting breath.

Because God will even then be with me,

For I serve him who saved and set me free.

So, I'll cast all my cares upon the Lord,

And try to live according to his word;

I shall not trust in things of worldly wroth,

But in Almighty God who made the earth.

God's love is manifest in countless ways,

And so I'll trust in him thru all my days,

Then He'll give me that mansion made for me,

And I shall be with Christ eternally.

God provided for me in this earth time;

I hope for the best in that future clime.

I shall leave all things to the Holy One,

Who proved his love in the gift of his Son.