TRANSLATING TO BE UNDERSTOOD

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Category: Methodology

The most important feature of a translation of the Bible is that people can understand it. Henry Neufeld illustrates this colourfully:

> *One of the experiences that shaped my approach to Biblical languages and Biblical studies occurred late in my first year of Greek.Â The teacher was Lucille Knapp at Walla Walla College (now Walla Walla University), and she really enjoyed Greek and was quite expressive.Â She kept us on our toes.Â I was translating a verse for the class and used the word â€œpropitiation.â€*
>
> *â€œHenry!â€ she exclaimed.Â â€œI am **not** teaching you to translate Greek into Latin!â€*

Read the whole post.

One of the great advantages of translating the Scriptures into a language for the first time is that you don't have a history of Bible translation to fall back on and you are forced to think creatively about every translation decision rather than simply fall back on the work of others. This is hard work, but it is rewarding.