MARTIN LUTHER ON BIBLE TRANSLATION

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Category: Bible Translation

Kevin Sam has a terrific post on Luther's approach to Bible translation and how this might relate to English translations.

> *The importance of bibles being translated into the language of the common people (or the vernacular) cannot be better expressed than through the words of Dr. Rev. Martin Luther, the Reformer. The Latin Vulgate (translated by Jerome in 405 CE) was the Bible used in the Western Church. For 1,000 years after the Vulgate, bible translation was not an important activity in the Church. Luther felt that Latin kept the people distant from the truth, so the language of the bible should be simplified for all people to understand. He said:*
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> *â€œOne may not ask the Latin language how to speak Germanâ€¦one must ask mothers in the home, children on the street, the common man at the market, and watch carefully how they speak. After that one may translate. Then those who read will understand you and know that you are speaking German with themâ€ (WA30, II, 637).* read more