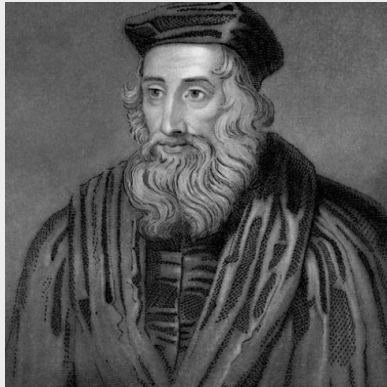


# SOLA FIDE

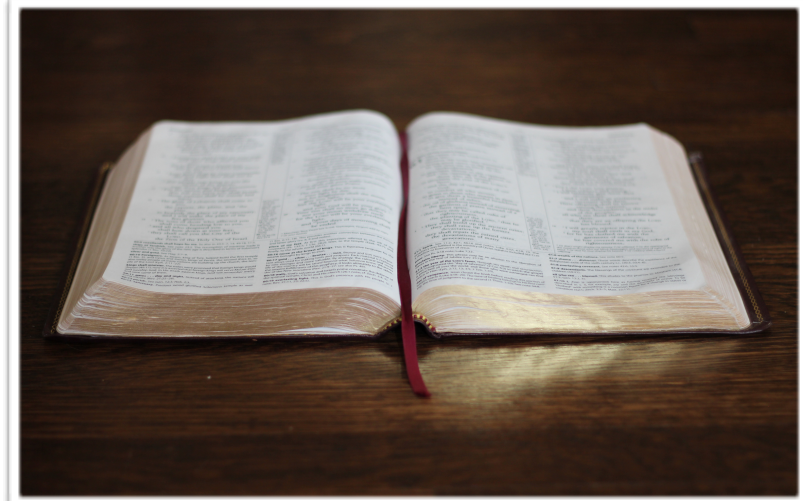
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When the Roman Catholic Church proclaimed in opposition: "By this translation, the Scriptures have become vulgar, and they are more available to lay, and even to women who can read, than they were to learned scholars, who have a high intelligence. So the pearl of the gospel is scattered and trodden underfoot by swine."

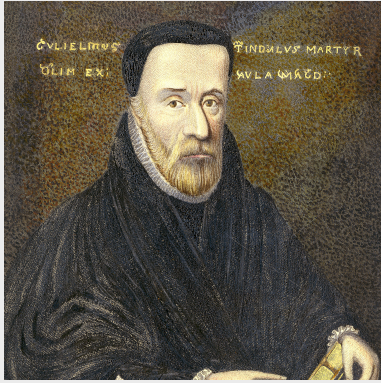
John Wycliffe responded back "Englishmen learn Christ's law best in English. Moses heard God's law in his own tongue; so did Christ's apostles."



## WORD II.

The NIV, ESV, NASB, HCSB and etc. Many of us living in the U.S. today have the Word of God readily available to us in the English language. It is a reality that has been with us, it seems, since forever. There are even cases where American Christians think the Bible's original language is English! This, however, is not the case. The Bible was not written in the English language, and the road to the Word of God being translated to it was a long, hard, and bloody road, and it is what I would like to talk about in this newsletter. This will not be an exhaustive study of the whole history of the Bible being translated to the English language, as space in this newsletter will not allow it. What I would like to do is highlight 2 key figures in translating the Bible into the English language, and hopefully it will spark your interest to research it yourself, and also be an encouragement and blessing to you!

The first person I would like to highlight is John Wycliffe. John Wycliffe, was an English scholar, theologian, philosopher, and priest in the 14th century. Considered by many to be the forerunner to the Protestant Reformation (he is also called the "morning star" of the Protestant Reformation), he championed many of the Reformation tenants over a 100 years prior to the actual Protestant



William Tyndale was once told in opposition by a clergyman: "We had better be without God's laws than the Pope's."

To which he responded "I defy the Pope, and all his laws; and if God spares my life, ere many years, I will cause the boy that driveth the plow to know more of the Scriptures than thou dost!"

Reformation. One of the tenants that John Wycliffe fought for was the supremacy of the Scripture, arguing that the Scripture was above the church, and that the Word of God should be available in the language of the people reading it. So John Wycliffe began the work along with others to translate the Bible to English, and was able to translate the New Testament from the Latin translations. This of course brought upon him the wrath of the Roman Catholic Church at that time, labeling him as "the master of errors" and later posthumously deeming him a heretic. John Wycliffe died of natural causes, but upon the orders of the Roman Catholic Church, his body was dug out of his grave, burned to ashes and discarded in a river. Anyone who was found to have the translated work of Wycliffe were given the death penalty.

The second figure to be highlighted is William Tyndale. William Tyndale lived in the time of the Protestant Reformation, about 100 years after John Wycliffe. William Tyndale was an English priest and a gifted linguist, fluent in seven languages, 2 of those languages being ancient Hebrew and Greek. Tyndale began his translation of the Bible to English after in part being inspired by one of his protestant reformer contemporaries, Martin Luther, who translated the Bible to German. Tyndale's works and beliefs were deeply opposed by many of his fellow clergyman, who believed the Roman Catholic Church's

teachings over the Bible, and believed that common people should not have the Bible readily available to them. Tyndale was later arrested for his work, after being betrayed by a close friend. He was then prosecuted as a heretic, strangled to death and burned at the stake in 1536. It is said that Tyndale screamed his final words "Lord! Open the King of England's eyes." Within 4 years after his death, the King ordered the translated Bible to be published.

The Word of God is now in our language (English language) because of the great work and sacrifice of men and women like John Wycliffe and William Tyndale. They faced much persecutions and sufferings in order to translate the Bible to the English language, and we would be right to feel indebted to them, but I would like to argue, that even more so than our admiration and gratitude to those men, we should thank and praise God! Let us not forget, that it was He who caused all this to be, and made sure that His Word would not get lost. He kept His promise that His Word will not pass away (Matt 24:35). It was God who raised up men and women to make sure that we would have His Word. Meditating on such truths should cause us to praise God for His faithfulness, and also to have a higher view of the Bible. The Bible was important enough, that even when the biggest and most influential powers throughout history opposed it and its teachings, God protected it and raised up people to preserve it. So dear brothers and sisters, let us praise God for His Bible, read it, study it, meditate on it, memorize it, and obey it, for it was delivered to us through the blood and sacrifice of many saints before us by God!

-JK-