

# *UNDERSTANDING*

## *THE BATTLE OVER*

# *BIBLE VERSIONS*



*Dr. David L. Brown*

**UNDERSTANDING  
THE BATTLE OVER  
BIBLE VERSIONS**

**Dr. David L. Brown**

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# DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to my dear wife, Linda, who is my helper, companion, friend, and lover. For more than 53 years, she has unselfishly and joyfully set aside her own desires and done all in her power to help me be successful in everything I do. She has spent countless hours editing and proofing this work.

David L. Brown

***“O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him.” (Psalms 34:8)***



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# THE PURPOSE

My purpose is to point out some of the basics relating to the battle raging over the different Bible versions so that the average Christian in the pew can understand what is going on and why they should use the King James Bible.

# INTRODUCTORY THOUGHTS

**The Bible** is the foundation of literally everything in New Testament Christianity! Therefore, it is imperative that you have an uncorrupted Bible. If something does not have a biblical base, it should be rejected. We read in **1 Thessalonians 5:21**:

***Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.***

The English word **prove** is a translation of the Greek word δοκιμαζετε – dokimazete (*dok-im-ad'zate*). The word carries the idea of **proving a thing whether it is worthy or not**. So, the question is, “How are we to go about **proving something**?” I believe **Isaiah 8:20** gives us insight into the answer to this question –

***“To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.”***

In other words, **examine everything by the words of the Bible** and if it does not line up, reject it!

Friends, the Bible, **our King James Bible, is the “GOLD STANDARD” for EVERY THING in the Christian life!** **2 Timothy 3:16-17** says:

***“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for***



***reproof, for correction, for instruction  
in righteousness: 17 That the man of  
God may be perfect, thoroughly  
furnished unto all good works.”***

As I have often said – The Bible tells us what’s right, what’s not right, how to get right and how to stay right.

Since THE BIBLE IS SO IMPORTANT, it should come as no surprise that the true Words of God, as found in our King James Bible, are under attack by our adversary, the Devil, who has transformed himself into an angel of light and his ministers into ministers of righteousness (**2 Corinthians 11:14-15**).

# CHAPTER 1

## UNDERSTANDING THE BATTLE TERMINOLOGY

In order to understand the Battle over Bible versions, you first need to understand some of **the battle vocabulary**. Both sides in the Bible version battle toss around these unfamiliar words, and if you do not really understand the *vocabulary*, it is hard to understand exactly what the issues are.

### DEFINITIONS

Let's look at and define some of the key words.

**Autographs** – An autograph is the original texts (of the Bible) that were written either by the hand of the author or by a scribe under the supervision of the author. For centuries there have been NO Hebrew or Aramaic **autographs** of any Old Testament book or passage. There were none in Jesus' day. Nor are there any Greek **autographs** of any New Testament Book or portion thereof. No one has ever seen one, since probably about 150 A.D.

**Apographs** – A handwritten copy of the original. There are thousands of **apographs** still extant today.

**Manuscripts** – All Bibles were hand copied; written by scribes onto parchment, vellum, papyrus or paper prior to the printing of the Gutenberg Bible (also called the 42 line Bible & Mazarin Bible) which was printed on a printing press using moveable type in 1454-1455.

### **THERE ARE FOUR KINDS OF GREEK MANUSCRIPTS**

There are **four kinds of Greek manuscripts** that we have in our possession today:

- 1) **papyri,**
- 2) **uncials,**
- 3) **cursives, and**
- 4) **lectionaries.**

“The Greek manuscripts of the New Testament, so far as known, were written on papyrus, parchment, or paper. The **autographs**, both of the historical and epistolary writers, are supposed to have been written on papyrus. The great uncials copies and the most valued of the minuscules and lectionaries were written on parchment, while paper was employed largely in the making of the later lectionaries and the printed texts of the New Testament.” (*Praxis In Manuscripts of the Greek New Testament* by Rev. Charles F. Sitterly; 1898; p.15).

