

were being sought. Unhappily the king still hated Tyndale and his work but surreptitiously it became foundational (as I have said) to what was being done in Bible reform in England. It is, accordingly, impossible to estimate the service of the Tyndale translations and of the life of the man who made them.

c. Some problems in these works:

--orthography: spelling was not uniform and it is almost impossible to read some of the portions without a guide to various spelling forms of that time. Tyndale himself often spells the same word in a number of different ways over the versions he issued.

--the texts used...not Tyndale's fault...but the Erasmian text naturally has some limitations as it was not really dependent on very ancient materials. The Old Testament text was more standardized than the New Testament and offered less problems in this field.

--pirated editions...with unsolicited and unstudied notes. A grief to Tyndale and all later scholars as well.

--the unfair criticism of opponents who generalized and/or made major assertions on very small evidence. This means that the translator or his representatives need to spend an inordinate amount of time defending, explaining, etc. Well, you could just ignore it but scholars are not good at that sort of thing.

--distribution...people find what they want to buy but making available for the masses what was intended for the masses is a lot better done with a uniform distribution...and it keeps more copies for later historians as well.

7. Some observations:

It is interesting to note the parts of the Scripture translated most and how they were done....

Also interesting to see the attempts to get them into the public life and image....

And also interesting to see what people were willing to do both to achieve the work and to possess it after it had been done. There are a lot of lessons in this for those of us in the modern age.

D. The Reformation Bibles (1536-1611)

1. A few notes on the reformation in general and England in particular:

- a. The emphasis on literacy and the printed word
- b. Henry VIII and the Roman church
- c. The character of the English Reformation before Elizabeth
- d. Political factors that aided Bible translation
- e. And, once again, the role of Tyndale.