

MacRae: I like both those versions very much, but I do think the NIV has certain advantages of style and is on the whole just as accurate.

Aldrich: Alright let's--

MacRae: But there are a few places where I think one or the other is more accurate.

Aldrich: OK let's go to this one. The bugaboo of many fundamental conservative people. The RSV, but very popular in a number of Protestant churches and now with the new common versions also being used extensively in the Roman Catholic Church. How would you evaluate it?

MacRae: I would say that the RSV has a very excellent style, and so long as you keep away from doctrinal passages, it is very accurate. But I would say the bias of the translators shows itself in doctrinal passages, particularly where it refers to OT predictions of Christ because in many of those the NT will quote the OT and say this is a fulfillment of what the OT says. And they have a footnote telling you where in the OT it is. When you look at that place it's different altogether. It's different because out of two possible renderings, they have chosen the one that doesn't fit. Or else they have thrown away the original and put something else in. So I think so long as you keep away from doctrinal passages it is an excellent version.

Aldrich: How do they throw away the original? . . .

MacRae: An example is the second psalm--"kiss the Son lest he be angry." In that case the word used is not the Hebrew word "son" but the Aramaic word.

Aldrich. Bar?

MacRae: Bar, yes. They say, "kiss his feet." Well, the word feet does not occur anywhere in the context. . . It is purely a guess. There is a word, that means "grain" that is somewhat like that. But that word "bar" occurs in one other place in the OT where they have translated it "son." There's no reason they shouldn't have in this case. It was simply theological bias!

Aldrich: Anything else you have to say about the RSV?

Dillard: No, I don't have anything else to say. I think that Dr. MacRae has put his finger on exactly the reason why that translation in spite of its excellence has not been widely accepted among conservatives. In so doing he touched on one of the major factors that goes into weighing a translation which is the theological orientation of the translator.

Aldrich: Let's get back to that in a moment, but we must take a public service announcement break. Please stay tuned. We're going along much too fast.