

factor in translating but also the quality of the text which the translators use.

Aldrich: If they use the Textus Receptus -- it is not always the most accurate.

Dillard: Particularly in the NT this problem is not as great as in the OT but in the NT the Textus Receptus which has become through the varieties of history the prestige text form. Actually it turns out to be a rather inferior text and is much better served now with reference to the text of the NT.

Aldrich: It still is if we're going to talk technically. We don't have the books of the Bible as they came in the table of the authors. We have copies of copies.

MacRae: Yes, but we have more material to reconstruct exact copies than from any other work from ancient time. We have hundreds of copies of just about every part of the Bible which of classical works we often have only one or two copies and often they are copies of copies of copies made perhaps in the twelfth century A.D. So we're in a unique position to get the correct text of the Bible.

Aldrich: But there does have to be some kind of critical choices made because there are places where MSS differ, (but no case where )

MacRae: but no case where any substantial number of MSS have a reading that alters any important doctrine.

Aldrich: What sort of problems have you with it in say. . . You are both working on translation.

MacRae: We are both working on translation.

Aldrich: You are working on the New International Version?

MacRae: Yes.

Aldrich: And you are working with the same version?

Aldrich: How do you decide, you know, there are two ancient MSS and one says one thing and another says something else?

MacRae: You don't have that problem much in the OT. It gets into the NT however. In the NT I would say that everything of importance the Lord has stated more than once. And when you find a verse that seems to, in some one MS, give an isolated truth, well, of God doesn't give further evidence where there may be a mistake in the text, or something, or you may be misinterpreting it. The important things are given clearly. If there's a mistake in one place, there isn't in another place.