

## The New Testament Recovery Version (RcV) 10 facts:

- 1. The RcV is a translation that highlights the progress and recovery of truths throughout Christian History.** The word *recovery* in the translation refers to the regaining of the lost matters of biblical truth, Christian experience, and church practice, it does not refer to a person's recovery from any substance abuse or addiction. Over time, many biblical truths have been misunderstood, misinterpreted, misapplied, or missed completely because of the influences of history, tradition, and even religion. Beginning with justification by faith during the Reformation, truths like these which had been lost were recovered.<sup>1</sup> The translation work of the RcV, in particular, corresponded with the monumental book-by-book commentary titled the *Life-study of the Bible* by Witness Lee which emphasized the experience and enjoyment of God's divine life in Christ through the Holy Spirit in the presenting of the truths contained in the entire Bible.<sup>2,3</sup> The aim of this translation is to clearly convey these truths that have been rediscovered throughout the ages.<sup>4</sup>
- 2. The RcV follows a word-for-word approach in translation.** Every Biblical translation faces the challenge of preserving the literal wording of the original text while still maintaining the understandability of the text. The RcV holds an essentially literal, word-for-word, stance because the translators strongly believe that the Bible is God's word and God's word is "not in words taught by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things with spiritual words" (1 Cor. 2:13).<sup>5</sup> The RcV "attempts to provide the best utterance for the revelation in the divine Word, that it may be expressed in the English language...that is to the point, easy to understand, and readable..." yet "with the greatest accuracy."<sup>4</sup> While literal wording might sacrifice easy reading at times, the footnotes function to explain the Greek terms, grammar, or nuance instead of simplifying the text itself.<sup>8,9</sup> (Some prominent, well-respected Christian scholars have commented on the accuracy and fairly literal rendering of the text of the RcV.<sup>6,7</sup>) Additional Reading: The Recovery Version – Why Another Translation of the Bible ("Having This Ministry..." March 2023, Issue No. 18)
- 3. The translation is based on highly attested original texts.** The New Testament was originally written in Greek. The RcV is based for the most part on the *Novum Testamentum Graece* (26<sup>th</sup> edition). While the translators based their work on the original languages, they were frequently guided by the precedent set by the major authoritative English versions as a reference, and they gave careful and particular consideration to the larger context of chapter and book and to similar portions of the New Testament in their translation. Such an endeavor of translating directly from the original languages with the spiritual light from the divine revelation in the Bible, far from evidencing a desire simply "to be different" or indicating disdain for what others have previously done, manifests a seriousness in Bible study and a love for God's Word that befits all believers. Thus, the Greek text underlying the Recovery Version is unique, even if it is quite close to the accepted scholastic edition of the day.<sup>4,5</sup>
- 4. The RcV contains extensive study aids for understanding and spiritual enrichment.** The New Testament RcV contains more than 13,000 cross-references and more than 9,000 footnotes to provide enlightening insight into passages throughout the Bible. The footnotes stress the revelation of the truth, the spiritual light, and the supply of life not like many other study Bibles that focus more on history, geography, persons, and ancient culture. The cross-references lead not only to other verses with similar expressions, or geographical or historical facts but also to other matters related to the spiritual revelation in the divine Word. Outlines of each book, both at the beginning of each book and embedded within the text, express the spiritual meaning in each book. Maps and charts are also included to provide general overviews and further spiritual understanding of important truths.<sup>4,10</sup>
- 5. There is a four-fold purpose to the footnotes of the RcV.** In addition to meeting the need for an accurate and up-to-date translation that matches the light received by the translators, the footnotes of the RcV had the express purpose of 1) presenting the truth, especially the basic truths and major items in the light of God's eternal purpose and the full economy of God, 2) to minister the life-supply to the reader, that is to serve the truth in the Bible as nourishment to enlighten and enliven the reader, 3) to attempt to solve the common and hard problems or challenging passages in the New Testament that are common barriers in Bible study and clarity of understanding, and 4) to fully open up all the books of the Bible, with the dual result of getting a "bird's-eye view" of each book and being able to focus on the most crucial and intrinsic matters in each book of the Bible.<sup>11</sup>  
Additional Reading: The Purpose of the Recovery Version with the Footnotes (1)-(4) ("Having This Ministry..." May-August 2021, Issue Nos. 1-4)
- 6. The RcV's study notes reference a diverse collection of theologians and scholars.** The footnotes were compiled by a team under Witness Lee's supervision and they reference many Christians with diverse backgrounds (e.g. Lutheran, Plymouth Brethren, Anglican, Presbyterian, Baptist, Methodist, and generally Protestant) especially in unlocking the meaning of specific Greek words, phrases, or clauses.<sup>12</sup> The RcV also mentions different schools of interpretation held among believers in various portions of the Scriptures often clarifying conflicting historical understandings or elucidating the Scriptural basis for the truth regardless of varying interpretations.<sup>13</sup>
- 7. The RcV was permanently added to the collection of exhibits at the Museum of the Bible.** In 2018, The Holy Bible (Recovery Version) was donated by its publisher Living Stream Ministry to the Museum of the Bible in Washington, D.C. and has one donated in 2020 on permanent display on the fourth floor as part of "The History of the Bible" exhibit hall in the "Bibles for Everyone" displays.<sup>14</sup>

8. **Millions of RcV study Bibles have been given away free of charge (including shipping).** The non-profit *Bibles for America* has distributed more than 2.5 million free New Testament Recovery Version study Bibles. These numbers reflect a distribution endeavor of 25 years and distribution within the United States only.<sup>15</sup> *Bibles for America* intends to give away 2 million more study Bibles in America before the year 2032.<sup>16</sup> Similar efforts are being made in other parts of the world in various languages to provide a light to all in the darkening situation in the world.
9. **The Recovery Version has been translated into multiple languages.** The New Testament Recovery Version has been translated into eighteen languages and nine other language translations of the New Testament were underway as of September 2021.<sup>17</sup>
10. **The RcV has been revised, re-typeset, has various printings, editions, formats, and has an app.** The first edition of the English RcV was published in 1985, the revised edition was published in 1991 after extensive revision, augmentation, and improvements exhibiting an earnest commitment to truth. The first New Testament pocket-sized text-only edition was published in 1993, and the first pocket-sized text-only paragraphed edition was published in 2024. In 2025, bonded leather editions in both large and small sizes were re-typeset and re-printed. In addition to various bindings (including premium bindings), sizes, and formatting, the New Testament RcV text was published in 2024 as an analytical Greek-English interlinear New Testament, where each word of the Greek New Testament is accompanied by its Strong's number, its analytical (grammatical) code, and a literal English gloss as a significant contribution to the careful very-literal, word-for-word study of God's word.<sup>18</sup> The RcV can also be accessed as an eBook on major e-reader platforms.<sup>19</sup> Finally, in 2021 the Recovery Version App was released with many useful features, such as audiobook functionality, powerful search functions, multiple profiles, plus more while making it supremely accessible and unbeatably convenient for use on smartphones.<sup>20</sup>

Further Reading: A Short History of the English Recovery Version ("Having This Ministry..." October 2021, Issue No. 6)

Bonus #11: **Bibles for America provides additional digital study resources.** *Bibles for America* has over a dozen blog posts on the Bible and dozens on other Biblical topics such as "God's Plan," "Salvation," and "Preaching the Gospel," plus many more which are excellent Bible study resources.<sup>21</sup>

#### References:

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