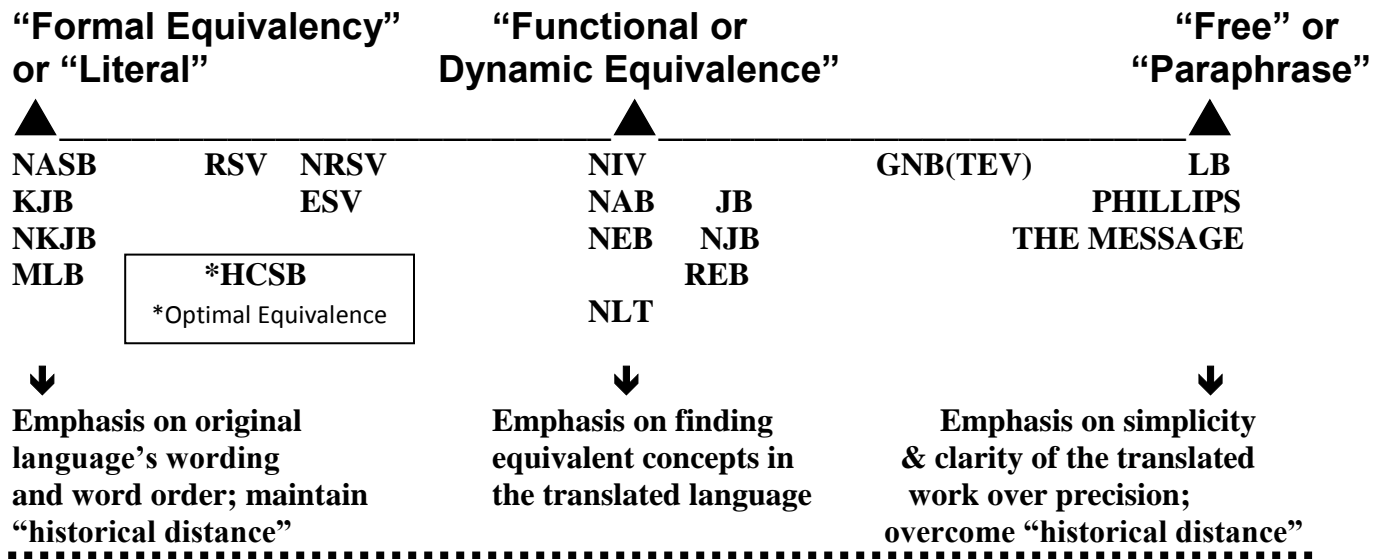


## Week #4 – “The Interpretive Journey”

# The Translation Spectrum



*For example,*  
 note the translations of the difficult term **“sarx”** (“flesh”) in Galatians 5:24:  
 (“Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified *the flesh* with its passions and desires.”  
 NASB)

📖 <b>Literal Translations</b> (Pass on the difficulty to the reader)	
New American Standard Bible	“the flesh”
King James Bible/New King James Bible	“the flesh”
(New) Revised Standard Version/English Standard Version	“the flesh”
Holman Christian Standard Bible	“the flesh”
📖 <b>Dynamic Equivalent Translations</b> (Find equivalent concept in English)	
New International Version (until 2011 version!)	“the sinful nature”
New Living Translation	“of their sinful nature”
New English Bible	“the lower nature”
Revised English Bible	“the old nature”
New Jerusalem Bible	“self”
📖 <b>Paraphrases</b> (Seek to bring maximum clarity with additional words)	
Today’s English Version (Good News Bible)	“their human nature”
Living Bible	“their natural evil desires”
Phillips	“their old nature”
The Message	“everything connected with getting our own way and mindlessly responding to what everyone else calls necessities”

# What is “the flesh” in Galatians 5:24?

- In the OT and NT, “**flesh**” = a term of bodily weakness, limitation, and frailty, but it is not sinful.

Note Jesus’ words in the Garden of Gethsemane summarize both the OT and NT view of “the flesh”: “the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak” (Matt 26:41b; Mark 14:38b)

- However, the Judaizers made “flesh” a term of endearment, a term of strength and the means of becoming a child of Abraham (Genesis 17:13, “a covenant in the flesh”).

- So, Gentile converts must “have a Jewish birth” via circumcision (the 8<sup>th</sup> day of a Jewish boy’s life).

- In Galatians, Paul shows “flesh” is weak and needed the Law, but the cross ended the era of flesh/Law and then God superseded it with the era of the Holy Spirit!

- Therefore, Christians are not characterized by “flesh” (a state of bodily weakness); it has been crucified (Galatians 5:24)!

- Rather, we are characterized by the Holy Spirit!

See Romans 8:1-11 for further development of the flesh/Spirit contrast!

# **Interpreting Philippians 1:3-11 in 5 Steps**

**Step #1: Identify the Genre of the biblical passage.**

**Step #2: Determine the “Big Idea”/Main Theme of the paragraph.**

**Step #3: Make observations about the structure and “people aspects”  
of the passage.**

**Step #4: Interpret the meaning of the passage by meditating on it.**

**Step #5: Apply the passage to our life and to those around us.**

# Philippians 1:3-11

1:3 Paul's thanksgiving in every remembrance of the Philippians

1:4 while always offering prayer with joy for them

1:5 **is in view of** **their partnership** **in the gospel**  
(Basis) (Greek = *koinōnia*)

If you look up  
"gospel" in a  
concordance,  
you'll discover  
these 9  
occurrences in  
Philippians:  
1:5, 7, 12, 16,  
\*27 (2 X's); 2:22;  
4:3, 15.

See Phil 4:10-20 for  
further discussion of  
the Philippians'  
partnership in the  
gospel.

1:6 Their partnership in the gospel **engenders** Paul's confidence in  
1 thing: "God will complete/perfect the good work He began  
in them until the day of Christ Jesus."

1:7-8 The Philippians' being partakers of grace with Paul in both his  
ministry and in his imprisonment **also engenders** heartfelt affection  
for them.

1:9-11 Paul's **thanksgiving** now gives way to **petitioning God** that their love  
would grow still more and more in real knowledge and all discernment  
so that they may approve the things that really matter, which results  
in being sincere and blameless **until the day of Christ**.