### NEW TESTAMENT PAPYRI MANUSCRIPTS

For a listing see - [www.kchanson.com/papyri.html#NTP](http://www.kchanson.com/papyri.html#NTP)

**Papyrus** is a brittle kind of paper made out of the papyrus plant, which grows in Egypt. To my knowledge there are about 123 papyrus fragment manuscripts of the New Testament.

See - [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_New\\_Testament\\_papyri](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_New_Testament_papyri).

Most of those surviving early texts only have a few verses on them. The most ancient example is the John Ryland papyrus fragment p52 (**p** stands for papyrus) which includes portions of **John 18:31-33 & 37-38**. It is housed in John Ryland University Library in Manchester, England. The fragment is believed to have been written sometime around 150 A.D.

There are **6 papyri** that I am aware of, which record large portions of the New Testament. P45, dated around 200 A.D., contains portions of all **four Gospels and Acts**. P46, from the second century, has almost all of **Paul's epistles and Hebrews**. P47, also from the second-century, contains **Revelation 9-17**. These are from what is called the Beatty Papyri housed in Dublin Castle in Dublin, Ireland. Then there are three lengthy papyri from the Bodmer Papyri. P66 is a second century papyrus that contains almost all of **John**. P72, a third or fourth century papyrus, contains all of **1 and 2 Peter and Jude**. Finally, P75, dated

between 175-200 A.D., contains most of **Luke through John 15**.

### THE UNCIALS OR MAJUSCULE MANUSCRIPTS

See list at – [www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_New\\_Testament\\_uncials](http://www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_New_Testament_uncials)

**Uncial** comes from the Latin word ***uncialis***, which means inch-high. It is used to delineate a type of Greek and Latin writing which features capital letters. There are few, if any, divisions between words in uncial manuscripts and no punctuation to speak of. The word majuscule, meaning large or capital letter, is a synonym for uncial. There are about **290 uncial manuscripts** of all text types.

**Three of the most famous uncial** New Testament manuscripts are the ***Sinaiticus*** (also called by the first letter of the Hebrew alphabet a – Aleph) believed to have been written about 350 A.D. Then there is ***Vaticanus*** (also called “**B**”), believed to have been written about 350 A.D. Then there is ***Codex Alexandrinus***, (identified as “**A**”), written about 450 A.D.

Speakers on the Bible versions’ issue will often refer to the manuscripts using the uncial letter designations, instead of their longer names.

### CURSIVE OR MINUSCULE MANUSCRIPTS

Cursive or minuscule manuscripts are Greek manuscripts written in lower case letters, more like handwriting. The letters flow together, much like writing of today. There are spaces between words and some degree of punctuation. At last count there are 2,764 cursive Greek manuscripts.

See list at [www.biblebelievers.net/BibleVersions/kjcfv5.htm#XXIV](http://www.biblebelievers.net/BibleVersions/kjcfv5.htm#XXIV)

### LECTIONARY MANUSCRIPTS

The word **lection** comes from a Latin root word meaning "**to read**." Lectionaries are portions of Scriptures in Greek (or Latin) Bibles that were read in the church services during the year. There are at least 2,882 known lectionaries in existence.

See [www.csntm.org/Manuscripts.aspx](http://www.csntm.org/Manuscripts.aspx)

When you add up all the figures, **there are about 6059** Greek manuscripts in existence today for the New Testament. Another source says, "The New Testament has been preserved in more manuscripts than any other ancient work, having over 5,400 (now more than 6,000) complete or fragmented Greek manuscripts, 10,000 Latin manuscripts and 9,300 manuscripts in various other ancient languages including Syriac, Slavic, Gothic, Ethiopic, Coptic and Armenian. The dates of these manuscripts range from

the 2nd century up to the invention of the printing press in the 15th century.”

See - [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biblical\\_manuscript](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biblical_manuscript).

