

Wycliffe Associates

Bible Translation Reviewers' Guide

*Doctrine of Man; Doctrine of Salvation;
Doctrine of the Church; Doctrine of Holiness
of the Believer*

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Doctrine: Man

Biblical Statement

In the beginning, Man (humankind) was created by God in his own image and for his glory. God created Man to have a relationship with him and to live with him forever.

Adam and Eve were the first humans on Earth.

After Adam and Eve sinned, all other human beings are born into a state of sin, and because they sin they are separated from God.

Because of Man's sin, he is deserving of God's wrath.

In spite of Man's sin, God still loves Man and saves those who trust in Christ.

Acts 17:24-28

Background: This account is from Luke's second book. These verses are a record of a sermon that the Apostle Paul preached to people who were interested in philosophy and in different views about how the world was made.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ God made the world and everything in it.
- ☐ He does not live in a temple made by people.
- ☐ He does not need anything from anyone.
- ☐ From one man he made every nation of people.
- ☐ God determined when and where people would live.
- ☐ He did this so people would seek and find him, though God is not far from each person.

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. What did Paul say God made? [17:24]
God made the world and everything in it. God made every nation of people.
2. What can man give to God that he needs? [17:25]
God needs nothing from people since he gives everything to people.
3. How is God related to human beings and to all creation? [17:26]
 - From one man God made all the nations.
 - He also made the seasons of the year and established the boundaries where each nation would live.
 - God is near to each person.
 - People are his offspring and live and have their being in him.
4. Do you think since God made everything, it then belongs to him? [17:26]
Yes, all things belong to God.
5. Since God created all things, and all things belong to him, how do you think people should respond to God? [17:26]
People should be thankful to God and worship him.

Comment Section:

Romans 3:9-18

Background: This passage is from a letter that Paul wrote to the Christians in Rome. In this passage, Paul taught about the sinfulness of Jews and Greeks.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ All people are under sin.
- ☐ No one is righteous or seeks after God.
- ☐ All people have done and said wicked things
- ☐ No one fears God.
- ☐ All have turned away.

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. Who did Paul say is under sin? [3:9]
 “Jews and Greeks” are under sin.
2. How did you understand the phrase in your language for “under sin”? [3:9]
 It means that all Jews and Greeks have sinned and God will judge them for it.
3. How did you understand the word or phrase in your language for “sin”? [3:9]
 “Sin” is anything that a person does, whether in thoughts, words, or actions, that is against God, his nature, his will, and his laws. “Sin” is also a failure to do anything God has commanded us to do.
4. What did Paul say was written concerning all people? [3:10-18]
 - No one is righteous.
 - No one understands.
 - No one seeks God.
 - Human beings do not know nor do they ever do good.
 - Everything they speak is evil, like poison from a snake.
 - They are quick to kill and destroy.
 - They do not fear God.
 - They do not know peace.

Comment Section:

Romans 5:12-14

Background: This passage is from a letter that Paul wrote to the Christians in Rome. In this section he explained how sin came into the world through the first man, Adam.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Death entered the world because of sin. (When Adam and Eve disobeyed God, the power and curse of sin came into the world)
- ☐ Sin brought death and judgment upon all people.
- ☐ God's law showed everyone what sin was, and it proved that all people are guilty before God.
- ☐ Death ruled from the time of Adam to Moses, even over those who did not sin the same way Adam sinned did. (Sin brought death upon all people, no matter what kind of sin they committed, they all would die because of their sin.)
- ☐ Adam was a pattern of the one to come. (As Adam brought sin to all people, even so Christ would bring salvation to all who trusted in him to forgive them.)

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. How did sin enter into the world? [5:12]
Through one man (the reader may know this refers to Adam sinning in the Garden of Eden.)
2. How did you understand the word or phrase in your language for "sin"? [5:12]
"Sin" is anything people do, whether in thoughts, words, or actions, that is against God, his nature, his will, and his laws. "Sin" is also a failure to do anything God has commanded people to do.
3. How did death enter into the world? [5:12]
Death came into the world when Adam and Eve sinned. Sin brought death to us all.

