

A Global Perspective  
Revelation 5:9-10

In my possession I have six different English translations of the entire Bible. Some of those versions I have several copies. Add to that the number of devotional books that I have which highlight a passage or section of Scripture after which someone provides a brief commentary. Then there are all my commentaries. But let's not forget the online tools that I have available to search any number of translations and paraphrases.

Figures compiled by Wycliffe Bible Translators (sorry Cassy, I couldn't find any data from Ethnos360) the complete Bible is available in 670 different languages. The complete Bible is available for almost 5.5 billion people in their own language.

The New Testament is available in another 1,521 languages reaching over 650 million people.

Sections of Scripture are available in another 1,121 languages reaching almost 400 million people.

There are currently almost 2,600 active Bible projects worldwide with an additional 1600+ to go. It's estimated that 114 million people have no access of any kind to the Bible in their heart language leaving approximately 1.5 billion people without the Bible in their first language.

According to Worldometers the current population is approximately 7.6 billion people.

That's where Cassy comes in and people like her. They are committed to getting Scripture into the hands of people in their language. It is a labor intensive work. There is learning the language and applying phonetics and phonology.

Phonetics studies how the sounds of speech are produced. Phonology takes the general principles of phonetics to analyze a particular language. Its goal is to determine which sounds in that language are significant and then explain how the native speaker

interprets those sounds. The written language depends strongly on the accuracy of those sounds. That aids the interpreter in understanding how those sounds form words. Learning how speech sounds are made is part of the basic training for the linguist.

The next step in translation is orthography. This step develops the symbols that will be used in putting the language into writing. It's developing the alphabet.

Once there are symbols they are able to take those symbols and develop the grammar that will help in making sentence structures and tenses and so on. The words are put into a dictionary. This step is called lexicography.

If there is a final step to the translation process it is anthropology. Translation isn't just about studying words; it's also about studying the culture and people in order to understand how those words are used in the context of life. Once all these various areas of study are learned and developed, they are able to begin translation work. Guided by one of the indigenous people, they begin the painstaking process of ensuring that the Biblical concepts are accurately conveyed in the heart language of the people. The linguist must be a faithful listener.

When it comes to the gospel and Bible translation the Bible speaks about that.

I. A FAITHFUL LISTENER IS OBEDIENT –  
Romans 10:9-17

Paul shares the gospel simply.

Confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord.

Believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead.

You will be saved.

Paul will attest to the Corinthians that if Christ didn't rise from the dead then our faith is in vain. Indeed, the essence of the gospel is tightly woven together in the fabric of Christ's death, burial and resurrection. He had to die to atone for sin and so

appease the justice of God for mankind's sin and then He had to rise again to assure us that His sacrifice was acceptable to God, satisfying the demands of God's justice because of our sin.

Paul also establishes an important point to remember: the gospel is for everyone. There are no exclusions, no exceptions. "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

The plan of salvation has just been laid out, but Paul follows it up with some rhetorical questions. "How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in?"

Romans 1 tells us that all men are without excuse when it comes to knowing there is a God. He has left the evidence of His existence all around us in nature. It calls on us to seek the Creator.

He has also left evidence within us through our conscience and a soul that intuitively knows right from wrong, but because it has been marred by sin, the evidence for God is blurred and we seek out other things to replace God either out of ignorance where, like tribal people, they seek gods through animism. Others knowingly reject God because they refuse His rule in their life. They want to be their own god.

If they don't see or know the evidence that leads to a Creator God who desires to have a relationship with them who do they know to call to be saved? They're just like the Israelites coming out of Egypt making a golden calf claiming that is who led them.

"How can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard?

"And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?"

And how can they preach unless they are sent?"

Cassy has been a faithful listener who wants to be that one who has been sent to take the good news of the gospel to people who have not yet heard so that they can believe so that they can be saved.