What you need to know about these 6,000 plus manuscripts and portions is that there are only about 45 to 50 Greek manuscripts that support the type of Greek text that underlies the modern versions of the Bible, but there are 5,000 plus that support the Textus Receptus type text that underlies our King James Bible. Figure it out. Figure it out! About 99% of all the manuscript evidence supports the text type from which the King James Bible is translated.

### **OTHER WORDS AND PHRASES THAT RELATE TO THE BIBLE VERSION BATTLE INSPIRATION**

The word ***inspiration*** is derived from the Greek word  $\psi\epsilon\omicron\pi\nu\epsilon\upsilon\sigma\tau\omicron\omega$ -theopneutos (**2 Timothy 3:16**), which literally means “**God breathed**” or more accurately, “**breathed into by God.**” Charles Ryrie writes that inspiration is – “God’s superintending of human authors so that, using their own individual personalities, they composed and recorded without error in the words of the original autographs His revelation to man.”

Dr. Thomas Strouse puts it this way – “Inspiration is the process whereby the Holy Spirit led the writers of Scripture to record accurately His very words; the

product of the process was an inspired original.” (Dr. Thomas Strouse, Dean Emmanuel Baptist Theological Seminary; *The Translation Model Predicated by Scripture* – by way of *The Attack On The Canon of Scripture* by Dr. H. D. Williams; p. 13).

There is an important fact you must know when it comes to biblical inspiration. It was the WORDS that were inspired, not the men! God worked through the men by His Holy Spirit with the result of the WORDS being inspired. That is what **2 Peter 1:20-21** is saying:

***"Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. 21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost."***

Let me explain what is being said in **verse 21**. The idea is that Scripture neither proceeds from the prophet's own knowledge, thoughts, ideas or inventions, nor was it rooted in the calculation or conjecture of the one to whom it was revealed. As one commentator put it, **"this means that the origin of the Scripture was not of anyone's private or personal ideas."**

### VERBAL-PLENARY INSPIRATION

I believe the Bible teaches **verbal-plenary inspiration**.



## PLENARY INSPIRATION

Let me first explain the term “**plenary**” as it relates to inspiration. It simply means “**full, complete, entire.**” The Bible is equally inspired from Genesis to Revelation. Generally, the term is employed to emphasize that all of the respective components of the Scriptures were given by God. This means that the Bible’s historical depictions are true, that incidental scientific references are factual as well, and, in a word, that all biblical documents are completely accurate. **Psalms 119:160** is an example of a passage that teaches *plenary inspiration* –

***“Thy word is true from the beginning:  
and every one of thy righteous  
judgments endureth for ever.”***

## VERBAL INSPIRATION (THE BIBLICAL VIEW OF INSPIRATION)

What does **Verbal Inspiration** mean? This means that the words are divinely inspired and that **every word of the Bible**, as it was originally written, is from God.

The theological explanation of inspiration says that the Holy Spirit guided chosen servants of God in the choice of the very words they used. They retained the proper use of their powers and faculties, yet were guided or assisted to use such language as would convey the mind of the Spirit in its full and unimpaired

integrity. Again, this verbal inspiration was of the original autographs alone.

A. A. Hodge put it this way, “It is meant that the divine influence, of whatever kind it may have been, which accompanied the sacred writers in what they wrote, extends to their expression of their thoughts in language, as well as to the thoughts themselves. The effect being that in the original autograph copies the language expresses the thought God intended to convey with infallible accuracy, so that the words as well as the thoughts are God's revelation to us.”

Does the Bible teach the concept of **verbal inspiration**? YES! We already looked at **2 Peter 1:20-21**. Another key passage that I mentioned earlier is **2 Timothy 3:16-17**:

***“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”***

In fact, the Bible contains hundreds of passages in which the authors claim divine inspiration for their message. Also, there are direct accounts of written revelation. One illustration is Moses receiving the Ten Commandments! The phrase, ***“the word of the LORD came...”*** occurs 92 times in the King James

Bible and another 19 times we read the phrase, “***the words of the Lord.***” The phrase, “***thus saith the Lord...***” occurs 415 times as well. In the Bible we have the Word and the Words of God.