Comment Section:

Ephesians 2:1-3

Background: This passage is from a letter that Paul wrote to the Christians living in the city of Ephesus. Here Paul reminded them of how they used to live before they were Christians.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Paul told his readers that they were once dead in sin. (They were spiritually dead because they were sinners who sinned and so all were separated from God).
- ☐ They once lived in sin, and they sinned just like everyone in the world.
- ☐ Their lives were lived under the power of the Devil, the one who is the ruler of the authorities of the air. He is the spirit that works in everyone who disobeys God.
- ☐ Once they had lived just like all other sinners.
- ☐ They wanted to fulfill their evil desires, by carrying out the desires of their body and mind.
- ☐ They were children of wrath like everyone else.

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. How did Paul describe the Ephesians? [2:1]
They were dead in their trespasses and in their sins.
2. How did you understand the word or phrase in your language for “dead in your trespasses and sins”? [2:1]
It means the people were spiritually dead. They were under the penalty of death because of their sins and like all sinners, they would receive the punishment of God’s wrath.
3. How did you understand the word or phrase in your language for “trespasses” and “sin”? [2:1]
“Trespasses” and “sin” are anything that people do, whether in thoughts, words, or in the actions people take, that is against God, his nature, his will, and his laws. “Sin” is also a failure to do anything God has commanded us to do.
4. How did they once behave? [2:2]
They lived the same way that other people of the world lived. They lived according to the ruler of the authorities of the air. They fulfilled their evil desires and sinful nature.
5. Who do you think the “ruler of the authorities of the air” is? [2:2]
The Devil
6. At the end of 2:3, how did Paul describe himself and the Ephesians before they became Christians?
Paul described himself and the Ephesians as once deserving the wrath of God, like all the rest of the world, because of sin.
7. How do you understand the phrase in your language for “We were by nature children of wrath”? [2:3]
All people sin against God by nature. It is impossible for people not to sin. Therefore, people will experience God’s wrath when he punishes them.

Comment Section:

Doctrine: Salvation

Biblical Statement

Salvation is the work of God to rescue his people from their sin and from the punishment they deserved for their sins.

Human beings are born sinful; separated from God and opposed to his purposes. But God, because of his great love, sent Jesus Christ to die for the sins of humanity.

Everyone who confesses their sins and believes in Jesus Christ receives forgiveness for their sins and is given new life in Christ, and promised eternal life with Him.

There is no other way to be saved, except by the death of Christ for us, and there is no other way for man to be made right with God but by the grace of God in Christ Jesus.

John 3:16-18

Background: This passage is from the Gospel that the apostle John wrote. Here, Jesus is having a conversation with Nicodemus, a Pharisee who went to Jesus at night to ask him questions.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ God loved the world by giving his one and only Son.
- ☐ Whoever believes in the Son will have eternal life.
- ☐ God sent his Son to save the world, not to condemn it.
- ☐ He who believes in the Son is not condemned.
- ☐ He who does not believe in the Son is already condemned.

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. In 3:16 who does God love?
The world, all people in the world, everyone.
2. What did God do because he loved the world? [3:16]
God sent his one and only Son.
3. What does this passage say someone has to do to have eternal life? [3:16]
He must believe in the Son of God.
4. How did you understand the phrase in your language for "believe in"? [3:16]
To "believe in" someone means to "trust in" that person. It means to trust that the person is who he says he is, that he speaks the truth and that he will do what he has promised to do.
5. How do you think people should live their lives after they "believe in" Jesus? [3:16]
When they believe in Jesus they should obey Jesus because they believe what he teaches is true.
6. How did you understand the phrase in your language for "eternal life"? [3:16]
Living with God forever.
7. How did Jesus describe those who do not believe? [3:18]
They are "already condemned." This means that God will punish these people because they sinned and did not believe in Jesus for forgiveness.