We get a glimpse into the future through the Word of God in the book of Revelation to see the end result of the work that Cassy and others like her are doing. Turn to Revelation 5:9-10 where we take a future look.

## II. A FUTURE LOOK IS OBSERVED – Revelation 5:9-10

In Genesis 11 we read that all of mankind had a common language. Instead of obeying the command of the Lord to go and populate the earth, they settled in the plain of Shinar. They wanted to stay together and began to build a tower that would reach up to the heavens. Perhaps it was a way of ensuring their preservation should there be another global catastrophe. God saw what they were doing and confused their language giving them multiple languages. Can you even begin to imagine trying to find someone who could understand you? Think what it would be like for you to be dropped into the middle of another culture without knowing the language.

Consequently like speaking languages got together and move to areas and settled down. There will not be another gathering of all the languages of the world until this scene in heaven when every tribe and language and people and nation are gathered together in an endless anthem of praise.

On the first occasion when all the languages were together there was perplexity. The next time they will all be together is for praise. I think we'll understand each other.

Those gathered in this scene from around the globe are there because they were bought with a price. I Corinthians 6:20 says we were bought with a price.

I Peter 1:18-19 tells us that the price was the precious blood of Christ as a perfect lamb.

Galatians 3:13 says the price of Christ's shed blood redeemed us or bought us. It's the same word used in Revelation 5:9 when it says His blood purchased

us for God. Those reading these words would understand the significance. It was a word used when a slave was bought out of the slave market and set free.

Christ's shed blood has purchased us from the slave market of sin and set us free and all those who have been purchased will be gathered in this grand setting of exalting Christ.

In essence, the description John gives here is that someone from every different kindred and tongue and nation will be there because they have confessed the Lord Jesus, they have believed in their heart that Christ rose from the dead (that's faith) resulting in their being saved (that's God's grace).

Because God loves the world it is His desire that those in the world have a personal relationship with Him. But it takes a faithful listener who is willing to go and share the good news. It's hard work. Even when we speak the same language it's hard work, because the message can be so foreign to them. You don't have to go to another country to experience a different culture. You can go out your back door, or into a local business or find it in the place you work. Even in our own culture we need to be diligent to translate the message of the gospel into a language that can be understood by all the subcultures that are in our own nation. But how can they hear if no one goes? How can they believe if no one explains it? How can they be saved if they don't know it?

God is looking for faithful listeners.  
He has given us a future look at what heaven will be like.  
That is made possible because of a forever love.

### III. A FOREVER LOVE IS OBTAINED – John 3:16

God has said He has loved us with an everlasting love. There is no end to His love for you.  
Before the beginning of time – He loved you.

When the worlds were freshly created – He loved you.  
Before you were born – He loved you.  
While you were still a sinner – He loved you.  
When you blow it – again – He loves you.  
When you're going through a tough time in life – He loves you.  
He loved you yesterday.  
He loves you today.  
He will love you tomorrow.  
His love will never change.  
His love will never diminish.  
His love for you is the same as His love for the next person and the next and the next.  
His love shows no favoritism.  
His love is patient.  
His love is kind.  
His love does not envy.  
His love does not boast.  
His love is not proud.  
His love is not rude.  
His love is not self-seeking.  
His love is not easily angered.  
His love keeps no record of wrongs.  
His love does not delight in evil.  
His love rejoices in the truth.  
His love protects.  
His love never fails.  
His love for you is forever.

As we partner with Cassy, we are making it possible for people from that tribe and language to join us in praising the Lord because He loves them just the same as He loves you. His love makes it possible for them to be saved by their faith so that they will not perish because they have believed in Him.

Will you commit to pray for Cassy as she returns to share the gospel with people who have not heard so that they too can have at least one translation of the Bible in their own language? It is one thing to have the written Word printed on pages, it is another thing altogether different to have the living Word imprinted on their heart.

Will you commit yourself to being a faithful listener sharing a forever love because of a future look?