

Why We Use the ESV

As Bible-believing Christians who are convinced that the Bible is the Word of God, inspired and inerrant, we believe getting the Word of God in people's hands is a top priority! With that, it is our task to get the clearest and most reliable translation. While in the past the NIV has served in significant ways in the American evangelical church, recently it has taken many translational liberties that would place it outside the bounds of our convictions. This fact alone makes the NIV as it currently stands a difficult translation to return to when considering the purchase of new pew Bibles that are opened each week to reach the hearts and minds of potentially 500 people at FPC monthly.

As the leadership considered its options, we concluded that the ESV, the English Standard Version, is the best option for our congregation in our next season of ministry together.

The ESV comes from the lineage of the King James Version and is a conservative revision of the Revised Standard Version (RSV). I (Pastor Aaron) was under the tutelage of the editor for the translation for the Old Testament portion of the ESV at Covenant Seminary in St. Louis (The Rev. Dr. C. John Collins). The rest of the committee who put the ESV together comes from the leading seminaries, universities, and churches in the Reformed and conservative evangelical world.

The ESV committee says of the ESV that it is *"an essentially literal translation" that seeks "to carry over every possible nuance of meaning in the original words of Scripture into our own language. **As such, it is ideally suited for in-depth study of the Bible.**"*

Others also have praised the ESV. The late R.C. Sproul remarked, "The translation is outstanding. The ESV achieves a new standard in accurate Bible translation for our day."

My hope as your pastor is that the ESV will give an accurate expression of our church's desire to put the Word of God in the fore of our ministry and its propelling vision.

Sola scriptura, Soli Deo Gloria! ("By Scripture alone for God's glory alone!"),

--Pastor Aaron White, Ph.D