Paul makes a most striking contrast between man’s word on the one hand, and God’s Word on the other in **1 Thessalonians 2:13:**

***“For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.”***

So, as we have in our church doctrinal statement – “The process of God’s breathing out His Words occurred only once when He breathed out or ‘inspired’ the Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek texts. Though the process of inspiration has never been repeated, the product of inspiration, that is, the Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek Words, have been preserved by God in the Words of the Masoretic Hebrew and Textus Receptus Greek that underlie the King James Bible.”

### **THOUGHT-CONCEPT INSPIRATION (THE COUNTERFEIT VIEW OF INSPIRATION)**

Doesn’t everyone believe in verbal-plenary inspiration? NO! An increasing number of churches,

Bible Colleges and seminaries teach that God gave the thoughts BUT NOT THE SPECIFIC WORDS OF SCRIPTURE! Dr. Thomas Strouse explains the **thought-concept** theory this way, “They believe God inspired His divine concepts and then preserved these concepts in the extant Manuscripts (MSS).” He goes on to say, “Since the concepts are inspired and preserved, the exact words representing these concepts may not be available and may vary.” He further notes that the textual critics suggest that, “through the science of textual criticism, man can restore the approximate wording of the original text.”

*(The Biblical Defense For The Verbal, Plenary Preservation of God's Word by Dr. T. M. Strouse;  
www.graceway.com/articles/articles\_007.htm)*

In fact, **textual criticism** is **not a science at all**! It is the contrived invention of unsaved men!

One commentator gives an illustration of how **thought-concept** inspiration works. “When Paul wrote **1 Corinthians 13** the only thing God gave was some general thoughts on the subject of love. The words of the text we owe to Paul.” (*Is the Bible Reliable? Our God-Breathed Bible*; John MacArthur; Tape GC 1343).

**That's wrong.** In **1 Corinthians 2:13**, Paul shows unmistakably that divine inspiration pertains also to the **words** and not merely to the thought, saying:

***“Which things also we speak, not in the words which man’s wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth.”***

Nearly all the “New Versions” come from the thought-conceptual view of inspiration. They deny God inspired His Words. The main point that needs to be made clear is that there is NO PLACE in the Bible that teaches mere thought-concept inspiration. It is a humanly devised invention that is engineered by the Devil!

### **PROVIDENTIAL PRESERVATION**

I hold to the position of Dr. Edward F. Hills (1912-1981) who stated that the Scriptures have been preserved by God in His providence so that the Church would always have the Words *as a light to her feet and a lamp to her path.* (*The Providential Preservation of The Greek Text of The New Testament*; Fourth edition 1983; by Rev. W. MacLean, M.A.).

This is NOT a unique position! In 1649 the Protestant Reformers in their Westminster Confession of Faith stated – “The Old Testament in Hebrew (which was the native language of the people of God of old), and the New Testament in Greek (which at the time of the writing of it was most generally known to the nations), being immediately inspired by God, and by His singular care and providence kept pure in all ages,

are therefore authentic; so as in all controversies of religion the Church is finally to appeal unto them.”

Many people are saying today that God abandoned His Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek Words rather than preserving them. The great defender of the Traditional Text and our King James Bible, Dean John Burgon disagreed. He wrote in his work, *The Traditional Text*, “There exists no reason for supposing that the Divine Agent, who in the first instance thus gave to mankind the Scriptures of Truth, straightway abdicated His office; took no further care of His work; abandoned those precious writings to their fate.”

