AUGUSTINE ON BIBLE TRANSLATION

Posted on December 28, 2008 by Eddie

Category: Bible Translation

> *And hence it happened that even Holy Scripture, which brings a remedy for the terrible diseases of the human will, being at first set forth in one language, by means of which it could at the fit season be disseminated through the whole world, was interpreted into various tongues, and spread far and wide, and thus became known to the nations for their salvation. And in reading it, men seek nothing more than to find out the thought and will of those by whom it was written, and through these to find out the will of God, in accordance with which they believe these men to have spoken.*

It is fascinating to see Augustine emphasising the value of translated Scriptures in permitting people all around the world to come to a knowledge of God's will. However, he does go on to say (at some length) that if you are to study the Scriptures in detail then you do need to be able to read Greek and Hebrew. All in all, he seems to have struck a good balance. You can read more here.