

Jacob Fernandez

Introduction to My Favorite Translation

My favorite translation at this particular moment in time seems to be the ESV. My road to the ESV though started when I began reading the NASB, transferred over to NKJV and then finally to ESV. The first two years or so of my Christian walk I wanted to stay in the word for word category as much as possible because I had not done enough research and had heard bad things of translations that were not considered word for word (Better safe than sorry am I right?). After receiving some suggestions from great men that I know I arrived at purchasing my first ESV edition.

One of the main goals of the ESV translation is to carry forward the Tyndale-King James legacy from Tyndale's New Testament to the KJV, RV, ASV, RSV and now finally ESV. In a nutshell the 1971 RSV was the starting point for the work of the ESV. When it comes to translation philosophy the ESV claims to be an “essentially literal” translation, the meaning being that they have strived to keep the same wording of the original text but also take into account current/modern English. They have tried to be as literal as possible with also being clear and literate. Along with that purpose they have tried to maintain the nuance of scripture and the literary styles of the Biblical writers and thus have translated a Bible that is for in-depth study, devotion and contemplation.

To make this goal of remaining literal, keeping word structure and yet also being aware of the beauty of the English language the ESV was produced and published by a team of over one hundred people. The breakdown of that includes a 14 member Translation Oversight Committee that received work from over 50 biblical scholars and comments from a group of over 50 members on the Advisory Council all of which ended up being overseen by the

Crossway Board of Directors. What we end up receiving on the end of this venture is a Bible that is translated by people commonly committed to the truth of God's Word and to Christian Orthodoxy.

The ultimate goal of the ESV is simply this "To God alone be the glory". *Soli Deo Gloria.*