

Worksheet: Comparing Three Standard Translations of Jude 3-4

The following layout illustrates the translation process line-by-line. The Greek New Testament is followed by a transliteration into English, a word-for-word interlinear "translation," the ESV, the NIV, and the NLT. The ESV is based on the formal correspondence (word-for-word) theory of translation. The NIV cautiously applies the functional equivalence theory, and the NLT is more creative with the same approach. As a result, the ESV uses only 72 English words to translate the 54 words of the Greek New Testament, but the NIV and NLT use 80 and 91 words respectively. **Compare each translation word by word and note the differences. Do any of the differences change the basic meaning? Which translation do you like best?**

- Ἀγαπητοί, πᾶσαν σπουδὴν ποιούμενος γράφειν ὑμῖν περὶ τῆς κοινῆς ἡμῶν σωτηρίας (Ancient Greek New Testament)
- *Agapetoi pasan spouden poioumenos graphein humin peri tes koines hemon soterias* (Greek "transliterated" into English letters)
- Beloved every effort making to write to you about the common of us salvation (interlinear match-up "translation")
- Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, (ESV)
- Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, (NIV)
- Dear friends, I had been eagerly planning to write to you about the salvation we all share. (NLT)

- ἀνάγκην ἔσχον γράψαι ὑμῖν παρακαλῶν ἐπαγωνίζεσθαι τῇ ἅπαξ παραδοθείσῃ τοῖς ἁγίοις πίστει. (Ancient Greek New Testament)
- *Ananken eschon grapsai humin parakalwn epagonizesthai te hapax paradotheisei tois hagiois pistei* (Greek "transliterated" into English letters)
- necessity I had to write to you appealing to contend the once delivered to the saints faith (interlinear) (interlinear match-up "translation")
- I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints. (ESV)
- I felt compelled to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to God's holy people. (NIV)
- But now I find that I must write about something else, urging you to defend the faith that God has entrusted once for all time to his holy people. (NLT)

- παρεῖδυσαν γὰρ τινες ἄνθρωποι, οἱ πάλαι προγεγραμμένοι εἰς τοῦτο τὸ κρίμα, ἀσεβεῖς, (Ancient Greek New Testament)
- *pareisedusan gar tines anthropoi oi palai progegrammenoi eis touto to krima, asebeis*, (Greek "transliterated" into English letters)
- crept in for some men the long ago written about for this the judgment, ungodly (interlinear match-up "translation")
- For certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation, ungodly people, (ESV)
- For certain individuals whose condemnation was written about long ago have secretly slipped in among you. They are ungodly people, (NIV)
- I say this because some ungodly people have wormed their way into your churches, . . . The condemnation of such people was recorded long ago,

- τὴν τοῦ θεοῦ ἡμῶν χάριτα μετατιθέντες εἰς ἀσέλγειαν καὶ τὸν μόνον δεσπότην καὶ κύριον ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦν Χριστὸν ἀρνούμενοι. (Ancient Greek NT)
- *ten tou theou hemon charita metatithentes eis aselgeian kai ton monon despoten kai kurion hemon lesoun Christon arnoumenoi* ("transliteration")
- the of the God of us grace turning into sensuality and the only master and lord of us Jesus Christ denying (interlinear "translation")
- who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ. (ESV)
- who pervert the grace of our God into a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord. (NIV)
- . . . saying that God's marvelous grace allows us to live immoral lives . . . for they have denied our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ. (NLT)