Comment Section:

Romans 3:23-26

Background: The Apostle Paul wrote this letter to the Christians living in Rome. In this section, Paul taught about how through Christ Jesus believers are made right before God.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ All have sinned and come short of God's glory.
- ☐ By God's grace, through Jesus, people are justified.
- ☐ God provided Jesus as propitiation (a sacrifice that pays for sin) for those who believe.
- ☐ Christ is the proof of God's justice.
- ☐ God disregarded previous sins because of his patience.
- ☐ Everything happened at the right time to show God to be righteous and to show God justifies anyone through faith in Christ.

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. What did Paul say about all people in 3:23?
They are all sinful and come short of his glory. This means they do not live in a way that honors God.
2. How did you understand the word or phrase in your language for "sinned"? [3:23]
"Sin" is anything that people do, whether in thoughts, words, or in the actions they take, that is against God, his nature, his will, and his laws. "Sin" is also a failure to do anything God has commanded people to do.
3. In 3:24-25, what did Paul say that God did to save sinners?
He freely justified them by his grace by providing Christ Jesus as the propitiation.
4. How did you understand the word or phrase in your language for "justified"? [3:24]
"Justify" and "justification" are the actions by which God makes guilty, sinful persons righteous. When God justifies people, he forgives their sins and makes it as though they have never sinned. God gives them the righteousness of Jesus Christ, and God gives those who believe forgiveness of all their sins.
5. How did you understand the word or phrase in your language for "grace"? [3:24]
The word "grace" refers to help or blessing that is given to someone who has not earned it. God's grace toward sinful human beings is a gift that is freely given.
6. How did you understand the word or phrase in your language for "redemption"? [3:24]
To "redeem" means to buy back something or someone that was previously owned or held captive. This image shows how God redeems people who are in slavery to sin. When he died on the cross, Jesus paid the full price for people's sins and redeemed all those who trust in him for salvation. People who have been redeemed by God are set free from sin and its punishment.
7. How did you understand the word or phrase in your language for "propitiation"? [3:25]
"Propitiation" refers to a sacrifice that is made to satisfy or fulfill the requirement for the justice of God and to satisfy his wrath. As a result of Jesus' death, God forgives sins and grants favor to those who trust in him.

Romans 3:23-26 continued

8. What must a person do to be saved? [3:25]

Trust in the provision of Christ's blood, which satisfied the justice of God that he must punish sin. So when people have faith in God to save them through the death of Jesus Christ, they are forgiven because he paid the penalty for all their sins.

9. How did you understand the word or phrase in your language for "faith in his blood"? [3:25]

"Faith in his blood" means to believe or trust that God saves sinners by the death of Jesus on the cross.

Comment Section:

1 Corinthians 15:1-4

Background: This passage is from a letter that Paul wrote to the Christians living in the city of Corinth. Here Paul reminded them about the Gospel that he had taught them before.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Paul reminded them of the gospel he taught them and they had believed.
- ☐ By believing in the gospel they were saved.
- ☐ Christ died for sins as the Scriptures said he would.
- ☐ Christ was buried and raised on the third day, as the Scriptures said he would.

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. What was Paul reminding the Corinthians of? [15:1]
The gospel he had proclaimed to them.
2. How did you understand the word or phrase in your language for “gospel”? [15:1]
“Gospel” is the message about God's salvation for people through Jesus' sacrifice on the cross.
3. In verse 2, what did Paul say the gospel did for people?
By the gospel people are saved.
4. How did you understand the word or phrase in your language for “saved”? [15:2]
To be “saved” means to be rescued from physical harm or danger. One can also be “saved” from spiritual danger, “saved” from sin, and “saved” from hell.
5. What must a person do for the gospel to save them? [15:2]
They must hold firmly to it. That means they must truly believe and trust the message.
6. How did Paul explain the gospel? [15:4]
Christ died for sins, he was buried, he was raised again--all this is what the Scripture teaches.

