

The 23rd Psalm

Why should it be necessary in any way to tamper with this magnificent — perhaps the number one passage of all the Scriptures—known and beloved? But the paraphraser does it.

The King James reads:

"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake..."

The Living Bible puts it this way:

"Because the Lord is my Shepherd, I have everything I need! He lets me rest in the meadow grass and leads me beside the quiet streams. He restores my failing health. He helps me do what honors him the most."

Verse 5 of the King James reads:

"Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over."

Verse 5 of The Living Bible says:

"You provide delicious food for me in the presence of my enemies. You have welcomed me as your guest; blessings overflow!"

There is a footnote in which the paraphraser admits:

"Literally, 'You have anointed my head with oil, my cup runs over.'"

The Beatitudes

The King James reads:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit: for their's is the kingdom of heaven."

The Living Bible reports it:

" 'Humble men are very fortunate!' he told them, 'for the Kingdom of Heaven is given to them.' "

The King James again, verse 6:

"Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled."

The Living Bible:

"Happy are those who long to be just and good, for they shall be completely satisfied."

John 14:1, 2

The King James:

"Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you."

The Living Bible:

"Let not your heart be troubled. You are trusting God, now trust in me. There are many homes up there where my Father lives, and I am going to prepare them for your coming. When everything is ready, then I will come and get you, so that you can always be with me where I am. If this weren't so, I would tell you plainly."

VI. IDEOLOGICAL IMPRINT

The ideological or theological bent of any given translator — even more so in the case of the paraphraser — inevitably affects the finished product. The National Council translators were modernists headed by Dean Weigle of Yale Divinity School. They talked of their scholarship and their objectivity, but it is impossible to have objectivity when it comes to dealing with the Scriptures. The ungodly are blind; the unregenerate do not see. This is why the scholars who translate the