

Proofreading the *Lifeline Japanese New Testament*

by John R. Himes

Responses:

Thank you so much to send me “The guide of Proofreading.” It really helps me to work on the tasks.... It is blessing to have the guide to make the proofreading better.—Truly yours, Etsuko

The guideline you attached is awesome! This helps a lot and cleared the area I was little wondering. —Miyoko

INTRODUCTION: Thank you so much for agreeing to proofread the *Lifeline New Testament*. This is a wonderful ministry that we believe will result in souls saved and Christians strengthened.

Please know that the first draft translation was done by Missionary John R. Himes directly from the *Textus Receptus Greek New Testament* (edited by F. H. A. Scrivener), but it was completely revised in the second draft, which was done with a Japanese linguist, “Uncle Miya” Miyakawa. Also, there have been other translators who helped on various books, and proofreaders, native speakers of Japanese, who may have suggested different renderings (translations), so not all of your suggestions will be followed, but each will be gone over carefully.

I. The Main Task: Finding Errors

- A. The proofreader’s main task is to correct typographical errors (called “typos”).
- B. In a Japanese Bible translation, there are several errors that proofreaders should watch for.
 1. Extra words and letters. Sometimes in translation work, a character or a word is changed, but the original one is accidentally left in.
 2. Wrong kanji. It is very easy to accidentally use the wrong kanji in Japanese. For example, 協会 might be used accidentally instead of 教会.
 3. Mistaken or missing *furigana* (振り仮名, or 読み仮名; “ruby marks” in English).
 4. Grammar mistakes. Even Japanese make grammatical errors in their own language, so you may find mistakes missed by the translators or the other Japanese proofreaders.
 5. The wrong word. Sometimes the wrong word altogether is used accidentally, or a word with the correct meaning but the wrong nuance. For example, 容赦する should not be used in place of 赦す.

II. The Secondary Task: Style Correction

- A. You will also no doubt find renderings that sound strange to you, and fixing these is called “style correction.” Please know that style correction is not normally the task of a proofreader, so do not feel that you must do style corrections. It is fine if you want to stick to typos and grammar mistakes.
- B. However, if you do make suggestions about style, we will pay close attention to the corrections you feel are appropriate.
 1. In this translation we have aimed for a colloquial but somewhat literary style.
 2. Please be aware that if your style correction is not according to this style, it might not be used.
 3. The original Japanese translation partner (Miyakawa Sensei) loved the *Classical Japanese Bible* (文語訳聖書), so sometimes his rendering may be too classical. Feel free to suggest corrections if you feel a modern reader would not understand the translation.
- C. Note the following cautions for style corrections:
 1. This is an optimal equivalent translation (following the theory of Hebrew scholar Dr. James Price), so sometimes the rendering may seem strange to you simply because we are trying to be faithful to the original Koine Greek language in which the New Testament was written. The original language should always have priority in translation work.
 2. Following the theories of translation scholar Dr. Lawrence Venuti, we don’t mind if sometimes the translation sounds strange as long as it is faithful. The original Greek comes first! (A theory called “dynamic equivalence” or “functional equivalence” puts the target language first, using something called “reader response theory.”)
 3. Please do not make any corrections of the Lifeline New Testament based on other Japanese Bibles, such as the *Shinkaiyaku* (新改訳) or the *Kogoyaku* (口語訳). Each translation deserves to be read on its own merits, in particular whether or not it is faithful to the original Greek of the New Testament. Therefore, please do not consult other translations as you work on the Lifeline New Testament.

CONCLUSION: Thank you so much for doing this precious ministry for the Lord Jesus Christ!