

III. The Matter of TRANSLATION

- A. *Translation, The Quest: What word (or words) in one language will best represent the wording of thoughts in another language. Some factors conditioning the quest are these:*
1. Language is not static...it changes with time in many aspects. Even the "dead languages" changed in their own periods and later use of them. English, native language to a lot of us, has had significant structural changes in the last two centuries. You are likely not aware of them....because you are caught with the English of today and that becomes part of the problem
 2. Words often develop and change in expressive use--it happens culturally in a slow way but it means that one might translate a particular word one way and fifty years later its meaning may have shifted greatly. A new translation would call for a new word.
 3. Often the etymology of words is not complete or the data to go with it is insufficient (I will likely tell a story at this point about my adventures with this aspect) While the **usus loquendi** may be very helpful it is difficult to deal with it exhaustively if the particular words or phrases have multiple occurrences.
 4. The mindset of the translator...it is easy to discover what one hides in a text. Nothing more need be said about this, however, none of us at this conference would do such a nefarious thing!
- B. *The Need: A message is meaningful only if one can understand it and that is most difficult if another language is involved. If the original is intended to be multi-cultural it will need to be expressed in the languages of these cultures. That is the work of the translator and the finished product is the translation, of course. The need, however, is not ended because our cultures continue to grow and change while the original culture is now fixed in time, We may know a lot about it but how to bring it into our time is not always easy*
- C. **The Biblical Field:** Translation has always been important but at times has been stifled by economies and at other times by tradition
1. The languages:
 - a. Greek: the common Greek (koine) of the world in the time of the Lord's advent. Classical Greek is not the language of the Bible but it is an adjunct of real importance.