

## **Payton, Bible Translation, Session 1, Resources from Notebooklm**

1) Abstract, 2) Audio podcast, 3) Study Guide, 4) Briefing Document, and 5) FAQs

### **1. Abstract of Payton, Bible Translation, Session 1, Introduction to Bible Translation, Part 1, Biblicalelearning.org, BeL**

Dr. George Payton, a Bible translation expert with extensive field experience and academic credentials, introduces his course on Bible translation. He recounts his personal journey into the field, highlighting the collaborative nature of the work and its importance in cross-cultural communication. The course covers the translation process itself, emphasizing the interplay between linguistic analysis and creative expression, as well as the cultural nuances involved. Payton stresses the ministry aspect of Bible translation, viewing it as a spiritual endeavor and a vital service to global communities. Ultimately, the course aims to equip students to participate in God's mission through effective translation.

**2. 15-minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of Dr. Payton, Introduction to Bible Translation, Part 1 – Double click icon to play in Windows media player or go to the Biblicalelearning.org [BeL] Site and click the audio podcast link there (Introductory Series → Bible Translation).**



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### 3. Bible Translation: Session 1, Introduction to Bible Translation, Part 1

#### Bible Translation: Session 1 Study Guide

#### Quiz

**Instructions:** Answer each question in 2-3 sentences.

1. How did Dr. Payton and his wife, Wendy, both become interested in Bible translation?
2. What are the two primary roles Dr. Payton has held in the field of Bible translation, besides being a translator?
3. According to Dr. Payton, what are the two main challenges that translators face when working across languages and cultures?
4. How does Dr. Payton differentiate between written translation and interpreting (oral translation)?
5. What was the problem Dr. Payton encountered while interpreting in court, and what did it highlight about the differences between interpreting and written translation?
6. What are the three ways that Dr. Payton describes "translation" (e.g., as a product, etc.)?
7. How does Dr. Payton address the question of whether translation is a science or an art?
8. In what ways is Bible translation a ministry, according to Dr. Payton?
9. How does Dr. Payton describe the "missio Dei" (mission of God) and how it relates to the work of a Bible translator?
10. According to Ephesians 2:10, what is the purpose of the specific skills and abilities that individuals possess?

#### Quiz Answer Key

1. Dr. Payton became interested in Bible translation after exploring options for full-time ministry while at Biola University, and it combined his cross-cultural interests with his desire to serve God. Wendy's interest was sparked when she was ten

years old after meeting Wycliffe missionaries, and she grew up in a family that supported missions and missionaries.

2. Besides being a translator, Dr. Payton has served as a *translation consultant*, training others in the field, and as a *teacher*, preparing the next generation of Bible translators.
3. Translators face challenges in both *language* (the way different languages express the same ideas) and *culture* (the worldview and background knowledge needed to understand a text), because these differ greatly from the biblical texts' source language and culture.
4. Written translation involves creating a text in a second language from a text in a first language and it is fixed/recorded; while interpreting is verbal and on-the-spot, transferring meaning from one speaker to another in real-time and is temporary unless recorded.
5. While interpreting in court, Dr. Payton made an assumption about the gender of the person using the term *alipiga*, which can be used for either gender, highlighting that spoken interpretation can be difficult to correct once it's spoken, unlike written translation.
6. Dr. Payton describes translation as a *product* (the translated text itself), a *process* (the work of taking a text from one language to another), and a *subject of study* (a field of academic inquiry).
7. Dr. Payton argues that translation is *both* a science and an art; it is a science because of the linguistic and analytical skills required, and an art because of the creativity involved in choosing words and communicating effectively in another language.
8. Dr. Payton explains that Bible translation is a ministry because it serves the local church by providing scripture in a language people understand. He also considers it a ministry to the whole community, providing an alphabet, grammar, and written resources to those who did not previously have these, even if they aren't Christians.
9. Dr. Payton describes the "missio Dei" as God's grand vision of restoring the relationship between humanity and Himself, which is worked out through the proclamation of the gospel to all nations. Bible translators contribute to this by providing scriptures in all the languages of the world so more may know and be reconciled with God.