Comment Section:

Ephesians 2:8-9

Background: This passage is from a letter that Paul wrote to the Christians living in the city of Ephesus. Here Paul taught them about God's grace.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ People are saved by grace through faith.
- ☐ People cannot do works to save themselves.
- ☐ Salvation is a gift from God.
- ☐ No one can boast that they saved themselves.

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. How did Paul say the believers are saved? [2:8]
By God's grace through faith.
2. How did you understand the word or phrase in your language for "grace"? [2:8]
"Grace" is the help or blessing that is given to someone who has not earned it. God's grace toward sinful human beings is a gift that is freely given.
3. How did you understand the word or phrase in your language for "saved"? [2:8]
To be "saved" means to be rescued from physical harm or danger. One can also be "saved" from spiritual danger, "saved" from sin, and "saved" from hell.
4. How did you understand the word or phrase in your language for "faith"? [2:8]
"Faith" is to have a belief, trust or confidence in someone or something. Here it means to believe all of God's teachings about Jesus. It especially means that people trust in Jesus and his sacrifice to cleanse them from their sin and to rescue them from the punishment they deserve because of their sin.
5. What can a person do to save himself or to deserve for God to save him? [2:9]
There is nothing a person can do to save himself or deserve for God to save him.
6. Where does true salvation come from? [2:8]
It comes from God; it is a gift He gives.

Comment Section:

Doctrine: The Church--The Body of Christ

Biblical Statement

The Bible speaks of the church as the body of Christ and Christ as the head of the church. For Christ to be the head means that he is the Lord and leader of the church. And, just like the body would die without the head, the church would not exist if it were not for Christ.

The church, as the body of Christ, serves and obeys Christ. And just like a body is one, but has many parts, the church is also one with many parts. The church consists of individual believers who believe in one God, who serve one Lord, the Lord Jesus Christ, and are filled with one Spirit. All believers work together as one person to bring glory to God.

However, these individual believers serve in different ways according to how the Spirit has empowered them. For example, there are apostles, prophets, leaders, teachers, and healers. There are also those who encourage others, those who are hospitable, and those who are generous. All ways that a person serves Christ through the Holy Spirit is valuable and should be celebrated.

Also, as the body of Christ, the church is the physical representation of Christ on earth. The church continues the mission that Jesus started when he was on earth. That mission is to teach all people of the world about God and salvation through Christ.

Romans 12:4-8

Background: This passage is from a letter that Paul wrote to the Christians in Rome. In chapter 12 Paul wrote about the church and how believers should live their lives, how they should live within the relationships they have in the body of Christ, and how they should use their spiritual gifts. In 12:4-8, “we” refers to all believers including Paul.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ The human body has many members, but the members have different functions
- ☐ It is the same in the body of Christ
- ☐ Each member has a different gift according to God's grace
- ☐ Some gifts: prophecy, service, teaching, encouragement, giving, leading, showing mercy
- ☐ Each person should serve well according to the gift given them

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. In verse 4, what did Paul say about the human body?
Each person has one body, but the body contains many members/parts that perform different functions.
2. In verse 5, how did Paul compare the human body to the church?
Just like the human body is one but has different members that perform different functions, in Christ all believers become one body, but each person performs different functions to serve the body.
3. How do you understand the phrase in your language for “one body in Christ”? [12:5]
Here “body” represents the people who make up the church of Jesus Christ. This word should be the same word that you would use to describe a physical “body.”
4. In verse 6, Paul said God gives what to all believers according to his grace?
“Gifts.”
5. What do you think Paul means by “gifts” here? [12:6]
This means: "spiritual ability" or "special ability from the Holy Spirit" or "special spiritual skill that God gave.
6. In 12:6-8 what examples of gifts that God gives did Paul mention?
 - Prophecy
 - Serving people
 - Teaching
 - Encouraging people
 - Giving
 - Leading
 - Showing mercy

Comment Section:

1 Corinthians 12:12-31

Background: This passage is from a letter that Paul wrote to the Christians living in the city of Corinth. In chapter 12 Paul addressed errors in the church concerning the ways in which the Holy Spirit empowers individuals to serve God.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ As the body is one with many members so it is in Christ.
- ☐ All Christians were baptized into one body by one Spirit.
- ☐ All parts of the human body are needed and important (illustration of the foot and ear).
- ☐ No part of the body can say it doesn't need another part of the body.
- ☐ Parts of the body that seem weaker and less honorable are essential and receive greater honor.
- ☐ Members of the body should care for other members.
- ☐ In the body of Christ, members are appointed to serve in different ways.
- ☐ Some members are apostles, prophets, teachers, etc.