One preacher put it very well in an evening sermon I heard – “God gave us His original Words by verbal-plenary inspiration. God preserved those Words by verbal-plenary preservation. Almighty God promised and performed both events.” What he said is true! The Bible teaches not only the verbal-plenary inspiration of the original autographs, but also the verbal-plenary preservation of those autographs. The verbal-plenary inspiration for the original autographs of the Bible would be absolutely useless without the providential, verbal-plenary preservation of those Words! Why? Because nobody for 1,800 years or more has ever seen any portion of any book from the original books (autographs) of the Bible. If no one has ever seen the originals, how could they ever know or live by the

Words of God? In fact, **the Lord Jesus Christ taught the preservation of the Scriptures.**

Matthew 4:4 says:

***“But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.”***

The phrase “**every word**” in the Greek is ***panti rhmati*** which means **each and every word**. Christ here is quoting the last portion of **Deuteronomy 8:3**. He clearly believed it had been preserved because if we are to live by “*every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God*” we must know what those words are.

I remind you that there were NO original Old Testament autographs in Christ’s day, yet He believed the Words of God had been preserved because He authoritatively quoted them.

Our Lord affirms biblical preservation in **Matthew 5:18** when he said:

***“For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.”***

Then there are His words recorded in **Luke 16:17**:

***“And it is easier for heaven and earth to pass, than one tittle of the law to fail.”***

Here He affirms that the Scriptures are more stable than Heaven and Earth!

Our Lord affirms the preservation of His words in all three Gospels:

***Matthew 24:35 “Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.”*** (See also Mark 13:31 & Luke 21:33).

There is one final passage I want to point out:

***Matthew 5:18 “For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.”***

Jesus is reinforcing the accuracy of the Scriptures down to the smallest detail and the slightest punctuation mark - because they are the VERY WORDS OF GOD.

Perhaps the strongest verses affirming the providential preservation of the Bible are:

***Psalms 12:6-7 “The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. 7 Thou shalt keep them, O***



***LORD, thou shalt preserve them from  
this generation for ever."***

I will conclude with this statement – “The providential preservation of the Scriptures is also a necessary consequence of their divine inspiration. The God who inspired the Scriptures and gave them to His people to be an authoritative guide and consolation cannot allow this perfect and final revelation of His will to perish. Because God has inspired the Scriptures, He has also preserved them by His providence.” (*The King James Version Defended* by Edward F. Hills).

### **FORMAL EQUIVALENCY OR LITERAL TRANSLATION**

William Tyndale gave us the first printed English New Testament in 1526. He had a holy fear of God and reverence for His Word. In October of 1536 he was martyred for his faith and for printing a Bible in English for the people to read. Regarding his translation of the New Testament he wrote – “I call God to record against the day we shall appear before our Lord Jesus, to give a reckoning of our doings, that I never altered one syllable of God's Word against my conscience, nor would [I so alter it] this day, if all that is in the earth, whether it be pleasure, honor, or riches, might be given me.” Tyndale gave us a formal equivalent translation of the New Testament from the Traditional Text or Textus Receptus.

Why was William Tyndale so cautious in his Bible translating? Look at these verses –

**Deuteronomy 4:1-2** “Now therefore hearken, O Israel, unto the statutes and unto the judgments, which I teach you, for to do them, that ye may live, and go in and possess the land which the LORD God of your fathers giveth you. 2 Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.”

**Proverbs 30:5-6** “Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him. 6 Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar.”

**Revelation 22:18-19** “For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: 19 And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.”

Now to the definition of **Formal Equivalency**: It refers to the method of translating by finding

reasonably equivalent words and phrases while following the **forms** of the source language as closely as possible. It is often referred to as “**literal translation.**” It is a literal translation, (formal equivalent translation), when, as closely as possible, the Bible is translated *word-for-word*. If the original has a noun, then a noun is used in the translation.

A formal equivalent translation of the Bible is the best method that can be used in translating from the Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek underlying texts. But the underlying text that you translate from must be the Hebrew Masoretic text of the Old Testament and the Textus Receptus in the New Testament.

Let me explain why I say that it is the BEST way of translating the Bible. The Psalmist declared:

***“Forever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven.” Psalm 119:89.***

You might say, the MASTER COPY of the Word of God is in Heaven. Our Lord Jesus Christ declared:

***“Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.” Matthew 24:35. Again He said, “For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.” Matthew 5:18.***

What is a **jot**? The word "**jot**" is the translation of the Hebrew word "**Yodh**."

