

## Reading from Different Translations

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by Wayne Goff

**I**t is quite eye-opening to read from various reliable translations – KJV, NKJV, ASV, NASB, ESV – to name the more standard reliable ones. But none of these translations are inspired of God. The original manuscripts are inspired by God, and the best English translations are the word-for-word translations.

The *Mounce New Testament* which I have in my Accordance Bible program provides an interesting translation from William Mounce, noted Greek scholar and teacher. Observe the following from **2 Timothy**:

*“But you, remain in what you have learned and have been convinced of, knowing from whom you learned and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith that is in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is breathed out by God and is profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correcting, for training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be proficient, fully equipped for every good work.*

*“I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and Christ Jesus, who is about to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and by his kingdom: preach the word. Be prepared when it is opportune or inopportune; confront, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. For a time will come when they will not put up with healthy teaching, but in accordance with their own lust they will heap up teachers for themselves, having itching ears, and they will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into the myths. But you, be clear-minded in everything. Suffer evil. Do the work of an evangelist. Complete your ministry.” (2 Timothy 3:14-4:5)*

Perhaps what jumps out at me is his phrasing of “*in season and out of season*” – “*when it is opportune or inopportune.*” It is a fresh way of saying the same thing. Imagine how many professed preachers today do not preach the whole counsel of God when it is “*inopportune*”!

A second observation is that God’s Word is to be used to “*confront, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.*” **Confront?! Really?** How many preachers today do you know who take God’s Word to “**confront**” those who are in error? If your preacher does that, then thank God for him! What came to my mind was the confrontation between King Ahab and Elijah in **1 Kings 18:15-18**. Note that Elijah was viewed as “the bad guy” by the king, who probably thought that **political power** took precedence over **divine power**.

Finally, note that God said “**Suffer evil. Do the work of an evangelist. Complete your ministry.**” An evangelist suffers evil when he tells the inopportune truth! It doesn’t have to be that way, but too often it is.

Now, re-read **2 Timothy 3:14–4:5** from other translations, ponder its lessons, and support those who preach the whole counsel of God!

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