10. Ephesians 2:10 explains that God created each person with unique gifts and abilities, not to be used selfishly, but in service and ministry to others as part of the larger kingdom work.

### Essay Questions

**Instructions:** Develop a well-organized essay for each prompt, drawing on the source material.

1. Analyze the historical, cultural, and personal factors that influenced Dr. Payton and his wife's decision to dedicate their lives to Bible translation.
2. Compare and contrast the nature and challenges of written translation and oral interpreting (verbal translation), drawing from Dr. Payton's explanation and examples.
3. Discuss the complexities of the translation process, considering both the scientific and artistic aspects as described by Dr. Payton, and how they intersect in Bible translation.
4. Explore the intersection of ministry, service, and worship in the context of Bible translation, according to Dr. Payton's perspective, and discuss its implications for individuals involved in translation work.
5. How does Dr. Payton's description of the "missio Dei" (mission of God) provide a framework for understanding the role and purpose of Bible translation? In what ways does this concept shape the approach and motivation of a Bible translator?

### Glossary of Key Terms

- **Bible Translation:** The process of rendering the text of the Bible from its original languages (Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek) into other languages.
- **Cross-Cultural Ministry:** Ministry that seeks to serve and engage with people of cultures different from the minister's own.
- **Interpreting (Verbal Translation):** The process of conveying a message spoken in one language into another language verbally, in real-time.
- **Linguistics:** The scientific study of language, including its structure, sound, and meaning.
- **Missio Dei:** Latin for "mission of God," referring to God's overall plan and work in the world, particularly to reconcile humanity to himself.

- **Ministry:** A service or work that is done with a religious or spiritual purpose, often involving serving others.
- **Oral Interpreting:** See Interpreting.
- **Translation Consultant:** Someone who trains, assists, and provides expertise to those who do the work of translating.
- **Unreached People Group:** A people group that has not yet had an opportunity to hear and understand the gospel message, often with little to no Christian presence.
- **Wycliffe Bible Translators:** A Christian organization that is dedicated to making the Bible accessible to all people in their own languages.
- **Written Translation:** The process of creating a written text in one language that communicates the meaning of a text in a different language.

## 4. Briefing Document

Okay, here is a detailed briefing document summarizing the key themes and ideas from the provided source, "Payton BT\_EN\_Session01.pdf":

### **Briefing Document: Introduction to Bible Translation - Dr. George Payton Session 1 Part 1**

#### **Overview:**

This document summarizes the first session of Dr. George Payton's series on Bible Translation. Dr. Payton, an instructor at Dallas International University with over 40 years of experience with Wycliffe Bible Translators, introduces the core concepts of Bible translation, its challenges, and its purpose as a ministry and spiritual endeavor. The session focuses on defining translation in general and then specifically looking at Bible translation, its complexities, and the motivations behind it.

#### **Key Themes and Ideas:**

##### **1. Personal Journey to Bible Translation:**

- Dr. Payton shares his personal journey into Bible translation, emphasizing his initial desire to serve God through ministry and his specific calling to cross-cultural work.
- His wife, Wendy, shared a similar calling from a young age, highlighting a shared passion for missions and Bible translation. This shared calling was integral to their path to working with Wycliffe. "And she said, me too. I said, sorry, what? Come again? Not too many girls come out with that."
- Their work started with a project in Kenya, followed by a move to consulting and then eventually training others. This experience directly informs his teaching.

##### **1. Defining Translation:**

- Translation is a ubiquitous activity, occurring in everyday life, from product packaging to public instructions. "You can't pick up anything that's produced today, even a can of soup, even a container of oil, or a printout of the instructions for the electronic device that you picked up without seeing it in how many languages."
- **Written translation** involves producing a text in a second language from a first language.

