

# Which Translation Should I Use?

Part III  
Galatians 1:8-9

Introduction: The most important consideration when selecting a Bible translation is accuracy. God gave very specific warnings to anyone who would change the words contained therein (Deut. 4:2; 1 Cor. 4:6; Gal. 1:8-9; Rev. 22:18-19). However, that has not stopped translators from changing words to alter their meaning that reflects their personal beliefs, biases and false teachings. Each translation must; therefore, be examined for its accuracy.

## I. The New International Version

A. History: This translation is a Bible by committee. International scholars from various religious groups created an entirely different translation. Final responsibility for the translation was delegated to 15 “biblical specialists” from universities, colleges and theological seminaries. The New Testament was published in 1973 and the Old Testament in 1978.

### B. Strengths:

1. No Elizabethan language retained.
2. Easy to read; totally a modern English translation.

### C. Weaknesses:

1. The translators tried to make it more **acceptable** rather than more accurate. Liberty was taken on word choice throughout this translation.
2. They relied on manuscripts that have subsequently become known to be altered from the original.
3. They used a “dynamic equivalence” approach to the translation. That means they translated phrase by phrase or thought by thought rather than word for word.

a. This is especially troubling when we recognize the importance of every word conveyed to the apostles by the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 2:10-13).

b. Notice that Christ has given the apostles the words (not the phrases or thoughts) which will cause belief in Him (John 17:8). I don’t believe words rendered by men 2000 years later will have the same affect.

4. It contains many alterations.

## II. Alterations to the NIV resulting in false doctrine.

A. Total Depravity (Psa. 51:5).

## B. Original Sin

1. It changes all references from the flesh to “sinful nature” in Romans chapter eight. This changes the emphasis from the physical nature of man to the spiritual character of man and then it makes it “sinful” when the Greek never mentions sinfulness.

2. Examples (Rom. 8:1, 3-9, 12-13).

## C. Deity of Christ

1. It denies the deity of Christ by refusing to acknowledge the Jesus Christ was born of God (John 1:14; 3:16).

2. It de-emphasizes the kinship of Jesus to God (Psa. 2:7; Acts 13:33; Heb. 1:5).

D. It deletes Acts 8:37 (but includes it as a footnote).

E. Salvation at the point of hearing (Eph. 1:13).

F. Salvation at the point of faith (Rom. 10:10; John 3:16 [“should” to “shall”]).

Conclusion: If you ever see the NIV being used to support any doctrinal issue, watch out. Odds are the conclusion is not reachable if an accurate translation had been used. Since accuracy is the most important consideration for a Bible translation, the NIV fails miserably.