

and handle God's Word be not only gifted scholars but also born-again men.

The attitudes of the translators enter into the matter. Occasionally people ask, "What difference does it make what a man believes? As long as he is a scholar and an honest man, why should he not be able to make a good translation of the Bible?" The answer is that a man translates anything with respect to his opinion of it. Jerome, the church father, translated the Scriptures into Latin with great care and precision. When Damasus, Bishop of Rome, urged him to translate the Apocrypha also, Jerome did the work very quickly, almost carelessly. In his eyes it was not sacred Scripture, and there was no reason why he should be particularly careful in his rendition.

The youthful Latin scholar that is translating Caesar's Gallic Wars is not much concerned with the exact flavor of Latin . . . he wants to pass the course. So some Bible translators are not concerned with the exact rendering of truth . . . they want to get the job done. If the Bible means no more than Homer to a Greek scholar, he will translate it as he does Homer. Since there is no absolute truth in Homer (a poetic collection of heroic accounts), the Bible will be translated in the same way. On the other hand, a man who is concerned with the rendering of exact and specific truth will wish to make certain that he conveys correctly the exact nature of the words and passage under consideration.

So Bibles differ. But you will be thankful to note that apart from the cultic translations that seek to destroy the message of grace, the differing Bibles continue to present the plan of salvation and the Good News of God in a way that any reader may understand and believe.