

## **FURTHER COMMENTS ON THE KING JAMES VERSION AND THE REVISED STANDARD VERSION**

(This was written before the RSV Old Testament  
was published.)

The problem of Bible translation is a very complicated one. The Christian world has had a remarkable blessing in the King James translation for nearly three centuries and a half. This is one of the finest translations that have ever been made of any book into any language.

The very fact that the English speaking world had such a wonderful translation has also had an unfortunate result. The translation seemed so much superior to what any individual could hope to do that there has been a tendency simply to be satisfied with it instead of striving to improve it.

During the past three and a half centuries the English language has been constantly changing. Many words used in the King James Version are absolutely meaningless to us today. In other cases the words are used so differently today that the old version may easily lead us to serious misunderstanding. The problem of translation is always difficult anyway. You cannot render expressions word for word from one language into another. If you do, the result does not give a true idea of the meaning but often a very false one instead.

Any translation of the Bible that is made with even a fair degree of honesty will bring out the great truths of salvation rather clearly. When one gets beyond these into the finer points of meaning one can never trust any translation completely. The meaning of the original simply cannot be expressed exactly in another language. One translation will express certain ideas very excellently and be rather poor in the translation of other sections. Another translation will be good in different parts, and possibly poor in some of the verses where the first was especially good.

One of the great advantages of the King James Version was