

# GRACE

COMMUNITY CHURCH

October 4, 2023

Dear Friends,

In the history of English Bible translations, the King James Version is the most well known and it is what I started my ministry with until the early 1970s when I began to teach from the New American Standard Bible. For over 50 years I have appreciated how the NASB acts as a window into the intent of the author of Scripture. Through decades of in-depth study, I have also seen where the NASB could benefit from some refinement. It was for this reason that I reached out to The Lockman Foundation to ask their permission to begin a new project that would look at every word of the NASB, comparing it to the original languages and refining it where necessary. With their gracious approval, a team of scholars from The Master's University and Seminary fastidiously journeyed through both Testaments and, upon completion, the Legacy Standard Bible was released. Allow me to share five of the many unique features of the LSB:

- 1) The LSB includes God's covenant name, Yahweh, in the Old Testament, which appears over 6,800 times. While it has been traditionally rendered as LORD in many Bible translations, the reintroduction of God's personal name into the text itself is a feature that enhances the precision, intensity, and clarity of the biblical text in English.
- 2) The LSB consistently renders the Greek word *doulos* more accurately as "slave" throughout the New Testament. This consistency highlights the biblical realities that Christians were slaves of sin but now are slaves of Christ (Romans 6:16-22) by the power of redemption, believers are totally submitted to the lordship of Christ, and we belong to Him as His possession.
- 3) The LSB also improves consistency across individual books so that the same Greek or Hebrew word is more regularly translated as the same English word. This allows the readers to more easily identify these connections throughout Scripture.
- 4) Because the LSB is designed to present the reader with what was originally written, the LSB maintains the unit of measurement and currency used in the Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek. For clarity, conversions into both American and metric units are provided in the notes for measurements to serve the entire English-speaking world.
- 5) At times, the biblical authors structured their writings where each section of poetry begins with a successive letter of the Hebrew alphabet. Psalm 119 is a well-known example of this style of acrostic poetry, but far from the only one. Because the Legacy Standard Bible endeavors to be a window into the original text, each section of all known acrostics are labeled with its respective Hebrew letter and English transliteration, bringing out the artistic beauty of God's Word.

Through the diligent labor of a core translation team in conjunction with pastors and educators from different countries around the world, the LSB is designed to advance the conviction that what the author intended is of paramount importance. Because of its fidelity to that goal, the LSB is the best English translation I have ever read. I commend the Legacy Standard Bible to you today and invite you to learn more through the video segments and various formats linked to this letter. You can also enjoy a complimentary free download of the Gospel of Mark that you can pass along to friends and family.

For the Master,



John MacArthur  
Pastor-Teacher