This is a Hebrew <sup>׃</sup> Yodh , which is the 10th letter of the Hebrew alphabet. It is also the smallest letter of the Hebrew alphabet.

What is a **tittle**? Dr. Thomas Strouse believes that tittle literally means a dot. He says, "Tittle is the specifically accurate English word for a dot, coming through the German from the Hebrew for dot or teat."

(Taken from an article, Luke 16:17—One Tittle by Dr. Thomas Strouse, <http://www.deanburgonsociety.org/Preservation/tittle.htm>).

Why am I explaining this to you? Simply this: Since our Lord Jesus was concerned about the smallest pen stroke of the smallest letter in the Hebrew text, it should also be important to us that we use a Bible translation that is based on **formal equivalency**, using the BEST TEXT GROUP (which is the Received Text). **Our King James Bible is the best formal equivalent translation of the right text group.** There is none better.

A formal equivalent translation lets the reader interpret for himself. And that is exactly what believers are to do. **2 Timothy 2:15:**

***"Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."***

## DYNAMIC EQUIVALENCE OR FUNCTIONAL EQUIVALENCE

This attitude of fear and trembling toward God's holy Word does not exist among most all of the present-day Bible translators. They are not afraid of adding to, subtracting from and changing the eternal Word of God.

**Dynamic Equivalence**, also called **Functional Equivalence**, is a translation method in which the translator attempts to reflect the thought of the writer in the source language rather than the words and forms. It is not so concerned about the grammatical *form* of the original language as it is with getting across the *thoughts*. DYNAMIC EQUIVALENCE AIMS TO TRANSLATE THOUGHTS RATHER THAN WORDS. However, the BIG problem is, a dynamic equivalence translation is more interpretive. And because it is more interpretive, the translators do not always know whether their interpretation is right. In essence, when dynamic equivalency is used, the translators put their own spin on the Bible!

Here are some actual illustrations where this type of translation has been used. From the KJB, look at **Isaiah 1:18**:

***“Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.”***

David Cloud relates this in reference to this passage – “An example of adapting the Bible's language to today's cultural situations (using dynamic equivalency) was related to me by the head of the Bible Society in Nepal. He told of one of the projects of the United Bible Societies, which was done in a part of the world in which the people had not seen snow. The translators, therefore, decided to translate Isaiah 1:18—“...though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be white as the inside of a coconut....”

Cloud goes on – “Consider some other examples of the way these versions change the Word of God to conform with culture. The following illustrations were given to us by Ross Hodsdon of Bibles International, formerly with Wycliffe:

In a translation for Eskimos in Alaska, ‘lamb’ was replaced with ‘seal pup.’

In a translation in the Makusi language of Brazil, ‘son of man’ was replaced with ‘older brother.’

In another Wycliffe translation ‘fig tree’ was replaced with ‘banana tree.”

**That is NOT what God said!** That is tampering with the Words of God! THAT IS WRONG. When one departs from the principle of a literal translation, the mind of the translator and the culture and understanding of the people become the authority rather than God's actual Words.

The same thing is happening in the modern versions today, because they are using the dynamic equivalent translation model. They are translating thoughts and not the Words of God.

### **PARAPHRASE**

A **paraphrase** is a very, very loose translation of the Bible. In a paraphrase, the translator is neither concerned about translating the exact words, nor even the exact meaning of the original text. In fact, a paraphrase is a retelling of something in your own words. A paraphrase of the Bible is different from a translation. It is like a condensed commentary where the one that is doing the paraphrasing does no translating but retells what is in the Bible in his own words, paying little or no attention to the exact words of the Bible. In reality, a paraphrase is not a Bible at all. It is the author's explanation of the Bible in his own words. Some popular Paraphrase Bibles are – The Living Bible; The New Living Bible, Good News for Modern Man; The Good News Bible, The Message; The