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The Common Edition: New Testament

The Common Edition is the result of a decade long study of the New Testament and numerous English translations in the modern church. The goals for this edition are:

- 1) To be accurate to the Greek Scriptures and yet highly readable,
- 2) To balance traditional wording with modern English, and
- 3) To reflect the standard Christian understanding and wording of the New Testament.

The purpose of these goals is to create a standardized New Testament for the modern English reader.

There are two ways to create a standardized text. The first way is to create a text of such surpassing scholarship and expression that it practically eliminates the use of other editions for decades or perhaps centuries. The second way is to isolate what the most widely used editions have in common, eliminate what they do not have in common, and place the results in a single text.

The King James Version succeeded in both of these two ways.

Over the past hundred years there have been numerous attempts to create a new English standard Bible. Each of these attempts has sought to produce a standardized edition in the first way I have described. The Common Edition New Testament follows the second method.

A standardized edition of any work seeks a balance between extremes. The most literally accurate version may not be the easiest to read. The most traditionally worded may not be very modern.

It cannot have a target audience; what is best for preachers and theologians may not be best for the daily devotional reader.

Finally, a standardized edition cannot be innovative. One reviewer gave me the highest compliment I could receive when he said, "there's nothing new about it!"

I hope that readers will find in these pages exactly what they would expect from a standardized edition, and that no matter what versions they have used in the past, they will find something familiar here.

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