- **Interpretation (verbal translation)** is the spoken communication of meaning from one language to another. While similar in goals, it has distinct challenges:
- **Written Translation:** Allows for revision, editing, and time for reflection. "The fact that it's there, that spoken stays, means you can go back and edit it later and revise it."
- **Interpretation:** Is immediate and once spoken, is often unchangeable unless recorded. "And once you say it, you can't go back and fix it."
- Both aim to communicate meaning from the source language to the target language. "So, obviously, in both of them, you're transferring the meaning from the first language to the second language."

#### 1. **Bible Translation as a Distinct Activity:**

- Bible translation is both a *product* (the translated text itself), a *process* (transferring the text across languages), and a *field of study*.
- The source languages for the Bible are primarily Hebrew and Aramaic (Old Testament) and Greek (New Testament).
- Bible translators typically work with minority languages worldwide.
- It is essential to work with languages even where there is not an apparent Christian population, since the scripture is foundational to a community that may develop.
- Linguistic training is essential, including learning to create alphabets and understanding grammar. "My training was on how to hear sounds, how to write them down, how to figure out all those sounds, and how to make an alphabet."
- Translation is both a science (linguistics, analysis) and an art (creativity in communication). "So, who's right? Is translation a science, or is translation an art? And the answer is yes."

#### 1. **Challenges in Translation:**

- Dr. Payton highlights **language challenges**, where direct translations may not work due to the structure or nature of the target language. "Some of those challenges are language challenges where you just have to say that our language can't say it like that."

- He also cites **cultural differences**, which can impede understanding if a culture is unfamiliar with the source culture's background. "And those cultural differences make it hard to have your text in this second language make sense because they don't have the cultural background, the cultural understanding, the cultural worldview of the original text."
- These challenges become crucial in the context of translating Biblical texts from the cultures of the ancient near east to cultures in the present day.

#### 1. **Bible Translation as Ministry:**

- Bible translation is a ministry to both the community (creating written forms for their languages) and the local church (providing scriptures for growth and evangelism). "And so, that is a ministry to the culture on that side of linguistics, just on the secular side. But also, in Bible translation, we are there to serve the local church..."
- It is a service to God and an act of worship. "We're ministering, and every act of service can be considered an act of worship."
- It is also a *spiritual endeavor* requiring divine guidance and resources. "But this is a spiritual endeavor, and any spiritual endeavor needs spiritual resources. And the Lord is the source of those spiritual resources."
- Translators need to hold onto the vision that they have a purpose within the larger goals of God's vision.
- The Holy Spirit is seen as crucial in navigating the complexities of both languages and scripture.

#### 1. **Missio Dei (The Mission of God):**

- God's overarching vision is to restore the relationship between humanity and Himself. "And so, his big vision is restoring this relationship between humanity and himself."
- Dr. Payton emphasizes the interconnectedness of individual ministry with God's global mission.
- Bible translation is seen as a crucial part of this mission, enabling people to be reconciled to God and expand the Kingdom of God. "So, we're involved with God's vision, and we're involved with God's mission. And the ultimate goal is the kingdom of God."



- The scripture of Ephesians 2:10 is used to highlight the unique gifts and callings that individuals have within the kingdom of God. "We are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus, to do the work that he prepared in advance that we should walk in them."

**Key Takeaways:**

- Bible translation is a complex endeavor that requires linguistic, cultural, and spiritual awareness.
- It is more than a technical exercise; it is a ministry that serves both the community and the local church and is motivated by a desire to participate in God's work in the world.
- The work of Bible translation is rooted in both faith and rigorous academic study.
- Translation is both a science and an art, requiring analytical rigor as well as creative communication skills.

This briefing document provides a comprehensive overview of the key concepts introduced in the first session of Dr. Payton's Bible Translation series. It highlights the blend of practical experience, scholarly insight, and spiritual depth that inform his approach to this important ministry.

