



Ron & Cheryl Myers



GOD'S LIVING WORD FOR ALL PEOPLE



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A Faith-based Missionary Outreach Sustained Through the Partnership of God's People

Every Word of God is Pure

Do Not Add to His Words Lest You Be Found a Liar

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Missionary Dr. Wilbur N. Pickering, a noted New Testament Greek scholar and Bible translator, once said in an interview: *If God exists, and if He has spoken, there's nothing more important for us than to know what He said. And what He said, because He's going to demand an accounting of what we did based on what He gave us. ... Jesus said He expects us to live by every Word that comes out of God's mouth. OK, if you're going to live by every Word, you've got to have every word.*

If you've been following my newsletters, you'd know that I am now working on a new Spoken Thai New Testament translation. I'm using what is known as a Formal/Literal Equivalency or word-for-word translation style, as opposed to a Dynamic Equivalency or thought-for-thought translation style. Why would the Thais need another New Testament translation since they already have a half dozen? I'll refer that thought to my very keen Isan New Testament translation assistant, Paetong. He had invited to stay at his family's mountain home in Northeast Thailand where we worked on First and Second Corinthians for the Isan translation. Paetong lent me his own bedroom during those few weeks. Meanwhile, he slept on the porch.

Late evenings, if when I arose to visit their small outhouse across the yard, Paetong would be reading his Thai Bible on their porch. He once remarked in disgust, "I'd like to throw this thing away." Why, I asked. "Read this," he said, showing me Philippians 2:12 in his Thai Bible Society's 1971 edition. He added that it was an example of other altered passages he had come across. Verse 12 has the Apostle Paul saying "While I'm away be sure to behave well because in doing so, you'll gain salvation." This was my first sobering introduction to the heretical nature of Thai translations, which twist God's truth in one way or another in all key passages, except for Ephesians 2:8-9 which was left untouched, as well as most other passages.

Below are four more examples of mistranslated Thai New Testament verses, purposefully changing Grace into works!

John 15:2 – What if your Bible reads: "Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He cuts off," instead of the correct: "Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away or lifts up" (Greek "ario" to elevate).

The wrong meaning says, if you don't *toe the line*, Jesus will cut you off from being one of His, instead of building you up. The analogy is a vineyard owner caring for his vineyard. He wants each branch to produce grapes, so he'd never cut off a potentially productive branch. Rather, he'd prop or lift it up out of the dirt so it could produce grapes. The same applies to us as His branches.

Ephesians 3:17 – What if your Bible reads: "Once you have rooted and grounded yourselves in love, you'll understand," instead of the correct: "having been rooted and grounded in love, you'll understand..."

The true meaning is having been. It's in passive voice, meaning God has rooted and grounded you, it is *not* a command for you to root and ground yourself (religious works). I showed this verse to a Thai pastor friend of Baptist persuasion, then asked jokingly if he had rooted and grounded himself yet. He stared at the verse a while, then remarked, "I sure hope so."

1 Peter 2:2 – What if your Bible reads: "As newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow into Salvation," instead of the correct: "As newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby."

The true meaning is that you may grow (in faith) thereby, not gain salvation by reading the Word.

Colossians 2:7 – What if your Bible reads: "Root yourself, build yourself up in Him, establish yourself, and be Thankful," instead of the correct: "You've been Rooted and are now being built up in Him and established in the faith, abounding in thanksgiving."

The true meaning is similar to Ephesians 3:17. These are all in Passive Voice (God is doing it), a beautiful picture of our salvation, and the following sanctification process—growing to maturity in grace and knowledge. **Verse 7 has no imperatives!!**



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This is why I'm translating an accurate *koine* Thai New Testament. I've begun with John's Gospel, along with Romans, for an initial John-Romans booklet.

Pray for my continued good health and mental acuity.

Pray too for financial backing for this vital project.

Also pray for my ongoing mentoring ministry.

Use this QR code link to donate to this project with a deductible gift through our mission agency. Select the wide slot labeled 'Give,' then scroll down and click on **Myers, Ron** and continue to fill out.

