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Viewpoints

Viewing life as Christ's cross-scarred hand points out the blessings he's overseeing.

Small Potatoes, Not! ~ June 14, 2013

Something should have your attention, bigger than Washington's scandals
[Online Version & Archive](#)

Think about the amount of research, time and expense spent by those hiding the truth and then spent by those seeking the truth concerning the scandals splashing across our national news: the Benghazi obfuscation, IRS selective targeting of political opponents, State Department illegal wiretapping, and possible unconstitutional surveillance of US citizens by the NSA. There are even more scandals afoot, but you get the picture.

I know it pales in comparison, and there's nothing politically scandalous connected to it, but our church and sister churches have been eagerly waiting for synodical lawyers to discover the truths that apply to the use of a Bible translation.

I know, I know... determining what Bible translation we can legally use, and that will serve well in our synodically published materials, is small potatoes compared to discovering who illegally breached the computer of CBS reporter Sharyl Attkisson during the time she was reporting on Benghazi.

But wait! The scandals of Benghazi, the IRS, the State Department and the NSA will eventually follow the way that all flesh goes. Given enough time, all flesh turns back to dust. And after Judgment Day, this world too will be destroyed. But the Word of God stands forever!

And since the Word of God stands forever, and since it's the means by which God works the message of Jesus into saving faith and eternal life, figuring out what translation best serves our English-speaking churches actually does rise in importance above all the scandals plaguing our nation. Do you see how this is not a personal preference--to have God's Truth faithfully and accurately translated into an English Bible-- but this is a necessity?

Currently our church and our synod have been using the New International Version copyrighted in 1984 (NIV1984). Because a 2011 revision of the NIV (NIV2011) has been rolled out, the publishers of the NIV1984 version are phasing it out, in spite of the pleas from our synod and other church groups for permission to keep using it.

Legal counsel recently determined good news: our synod can continue to use the NIV1984 in a limited way. Thankfully, this gives our synod some more time to tackle the question of what translation will be used in the future for synodical publications. Our synod has already

been studying this question for many months, and this summer is scheduled to make a final decision.

Long story short, our Synod's President has recommended that our church body take the lead in producing a new translation ([see President Schroeder's letter](#)). If you're not familiar with our group of churches, our WELS Synod is known for its undying commitment to transmit to the world what the verbally inspired, inerrant God of Word has recorded... in spite of political correctness and pop culture's religious trends. This is our Biblical heritage, highlighted when Martin Luther took his confessional stand on the Holy Scriptures over and against the highest authorities of the religious and secular world (the Papal rule of what history calls the [Holy Roman Empire](#)).

But is the amount of research, time and expense associated with determining what translation our synodically published materials will rely on, really worth all this effort and cost? Not only did our Michigan District in convention answer "Yes!", it also gave official support for the proposal of producing a new English translation that's highly readable and that will be more accurate and faithful to God's Word than is currently available.

For the preservation of our nation, I hope you're a citizen whose love for our nation translates into an unrelenting need to know the truth about how our government governs. But for the glory of Jesus Christ and for the rescue and preservation of souls he has purchased with his blood, I pray earnestly that your love for the truth translates into an unrelenting need to proclaim God's Word truthfully through a faithful and accurate translation. This is no small potatoes! The importance of this need is more important than the need to uncover the truth behind the scandals currently scandalizing Washington.

"All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field. The grass withers and the flowers fall, because the breath of the LORD blows on them. Surely the people are grass. The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God stands forever" (Isaiah 40:6-8, NIV1984). ☩

Source Material (Links may become inactive over time.)

[CBS News confirms multiple breaches of Sharyl Attkisson's computer](#) @ The Washington Post
[A Flood of Scandals...](#) @ The Week

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Blessings to you and your loved ones, Pastor Mike Nitz

