

## Week 2 Handout - Bible Translations

The Bible was originally written in: **GREEK, HEBREW, and ARAMAIC.**

There are two main philosophies of Bible translation with a wide spectrum range between them.

**Word-for-Word** - tries to adhere as closely as possible to the wording and structure of the original languages without sacrificing clarity.

**Thought-for-Thought** - tries to be as clear and understandable as possible in translating the original languages without sacrificing accuracy.

**WORD - FOR - WORD**  
Formal Equivalence

**MEANING - FOR - MEANING**  
Closest Natural Equivalence

**THOUGHT - FOR - THOUGHT**  
Functional Equivalence

**PARAPHRASE**  
Retelling



NASB    ESV    KJV    NKJV    TRB

GW

CSB    NIV    NLT

NIRV    CEV    MSG

**CSB** Christian Standard Bible  
**CEV** Contemporary English Version  
**ESV** English Standard Version  
**GW** GOD'S WORD Translation

**KJV** King James Version  
**MSG** The Message  
**NASB** New English Standard Bible  
**NIRV** New International Reader's Version

**NIV** New International Version  
**NKJV** New King James Version  
**NLT** New Living Translation  
**TRB** The Readable Bible

## Bible Translation Chart

Translation	Reading Level	Translation Philosophy	Target Audience	2 Corinthians 10:13	Distinctives
<b>AMP</b> Amplified Bible	11	Word-for-word plus additional amplification of word meanings	Those looking for more detailed meaning in Scripture	We, on the other hand, will not boast beyond our proper limit, but [will keep] within the limits of our commission (territory, authority) which God has granted to us as a measure, which reaches and includes even you.	A popular translation used to understand the hidden meaning of Greek and Hebrew. Published in 1964 (updated in 1987). Break through the language barrier.
<b>CEV</b> Contemporary English Version	5.4	Thought-for-thought	Unchurched	We won't brag about something we don't have a right to brag about. We will only brag about the work God has sent us to do, and you are part of that work.	Written at an elementary-school reading level, it's readable and understandable for the modern reader. Published in 1995.
<b>ESV</b> English Standard Version	7.4	Word-for-word	Bible readers of all ages	But we will not boast beyond limits, but will boast only with regard to the area of influence God assigned to us, to reach even to you.	A literal update of the Revised Standard Version, . Published in 2001.

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<b>God's Word</b> Translation	4.3	Balance between word-for-word and thought-for-thought	Christians and non-Christians; all ages	How can we brag about things that no one can evaluate? Instead, we will only brag about what God has given us to do—coming to the city of Corinth where you live.	Published in 1995, a meaning-based, contemporary translation utilizing the thought-for thought translation philosophy.
<b>HCSB</b> Holman Christian Standard Bible	7.5	Balance between word-for-word and thought-for-thought	Bible readers of all ages	We, however, will not boast beyond measure but according to the measure of the area of ministry that God has assigned to us, which reaches even to you.	A translation that attempts to combine both formal and dynamic equivalence. Published in 2004.
<b>KJV</b> King James Version	12	Word-for-word	Conservative Protestant	But we will not boast of things without our measure, but according to the measure of the rule which God hath distributed to us, a measure to reach even unto you.	Traditionally loved and accepted by all Christians. Purpose in translation was "to deliver God's book unto God's people in a tongue which they can understand". Published in 1611.

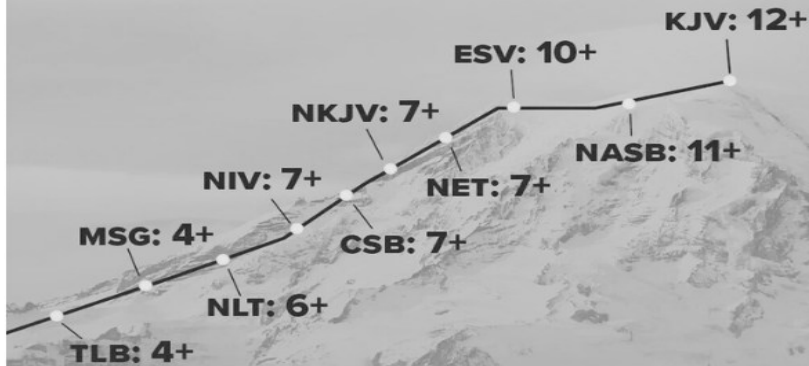
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<p><b>The Message</b> A Paraphrase</p>	<p>5.5-10</p>	<p>Thought-for-thought. Converts the original languages into the tone and rhythms of modern-day American speech while retaining the idioms and meaning of the original languages</p>	<p>Christians who want a fresh Bible-reading experience and seekers</p>	<p>We aren't making outrageous claims here. We're sticking to the limits of what God has set for us. But there can be no question that those limits reach to and include you.</p>	<p>This paraphrase was translated to communicate to the modern reader. Complete Bible published in 2002.</p>
<p><b>NAB</b> New American Bible</p>	<p>6.6</p>	<p>Word-for-word</p>	<p>Catholic</p>	<p>But we will not boast beyond measure but will keep to the limits 9 God has apportioned us, namely, to reach even to you.</p>	<p>Published under the direction of Pope Pius XII, this Catholic version of the Bible represents more than 25 years of effort by the Catholic Biblical Association of America. All editions include the Deuterocanonical / Apocryphal books. Published in 1970.</p>