## 5. FAQs on Payton, Bible Translation, Session 1, Introduction to Bible Translation, Part 1, Biblicalelearning.org (BeL)

### FAQ: Understanding Bible Translation

1. **What is the core idea behind translation, especially written translation, and how does it differ from interpretation?** Translation, specifically written translation, involves transferring the meaning of a text from one language (the source language) to another (the target language). This process aims to recreate the meaning of the original text in a written form that's accessible to a different language audience. Interpretation, on the other hand, is the process of conveying meaning verbally between two languages. Both translation and interpretation seek to transfer meaning, but written translation has the advantage of being revisable and editable, allowing for greater precision and accuracy over time, while interpretation is more immediate and, unless recorded, ephemeral. In written translation, you also have the luxury of time and the ability to get feedback and input from other people, while in interpretation, you have to be "on the spot."
2. **What makes Bible translation different from general translation, and why is it considered both a product and a process?** Bible translation is specifically focused on translating the scriptures from their original languages (Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek) into languages spoken today, often minority languages or those without a Bible, with the goal of communicating God's word effectively. It is considered both a product (the translated Bible itself) and a process (the act of transferring meaning across language barriers) because it involves a series of steps, from analyzing the source text to crafting a new text that maintains the original message in a culturally appropriate and linguistically sound manner. It can also be considered a subject of study, as it includes linguistic study, cultural studies, and theological understanding.
3. **How do linguistics and cultural understanding play a crucial role in the process of Bible translation?** Linguistics is crucial in Bible translation because it provides the tools to understand the structure of languages, analyze grammar, identify sounds, create alphabets for unwritten languages, and analyze syntax. Cultural understanding is vital because a text is always embedded in a culture. This understanding helps translators bridge the cultural gap between the original context of the Bible and the target audience's culture, ensuring the message is

received clearly and accurately. Both linguistic and cultural analysis is crucial to identify potential obstacles to effective translation.

4. **Is Bible translation a science, an art, or both? Explain.** Bible translation is both a science and an art. It's a science because it relies on analytical and linguistic principles, including detailed studies of grammar, phonetics, and syntax to understand how language works. It's also an art because it requires creativity and skill in crafting the translated message so it resonates naturally with the target audience. This includes making choices about style, tone, and word usage, which are not governed by rigid scientific rules, but creative decisions. You are working with existing language structures to convey new meaning and do so creatively and clearly.
5. **How does Bible translation serve as a ministry, and what does the concept of "Missio Dei" have to do with it?** Bible translation is a ministry because it provides access to God's Word, equipping churches to teach, evangelize, and grow in faith. The act of translation is also often preceded by linguistic analysis, which can give written structure to oral languages, which is a ministry to the culture whether or not the people become Christian. The "Missio Dei" (the mission of God) refers to God's work of reconciling humanity to Himself, a mission started in the Garden. Bible translation is a vital part of this mission, as it aims to make the Bible accessible to everyone and promote reconciliation with God. This gives translators a framework to understand the importance of their work, and keep a focus on ministry and service, especially when there are obstacles to the work.
6. **What are some specific challenges in Bible translation that must be overcome, and how can translation teams approach these challenges?** Some specific challenges in Bible translation include language-related issues (such as differences in grammar, sentence structure, and vocabulary) and cultural challenges (like differing worldviews, idioms, and communication styles). Translation teams overcome these challenges by using linguistic analysis and cultural sensitivity. They work closely with native speakers to ensure that the translated text is clear, natural, and accurate, reflecting the intended message in a way that resonates with the community. These challenges also include issues arising from the original text itself which may be difficult to convey accurately in a second language.
7. **Why is there a sense of urgency to do Bible translation work?** There is a sense of urgency because there are many people in the world who still do not have access to the Bible in their own languages, and many of these languages are spoken by very large groups of people. This lack of access hinders spiritual growth and

evangelization within these communities. The work is also urgent to honor God, as translators see it as their ministry and their service to God to be a part of His work on the earth.

8. **According to the speaker, how is the idea of gifting connected to the work of Bible translation and ministry in general?** The speaker connects the idea of gifting to the work of Bible translation and ministry by saying that each person is created with specific gifts and abilities to be used in service of the Kingdom of God. These gifts are given to us before birth to do "good works that he prepared in advance." He says this means that a person with a natural inclination or love of languages might be called into a vocation like Bible translation as part of their service to God and the church.