

Another Interesting NT Translation

Some of you will have no interest in this. (An attention-grabbing introduction!) Some are not interested in word studies and new translations. Others consider them to be most enlightening in offering new insights to familiar texts.

About a year ago I sent you two articles concerning "Accepted Misinformation" in which I mentioned a few mistranslated words that led to erroneous concepts. A brother by the name of John Rhoads of Prescott, Arizona with whom I had no acquaintance responded with the letter copied below. I will let John tell you about it.

"I have enjoyed reading your newsletter for several years now and have ordered several of your books as well and have enjoyed them. I was raised in probably the most strict sect of the COC there is, but about 15 years ago began an intensive study on my own to 'prove all things' I had been taught all my life. I was about 36 or so at the time and had been a very strong supporter of this doctrine, as well as a teacher from the pulpit. I began an intense study of the Greek as well as Hebrew and started uncovering many inconsistencies in what I had always been taught and believed to be true. So I was especially intrigued with your newsletter last week, as well as the one today (No. 166 & 167) regarding some of the inaccuracies of most translations we were all raised on, chiefly the KJV. Two things especially caught my eye last week and that being your reference to the word 'church' and the widely accepted belief that Jesus (actual translation is Yesu) was killed on a cross. As you accurately pointed out the word 'church' isn't in the Bible and Jesus was actually killed on a stake.

"There are at least 100 other words that, when translated accurately, are not in the accepted translations as we have always been taught. Words such as elder, deacon, overseer, pastor, preacher, minister, evangelist, apostle, sinner, baptize, tithe, scripture, hell, hades, devil, sin, evil, holy, soul, angel, forever, eternal, crucify, cross, gospel, epistle, righteous, grace, ye, thee, thou, thine, repent, abhor, blaspheme, yea, covet, abide, lust, gentile, vengeance, adultery, abomination, as well as others are not in there.

When you accurately translate those Greek words in the NT, the whole organized religious structure pretty much melts away and what you have left is simple Christianity without the legalism, judgmentalism and rules and regulations that have been splitting God's Children for hundreds, if not thousands, of years, and is still not working.

About 10 years ago I was made aware of a small group of people that took on the task of accurately translating the NT writings. They didn't accept any outside donations, as they were determined to not be influenced by any religious organization or particular creed. By the time they finished about 18 years later, which was about 10 years ago, they were all completely broke financially, but they achieved what I feel is the most accurate translation available. It is not sold in stores or by Bible companies, but is only available from them. You may have already heard of it and seen it, but if not, I thought you might

be interested. I have been reading this for the past 10 years now and I was very excited about it from the beginning, because it was revealing a lot of the same things that my own intensive study had already revealed to me, as well as many other revelations. It has changed the way I feel about the NT writings, as well as what true Christianity is all about. They have called it 'The Christian Bible.' They have a web site that explains more, should you care to look at it. It is: <http://christianbiblesociety.org/index.shtml>.

“After reading today’s newsletter and your reference to 2 Peter 3:14-17 and your quote of Peter’s use of the word ‘scripture’ when he referred to Paul’s writings, I looked that passage up in the ‘Christian Bible’ and here is what it says: ‘For this reason, dearly loved ones, since you are expecting these things, you must be diligent to be found by Him in peace, unspotted and flawless! You must also be continually thinking of our Master’s patience as Salvation, just as our dearly loved brother Paul, according to the wisdom that was given to him, also wrote you to do, as he also does in all his letters, whenever he speaks about these things in them! Now some things in them are hard to comprehend, which those who are unlearned and unstable are twisting, as they also do with the rest of the writings, to their own Destruction. So then, you dearly loved ones, since you know this beforehand, you must be continually on your guard, so that you aren’t carried away by the deception of immoral people and fall from your own stability!’

As you can see, the word ‘scripture’ isn’t there. Keep up the good work, Cecil. I know you have many challenges in life and I greatly appreciate your attitude and passion for continuing to do the work that God has put before you. I look forward to your newsletter each week and I greatly appreciate your work and want you to know I have learned a lot since I first found your web site and signed up for your newsletters, as well as being greatly encouraged to see the transformation that has taken place in you over all your vast array of Christian experiences. It is very exciting to me to see where God has led you, because your heart has been pure and you have sincerely wanted to know the truth.” -- John A. Rhoades, Prescott, AZ john@rhoadesdev.com.

As you can see, my vanity did not allow me to delete John’s gracious remarks about me. Thank you, brother. I have not seen the translation but I did read some about it at the web site given above. If you readers have an interest in the work of those translators, you may learn much about it at that site. And you may find information about ordering the book. Do not order it from me. If you wish to correspond about the project with John, you may use his email address.

I will conclude with a “shameless plug” for my own books. Thousands of readers have testified how my books have changed the course of their lives. Their enthusiasm leads me to believe they may dramatically affect you, your family, and/or your friends. My five books, *Free In Christ*, *Free To Speak*, *Free As Sons*, *Free To Change*, and *Free To Accept* cost only \$31.00 postpaid. A tiny investment for lasting value. If you desire the books but are too impoverished to pay for them, let me know and I will start you off with a free copy of *Free In Christ*. []

(Cecil Hook: April 2004)