Translation	Reading Level	Translation Philosophy	Target Audience	2 Corinthians 10:13	Distinctives
<b>NASB</b> New American Standard Bible	11	Word-for-word	Conservative, Evangelical Protestant	But we will not boast beyond our measure, but within the measure of the domain which God assigned to us as a measure, to reach even as far as you.	A highly respected, formal translation of the Bible. Purpose of the work was to update the American Standard Version into more current English. Published in 1971. Updated in 1995. The most literal is now more readable.
<b>NCV</b> New Century Version	5.6	Balance between word-for-word and thought-for-thought	Those who want a highly readable translation of the Bible in today's language	But we will not brag about things outside the work that was given us to do. We will limit our bragging to the work that God gave us, and this includes our work with you.	Based on the ICB (International Children's Bible), it's a readable and simple translation using the thought-for-thought methodology translation. Published in 1991.
<b>NIV</b> New International Version	7.8	Balance between word-for-word and thought-for-thought	Evangelical Christians of all ages	We, however, will not boast beyond proper limits, but will confine our boasting to the sphere of service God himself has assigned to us, a sphere that also includes you.	The bestselling translation, widely accepted by evangelical Christians. Purpose in translation was to "produce an accurate translation, suitable for public and private reading, teaching, preaching, memorizing, and liturgical use" Published in 1978. Most read. Most trusted.

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<b>NIRV</b> New International Readers Version	2.9	Balance between word-for-word and thought-for-thought with an emphasis on meaning when necessary for simplification	Children ages 10 and under	But I won't brag more than I should. God himself has given me an opportunity for serving. I will only brag about what I have done with that opportunity. This opportunity for serving also includes you.	A thorough, scholarly simplification of the NIV, the NIRV was specifically designed to help young children and new readers understand the Bible for themselves and create an easy stepping-stone from a children's Bible to an adult Bible. Published in 1994. Updated in 1998. The NIV for kids!
<b>NKJV</b> New King James Version	8	Authors used the original KJV as a benchmark, while working to produce an accurate and modern word-for-word translation	Those who want a readable translation of the Bible that is great for study but maintains the poetry of the KJV	We, however, will not boast beyond measure, but within the limits of the sphere which God appointed us—a sphere which especially includes you.	A modern language update of the original KJV. Purpose was to update and modernize the original KJV but preserve the KJV as much as possible. Published in 1982.

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<b>NLT</b> New Living Translation	6.3	Balance between word-for-word and thought-for-thought	Adults and children	We will not boast about things done outside our area of authority. We will boast only about what has happened within the boundaries of the work God has given us, which includes our working with you.	Based on the work of 90 Bible scholars and a smaller team of English stylists. They went back to the original languages and sought to produce the closest equivalent of the message in contemporary English. Published in 1996.
<b>NRSV</b> New Revised Standard Version	8.1-10.4	Balance between word-for-word and thought-for-thought	Mainline and interconfessional	We, however, will not boast beyond limits but will keep within the field that God has assigned to us, to reach out even as far as you.	A widely accepted translation in the tradition of the King James Version. Purpose was to "make a good one better". Published in 1990.
<b>TNIV</b> Today's New International Version	n.a	Balance between word-for-word and thought-for-thought	Today's generation of Bible readers looking for readability without sacrificing accuracy	We, however, will not boast beyond proper limits, but will confine our boasting to the sphere of service God himself has assigned to us, a sphere that also includes you.	Remaining faithful to the original texts while using up-to-date language of today's world, the TNIV is a highly readable and highly accurate translation. Complete Bible published in 2005. Timeless truth. Today's language.

*Translation*  
**READING LEVEL**



**SOUTHPOINT**  **CHURCH**