

TRANSLATING THE BIBLE

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Aldrich: Good morning. Welcome to Dialogue. . . I have with me this morning two eminent theologians of the Delaware Valley. We had then on before. They did such a good job. The people liked them so much we are having them back for a different topic. I have on my right the elder statesman, probably the most venerable of the theologians of the Delaware Valley and one of the most well-known in the country, Dr. Allan MacRae from Biblical School of Theology up in Hatfield, and OT expert, but knowledgeable about both testaments, and the same is true of his colleague on the right, Dr. William Dillard from Westminster Theological Seminary here in Philadelphia, a very fine institution. Not that Dr. Dillard is less eminent perhaps, he's just younger and hasn't had as much time to be as famous, but he's a very fine Biblical scholar, again in the OT but also very knowledgeable about all aspects of the Bible.

These two gentlemen are going to share with us what's happening in terms of Bible translation. Now the first thing people are going to ask is What's wrong with the Bible we already have? By that they usually mean the St. King James Version. We know that the King James is anything but a Saint. Because of his life style, and what have you. But

MacRae: One of the best things King James did was to order the making of the King James Version.

Aldrich: Yes, that was probably the high point spiritually of his life.

MacRae: He selected the scholars who would make it. It was one of the finest translations ever made of any book into any language.

Aldrich: But why is that no longer satisfactory, that being the case?

MacRae: All languages change and in 350 years the English language has greatly changed. You say the King James Version says, Be careful for nothing. Well, we should be careful about everything! It means, don't be anxious about anything. But our words change and we need the Bible in the language people use today. The KJV says "you" and "ye"; sometimes "you", sometimes "ye" -- hardly anybody today realizes the difference between those two words.

Aldrich: The one is the nominative and the other is the objective.

MacRae: Yes, very few people know which. It has lost much of its meaning for people today.

Aldrich: What would you say Dr. Dillard?

Dillard: Not only is the date of the language a crucial