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. In this passage, what did Paul say about the human body?
The body is one and is made up of many members/parts (12:12) Each part is valuable and serves the body in its own way. (12:14-26)
2. In 12:27-31, how did Paul compare the human body to the church?
All people who believe in Christ are united as one. But each person has his own way of serving Christ. And each way of serving is valuable and needed.
3. How do you understand the phrase in your language for "body of Christ"? [12:27]
Here "body" represents the people who make up the church of Jesus Christ. This word should be the same word that you would use to describe a physical "body."
4. In 12:28-29 what examples does Paul give for ways people serve Christ?
Apostles, prophets, teachers, miracle workers, healing people, helping others, administration, speaking in different tongues.
5. What do you think Paul means by "gifts" here? [12:28, 30, 31]
This means: "spiritual ability" or "special ability from the Holy Spirit" or "special spiritual skill that God gave.

Comment Section:

Ephesians 1:22-23

Background: This is from a letter of Paul to the Christians living in the city of Ephesus. In 1:19 Paul started describing the power of God that brought Jesus back to life and made him Lord over all others. In verse 22 Paul continued describing the power that God gave to Christ.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ God put all things under Christ's feet (God put all things under Christ's authority).
- ☐ God gave Christ to the church.
- ☐ Christ is head over all things (Christ is Lord and leader of all things).
- ☐ The Church is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. In verse 22, Paul said God did what for Christ?
Put all things under Christ's feet and gave him to the church as head over all things.
2. How do you understand the phrase in your language for "put all things under his feet"? [1:22]
This phrase means that God gave Christ authority over all things.
3. How do you understand the phrase in your language for "gave him to the church as head over all things"? [1:22]
This phrase means that God appointed Jesus as leader or Lord of the church.
4. In verse 23, how did Paul describe the church?
Paul described the church as "his body," that is, the body of Christ.
5. How do you understand the phrase in your language for "the church is his body"? [1:23]
Here "body" represents the people who make up the church of Jesus Christ. This word should be the same word that you would use to describe a physical "body."

Comment Section:

Doctrine: Holiness of the Believer

Biblical Statement

All who put their trust in Jesus Christ are saved and are declared by God to be holy. This holiness is given to all of them who believe because Christ gives his people his holiness, and so they can be called, “holy.”

Believers also demonstrate a practical holiness, which means believers are to live lives in everyday activities that reflect the holy nature of God by the way they live, in following God’s Word and obeying what it says.

Christians live holy lives because the Holy Spirit lives within every believer,

Finally, Christian holiness means the one who believes in Christ is set apart, or dedicated (another meaning of “holiness”) to serve and glorify God.

Romans 12:1-2

Background: This passage is from the letter that Paul wrote to the Christians living in Rome. In chapter 12 Paul began teaching about how Christians should live their lives.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Christians should present their bodies as living sacrifices, acceptable to God (that is, they should use their whole selves to serve God).
- ☐ Christians should be renewed in their mind, not conformed to the world.
- ☐ Christians do this to know what is the good, acceptable, and perfect will of God.

