

Which Bible Translation(s) Should I Use?

October 1, 2023

Here are some verses where the CSB is worse than the HCSB:

- “May they know that You alone—whose name is Yahweh—are the Most High over all the earth” (Psalm 83:18 HCSB).
- “May they know that you alone—whose name is the LORD—are the Most High over the whole earth” (Psalm 83:18 CSB).
- “That *men* may know that thou, whose name alone is JEHOVAH, *art* the most high over all the earth” (Psalm 83:18 KJV).

Here are some verses where the CSB is worse than the HCSB:

- “So he assembled all the chief priests and scribes of the people and asked them where the Messiah would be born” (Matthew 2:4 HCSB).
- “So he assembled all the chief priests and scribes of the people and asked them where the Christ would be born” (Matthew 2:4 CSB).

Here are some verses where the CSB is worse than the HCSB:

- “The poor in spirit are blessed, for the kingdom of heaven is theirs” (Matthew 5:3 HCSB).
- “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for the kingdom of heaven is theirs” (Matthew 5:3 CSB).

Here are some verses where the CSB is worse than the HCSB:

- “Then they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different languages, as the Spirit gave them ability for speech” (Acts 2:4 HCSB).
- “Then they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them” (Acts 2:4 CSB).
- “When this sound occurred, a crowd came together and was confused because each one heard them speaking in his own language” (Acts 2:6 CSB).

Here are some verses where the CSB is worse than the HCSB:

- “He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not only for ours, but also for those of the whole world” (1 John 2:2 HCSB).
- “He himself is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours, but also for those of the whole world” (1 John 2:2 CSB).

Here are some verses where the CSB is worse than the HCSB:

- “The revelation of Jesus Christ that God gave Him to show His slaves what must quickly take place. He sent it and signified it through His angel to His slave John”

(Revelation 1:1 HCSB).

- “The revelation of Jesus Christ that God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John”

(Revelation 1:1 CSB).

So I can recommend the CSB, though I don't like it as much as the HCSB. But I do like it more than the ESV.

The Passion Translation (TPT) was published in 2017, but only the New Testament was released at that time. The Old Testament is currently being translated. The Passion Translation is basically the work of a single translator named Brian Simmons. He has minimal expertise in the original languages of Scripture, and he's associated with the New Apostolic Reformation movement, which claims that there are apostles and prophets today and that God is giving revelation through them.

Here are some verses that show just how bad the Passion Translation is:

- "His message was this: 'At last the fulfillment of the age has come! It is time for God's kingdom to be experienced in its fullness! Turn your lives back to God and put your trust in the hope-filled gospel!'" (Mark 1:15 TPT).
- "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!" (Mark 1:15 CSB).

Here are some verses that show just how bad the Passion Translation is:

- “Then Moses came on the scene—a child of divine beauty. His parents hid him from Pharaoh as long as they could to spare his life. After three months they could conceal him no longer” (Acts 7:20 TPT).

Here are some verses that show just how bad the Passion Translation is:

- “When the non-Jewish people in the crowd heard these words, they were thrilled and they honored the word of the Lord. All who believed that they were destined to experience eternal life received the message” (Acts 13:48 TPT).

- “When the Gentiles heard this, they rejoiced and honored the word of the Lord, and all who had been appointed to eternal life believed” (Acts 13:48 CSB).

Here are some verses that show just how bad the Passion Translation is:

- “When the non-Jewish people in the crowd heard these words, they were thrilled and they honored the word of the Lord. All who believed that they were destined to experience eternal life received the message” (Acts 13:48 TPT).
- TPT Footnote: “As translated from the Aramaic. The Greek is “Those who were appointed to experience eternal life believed.””

Here are some verses that show just how bad the Passion Translation is:

- “Now, let me introduce to you our dear and beloved sister in the faith, Phoebe, a shining minister of the church in Cenchrea” (Romans 16:1 TPT).

Here are some verses that show just how bad the Passion Translation is:

- “Make sure that my relatives Andronicus and Junia are honored, for they’re my fellow captives who bear the distinctive mark of being outstanding and well-known apostles, and who were joined into the Anointed One before me” (Romans 16:7 TPT).

Here are some verses that show just how bad the Passion Translation is:

- “Let every wife be supportive and tenderly devoted to her husband, *for this is a beautiful illustration* of our devotion to Christ” (Colossians 3:18 TPT).
- “Wives, submit yourselves to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord” (Colossians 3:18 CSB).

Here are some verses that show just how bad the Passion Translation is:

- “I don’t advocate that the *newly converted* women be the teachers in the church, assuming authority over the men, but to live in peace” (1 Timothy 2:12 TPT).
- TPT Footnote: “Implied and understood by the cultural context of that day.”

So I definitely can’t recommend the Passion Translation. It’s basically a paraphrase, and it’s not a very good one, though it’s not as bad as the Message.

Here’s where I would put the Christian Standard Bible and the Passion Translation on our spectrum between 1 and 100, with 1 representing perfect formal equivalence and 100 representing perfect dynamic equivalence:

- The Passion Translation (TPT): 85 (6th grade)
- Christian Standard Bible (CSB): 30 (8th grade)