
Book 15

Bible Translations

Recommended Versions & Resources for Scripture Study

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The chapter numbers below are color-coded according to the following categories in order to help you prioritize your reading:

Best: The most helpful, interesting and/or important chapters of the book.

Essential: Important chapters to understand the topic of the book.

Specialized: Chapters for the finer or more complex points of the topic of the book.

15.1: Introduction to Bible Translations: [11 pp.]

- A) What Makes a Good Bible Translation?**
- B) Neglecting the second half of Bible translation: *Good English***
- C) Four Types of Bible Translations**

Extras & Endnotes

Table 15.1: Popular Bible Translations in Order of Translation Philosophy

15.2: The Superiority of “Dynamic” Bible Translations

[25 pp.]

- A) Evaluation of the “Literal” Approach to Bible Translation: *NASB & ESV***
- B) Evaluating Bible Paraphrases: *The Message***
- C) The Superiority of Dynamic “Thought for Thought” Bible Translations: *NIV & NLT***
- D) Errors, Exaggerations, & Even Slander by Critics of Dynamic Translations: *Piper, Packer, & MacArthur***

D.1) The Errors of John Piper

D.2) The exaggeration of J. I. Packer

D.3) The slander by John MacArthur

Extras & Endnotes

15.3: The Superiority of Gender-inclusive Translations

[33 pp.]

- A) Introduction to Gender-accurate Bible Translations**
- B) The Slandering Sensationalism Infused into the Debate**

- C) Has the English Language Changed?**
- D) The Gender-inclusive Apostle Paul**
- E) The Difficulty of Masculine Pronouns**
- F) A Few of the Many Examples Where Gender-inclusive Language Improves Accuracy**
- G) The Few Examples Where Gender-inclusive Translation Seems to be a Mistake**

Extras & Endnotes

15.4: An Evaluation of Some Bible Translations [29 pp.]

- A) Evaluating Bible Translations**
- B) New International Version (NIV): *The best overall***
 - B.1) The NIV is still the best English Bible available
 - B.2) Scholarly endorsements of the NIV
 - B.3) The NIV's bumpy recent history
 - B.4) Confronting John Piper's criticisms of the NIV
- C) New Living Translation (NLT): *Very valuable***
 - C.1) The great things and one bad thing about the NLT
 - C.2) Illustrating the strengths of the NLT: *Rom 3:19-25*
 - C.3) Answering the critiques of the NLT
- D) English Standard Version (ESV): *Not needed***
- E) New American Standard Bible (NASB): *A good Bible***
- F) New English Translation (NET) *Kinda cool***
- G) King James Version (KJV): *Amazing heritage but rather obsolete***
- H) New King James Version (NKJV): *Missed opportunity***
- I) The Message Bible (Msg): *Not really a Bible at all***

Extras & Endnotes

15.5: Recommended Resources for Scripture Study [18 pp.]

- A) The Bible**
- B) What About Learning Hebrew & Greek?**
- C) Purchasing Resources**
- D) Internet Resources**
- E) Bible Software**
- F) Topical Bibles and Cross References**
- G) Language Resources**
- H) Instruction on Bible Interpretation**
- I) Commentaries**

J) Theological Study

K) Bible Encyclopedia

L) Encouragement for Study

Table 15.5: Projected Cost of "Most Valuable" Resources