

TWO NEW TRANSLATIONS:

The English Standard Version and the Holman Standard Bible

Two versions that are newer and may be new to many of you are the **English Standard Version** and the **Holman Christian Standard Bible**. These are both Literal translations that have sought to be literal and yet be more readable.

In May of 1997, James Dobson, gathered together leading Christians to Colorado Springs to discuss what could be done in regards to so many using Bible translations that lacked the literal meaning of God's Word. He in particular was had concerns with the NIV and while loving the New American Standard felt it was too difficult for the average American. Out of this came the **Colorado Springs Guidelines** and a group that would seek to have a translation the was literal yet readable. J.I. Packard led this endeavor and the outcome is the English Standard Version.

The **Holman Standard Bible** has a very similar story as the English Standard Version. Leaders in the Southern Baptist Churches had similar concerns to James Dobson and those who gathered in Colorado Springs. The result is the Holman Standard Bible.

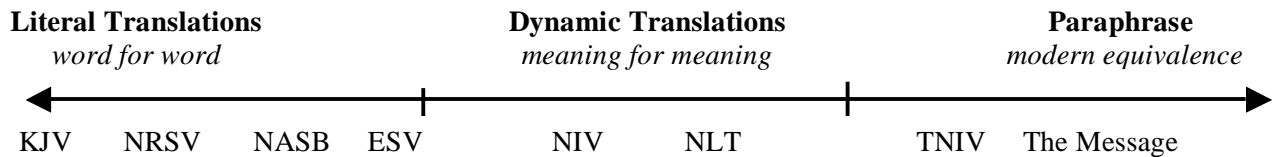
UNDERSTANDING BIBLE TRANSLATIONS

As we gather together in Worship services, we are going to be digging into the depths of God's Word and seeking for God to use His word to transform us. To do this effectively, we need the best and sharpest tools possible. That means that we will be using different translations of the Bible.

I have found that for some, this can be confusing. To help we want to make sure that you have an accurate understanding of the different translations (especially some of the newer ones) and what their unique strengths are.

LITERAL, DYNAMIC OR PARAPHRASE ...

There are two main types of translations that we will be using. Bible translations fall into three main categories: Literal, Dynamic and Paraphrase.



A “**paraphrase**” is more of a commentary that’s purpose is to give you an understanding of a passage. That being said, it means that the paraphrase interprets a passage for you and then gives you the meaning that they believe the passage has. It is an explanation. This is helpful in doing Bible study, but it is never a good idea to have this as your main or only Bible.

Literal translations seek to give a much as possible a word for word translation from the original Hebrew and Greek. These versions are the best to have as your main Bible. They are intended to be studied each word, verse and passage. The problem with these Bibles is that they tend to have a reading level that is beyond the average person in the United States. Versions that fall into this category are the New American Standard Version, English Standard Version, Holman Standard Bible, King James Version and the New King James Version.

Dynamic Translations seek to give you the meaning that the author intended without being a paraphrase. They would translate using a “sentence by sentence” or maybe a “paragraph by paragraph” to give you the meaning. This is not a bad way to translate and is actually what would be considered normal in translating from one language to another. These versions are meant to be studied more a sentence or paragraph at a time than word for word. The good thing about these translations is that they are easier to read and retain the smoothness and richness of the original that can be lost in a word for word translation. Versions that fall into this category are the New Living Translation, and the New International Version.