

but that we teach you to use it as a tool, and that we put the time and effort into getting into the Scripture and to learning for yourself how to dig out what that Scripture means. It's for that reason that we put such a stress on the languages.

Some years ago a man said to me, If you didn't require learning so much Hebrew you would have twice the students you have. He said, It's such a job; it takes so much time and work to learn these languages. Well, in many many seminaries you get a smattering of the languages but we believe it is important to get the languages well enough that you can really use them.

Why is this important? I've had people say to me, Why should I spent a lot of time learning Hebrew and Greek? Can I expect to make a better translation than those great scholars that prepared the KJV? Can I expect to do a better job of translation, than those who have worked in recent days to make the NIV or some other of the newer versions made in recent times? Why should I spend all this time on languages? The answer to this is that you cannot expect to translate exactly from one language into another. It is impossible to do this.

Your translation can give a good idea of what the translator thinks the original means. There are cases in KJV where the translators didn't know what it meant so he just translated the words word by word. If you know the original you may get a guess what the original languages is for it. If you don't know the original they are just words. They figured they'd just translate word for word. That is not translation.

You have to get in your mind what it means and then try to express it in your language and that is a difficult thing. So you—we do not expect you to make a better translation than the translations that are available but we expect you to understand many things in the original that were absolutely clear to the men who have made most of these translations, but they just could not figure out a good way to get those ideas across in their own language.

Forms are different in different languages. Syntax is different. Word orders are different. There are concepts which are perfectly simple even if you know a little about the other language which are absolutely meaningless to someone who does not know anything about the language.

When I first began teaching I taught Hebrew. When we came to making translations I used to give many sentences for them to translate into Hebrew. I noticed that in English we have the one word "you" and in Hebrew we have 4 different ways of expressing whether it is one male person you are speaking to, one female person, more than one male, more than one female. So there are 4 different expressions in Hebrew that we today only say "you" for. The KJV has a great advantage that it has two different ways of expressing it. It has for "you" in KJV a group of people; "thou" in KJV is one person.