

THE NEW TESTAMENT

A New Translation in Plain English

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BY

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PREFACE

This translation has been made from the Greek text lying behind the English Revised Version of 1881, published as *Novum Testamentum Graece* (Souter, Oxford Press, 1910). In some places the stopping is different; in some places the margin has been followed instead of the text; in one place (John 19. 29) the text has been corrected.

The translation is in plain English:

(a) Common words only have been used. The standard used has been that of the *Interim Report on Vocabulary Selection* (London, 1936).

Words not found on that list are explained in the Glossary.

(b) Short sentences only have been used; in particular the long, winding sentences frequent in St Paul have been broken up.

(c) Conjunctions have been changed or omitted to suit modern English usage.

That part of the translation which is printed as prose is in modern English; not (it is hoped) in the sense that it would seem strange to any writer of plain English during the last three hundred years; but in the sense that learners of English may imitate it without fear of being old-fashioned.

The part printed as verse is in a style more suited to verse; for example the words *thou* and *behold* are kept. Most of the quotations from the Old Testament, the songs at the beginning of St Luke, those parts of the teaching of Jesus Christ which are marked by strong rhythm, and the greater part of the Revelation to St John are taken to be verse and are printed as verse.

PREFACE

In planning the layout the first object has been to make the translation easy to read. Inverted commas in direct speech have been omitted. There is a further advantage in this : it is not necessary to decide where direct speech ends and narrative begins in those places where the Greek itself is not clear (for example in John 3. 15f.).

Old Testament quotations more than a few words long are printed as verse. Old Testament references have not been noticed; however important it may be to explain them in a commentary, it is less important to mark them in a translation.

A star * is used throughout with the meaning, 'Consult the Notes'.

A number of scholars at home and abroad have read part of this translation both in typescript and in proof; thanks are due to all of them but none of them is responsible for any awkward or unhappy word.

The publishers of the *American Revised Standard Version*, Messrs Nelson, have very kindly permitted the use of a small number of phrases used in that version.

Very special thanks are due to Canon W. K. Lowther Clarke, D.D., and Mr C. S. S. Higham, who invited me to attempt the task, to Mrs Olive Webb who typed the script, to the staff of the Cambridge University Press, and to my daughter Mary.

C.K.W.