

Which Bible Translation(s) Should I Use?

September 24, 2023

The Christian Standard Bible (CSB) was originally published as the Holman Christian Standard Bible (HCSB) in 2000 for the New Testament and 2004 for the whole Bible. Then it was revised in 2009 and again in 2017 and 2020. But the 2017 revision was the most significant one, and at that time the name was changed from “Holman Christian Standard Bible” to just “Christian Standard Bible.” As with the ESV, this translation was a response to the news in 1997 that the NIV was moving in a more liberal direction.

Here are some verses where the CSB has a good translation:

- “For indeed, LORD, your enemies—indeed, your enemies will perish; all evildoers will be scattered” (Psalm 92:9 CSB).
- “For behold, your enemies, O LORD, for behold, your enemies shall perish; all evildoers shall be scattered” (Psalm 92:9 ESV).

Here are some verses where the CSB has a good translation:

- “I gave you absolutely nothing to eat in all your cities, a shortage of food in all your communities, yet you did not return to me. This is the LORD’s declaration” (Amos 4:6 CSB).

Here are some verses where the CSB has a good translation:

- “No one can serve two masters, since either he will hate one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money” (Matthew 6:24 CSB).

Here are some verses where the CSB has a good translation:

- “Now the people were waiting expectantly, and all of them were questioning in their hearts whether John might be the Messiah” (Luke 3:15 CSB).

- “As the people were in expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ” (Luke 3:15 ESV).

Here are some verses where the CSB has a good translation:

- “For God loved the world in this way: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16 CSB).
- “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16 ESV).

Here are some verses where the CSB has a good translation:

- ““We have a law,’ the Jews replied to him, ‘and according to that law he ought to die, because he made himself the Son of God’” (John 19:7 CSB).

Here are some verses where the CSB has a good translation:

- “At this time Moses was born, and he was beautiful in God’s sight. He was cared for in his father’s home for three months” (Acts 7:20 CSB).

Here are some verses where the CSB has a good translation:

- “I commend to you our sister Phoebe, who is a servant of the church in Cenchreae” (Romans 16:1 CSB).

Here are some verses where the CSB has a good translation:

- “Greet Andronicus and Junia, my fellow Jews and fellow prisoners. They are noteworthy in the eyes of the apostles, and they were also in Christ before me” (Romans 16:7 CSB).

Here are some verses where the CSB has a good translation:

- “I do not allow a woman to teach or to have authority over a man; instead, she is to remain quiet” (1 Timothy 2:12 CSB).

Here are some verses where the CSB has improved on the HCSB:

- “Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not rely on your own understanding; think about Him in all your ways, and He will guide you on the right paths” (Proverbs 3:5–6 HCSB).
- “Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not rely on your own understanding; in all your ways know him, and he will make your paths straight” (Proverbs 3:5–6 CSB).

Here are some verses where the CSB has improved on the HCSB:

- “And do not bring us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. [For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.]” (Matthew 6:13 HCSB).
- “And do not bring us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one” (Matthew 6:13 CSB).
- CSB Footnote: “Or ‘from evil’; some later mss add ‘For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.’”

Here are some verses where the CSB has improved on the HCSB:

- “Then some of the scribes and Pharisees said to Him, ‘Teacher, we want to see a sign from You’” (Matthew 12:38 HCSB).
- “Then some of the scribes and Pharisees said to him, ‘Teacher, we want to see a sign from you’” (Matthew 12:38 CSB).

Here are some verses where the CSB has improved on the HCSB:

- “Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died” (John 6:49 HCSB).
- “Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died” (John 6:49 CSB).

Here are some verses where the CSB has improved on the HCSB:

- “For we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the works of the law” (Romans 3:28 HCSB).
- “For we conclude that a person is justified by faith apart from the works of the law” (Romans 3:28 CSB).

Here are some verses where the CSB has improved on the HCSB:

- “Consider it a great joy, my brothers, whenever you experience various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance” (James 1:2–3 HCSB).
- “Consider it a great joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you experience various trials, because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance” (James 1:2–3 CSB).