

*Build Your
Bible Time*

MODULE 02



THE TOOL BOX

LESSON 01

Choosing the Right Translation For You

Why This Is Important

God uses His Word, the Bible, to speak to us. It is where we learn about history and His character. It is where we read about what He has done for people before me which gives me hope of what He can and will do for me now.

One of the top excuses people have when it comes to reading the Bible is that they don't understand it. We will get into biblical interpretation in Module 4, but in order to begin creating a habit of picking up your Bible and reading it, you need to be able to put a sentence, a paragraph, and a chapter together in a way you understand.

There are many translations. Hundreds actually. The Bible was originally written in Hebrew & Aramaic in the Old Testament, and Greek in the New Testament. Throughout time, thankfully, individuals have worked in large teams to translate the Bible not only into different languages but different thought processes of understanding.

Remember, this is about what is best for you. Do you know that for the past 10+ years I have used a different translation of the Bible than the Pastor at the church I attended?

Although I am a huge advocate for a paper Bible in hand turning pages, my two favorite websites for quick Bible translations & comparisons are:

<https://www.biblegateway.com>

This website lets you read any and nearly every translation of the Bible.

<https://biblehub.com>

This website lets you choose a single verse and it shows you that same verse in nearly every translation (I use this website a lot!)

Do The Work

I know it's a lot. I know there are options upon options available to you and everyone has an opinion. But remember in Module 1 we defined your relationship status with God, and then we discussed the responsibilities you have in the relationship. One of the responsibilities we have as Believers, is to allow God to speak to us, through His Word. And the only way we can do that is by putting in the effort to read the Bible.

Use these five questions and the analysis in the instructional video for this lesson to help you discover which translation is best for you. Then you can do the fun part - choose a leather color, choose an app, choose a cute hardcover design, get your cover personalized. Whatever will help you pick up your Bible and read it every day.

5 Questions to Help You Choose Which Translation is Best For You

1. What is my goal when it comes to spending time with God in His Word?
2. Am I feeling pressured to choose a certain translation? What is the *truth* about different translations of the Bible?
3. Is this translation I'm using easy to read?
4. Do I understand this translation?
5. Will I be motivated to read this translation on a regular basis?

The Bottom Line: Remember the big picture. It is you and God, sharing a relationship, communicating back and forth. Your choice is yours. It is personal. If you ever feel like you are struggling to hear from God, maybe it's because you're either not in His Word, or you don't understand His Word. And the best part of each of those problems is **YOU CAN CHANGE THAT RIGHT NOW!**

Try On & Test Drive

I want to encourage you to do some investigating. Choosing the translation of the Bible that is best for you means you have to check out more than one. In the chart provided, or your own journal, I encourage you to select a verse, write it out in different translations, and examine which one may work best for you. I would suggest using the website biblehub.com for this. I'll start you off:

ROMANS 3:25

King James Version (KJV)

Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;

New American Standard Bible (NASB)

whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. This was to demonstrate His righteousness, because in God's merciful restraint He let the sins previously committed go unpunished;

New International Version (NIV)

God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood--to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished--

New Living Translation (NLT)

For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood. This sacrifice shows that God was being fair when he held back and did not punish those who sinned in times past,

Try On & Test Drive

Use this template, and follow the example on the previous page to investigate the Bible through different translations as many times as you need. This is an exercise for you to be curious, to do some examining, and to help you find which translation works best for you. Enjoy.

--