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. In verse 1, what did Paul urge his audience to do?
To present their bodies as a living sacrifice, holy, and acceptable to God.
2. How do you understand the phrase in your language for “present your bodies a living sacrifice”? [12:1]
The person should use their whole selves to serve God.
3. How do you understand the phrase in your language for “holy”? [12:1]
A person who is holy belongs to God and has been set apart for the purpose of serving God and bringing him glory.
4. In verse 2, what did Paul say that a believer should and should not do?
They should be transformed by the renewal of their minds, and not be conformed to this world.
5. What do you think it means to not be conformed to this world? [12:2]
Believers should not think or act like non-believers.
6. How do you understand the phrase in your language for “transformed by the renewal of your mind”? [12:2]
It means to allow God to change the person’s thoughts and desires.
7. A person who has had their mind renewed by God will know what? [12:2]
They will know what is the good, acceptable, and perfect will of God.

Comment Section:

Ephesians 4:17-24

Background: This passage is from the letter that Paul wrote to the Christians living in the city of Ephesus. In chapter 4, Paul started teaching how Christians should remain united with one another. In verse 17 Paul started teaching how Christians should live their lives.

Here “Gentiles” refers to people who were not Jews, and who did not believe in Christ.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Christians should no longer live as Gentiles, in the futility of their minds.
- ☐ Gentiles are dark in their understanding (they do not understand the things of God), separated from God, and continually do every impurity.
- ☐ Christians were taught to put off what they did formerly, put off the old man (Christians are to stop acting the way they did before they became Christians).
- ☐ Christians are to be renewed in mind, put on the new man created in God's image (Christians are to let God change their thoughts and desires and start acting in a holy way).

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. In verse 17 what did Paul insist that believers no longer do?
They must no longer live as the Gentiles live. Gentiles did not live for God. Believers live for God.
2. In verse 18, how did Paul describe the understanding of the Gentiles?
Their understanding is darkened. This means they cannot understand what is true.
3. In verse 18, how did Paul describe the Gentiles in relation to God?
They are alienated from the life of God. That means they cannot receive the spiritual life that God gives.
4. Why were the Gentiles alienated from the life of God? [4:18]
Because they were ignorant and hard of heart. That means they were stubborn and refused to listen to the truth about God.
5. In verse 19, how did Paul describe the Gentiles?
They have no shame, only care about doing what feels good, and always doing what is impure.
6. In verse 22, what did Paul say that believers were taught to do?
They were to put off the old man, which is corrupt because of evil desires. That means they were to stop doing the evil things they did before becoming Christians.
7. In verses 23-24 what did Paul say that believers were taught to do?
They were taught to be renewed in the spirit of their minds, put on the new man created in the image of God, in true righteousness and holiness. This means they are to let God change their thinking and desires and to act in the way God acts, doing what is right and holy.

Ephesians 4:17-24 continued

8. How do you understand the phrase in your language for “holiness?” [4:24]

Holiness describes how a believer belongs to God and how God sets the believer apart to serve him and bring him glory.

Comment Section:

Colossians 3:12-14

Background: This passage is from the letter that Paul wrote to the Christians living in the city of Colossae. In this passage, he wrote about how Christians are to live holy lives.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Paul called the Colossians God's chosen ones, holy and beloved.
- ☐ Christians should show mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.
- ☐ Christians should forgive each other as Christ has forgiven Christians.
- ☐ Above all, Christians should love one another.
- ☐ Love perfectly unites people together.

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. In verse 12, how did Paul describe the Christians in Colossae?
God's chosen ones, holy and beloved
2. How do you understand the phrase in your language for "holy"? [3:12]
A person who is holy belongs to God and has been set apart for the purpose of serving God and bringing him glory.
3. In verse 12, what did Paul command believers to do?
"Put on a heart of mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience."
4. How do you understand the phrase in your language for "Put on a heart of mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience"? [3:12]
It means people taking on these characteristics or acting in these kinds of ways.
5. In verse 13, what did Paul command believers to do?
Bear with one another, be gracious with each other, and forgive others as Christ has forgiven you.
6. In verse 14, what did Paul say is the most important thing for believers to do?
To have love, that is, to love other believers.
7. In verse 14, how did Paul describe "love"?
He described it as "the bond of perfection." This means love perfectly unites believers together.

Comment Section: