

St James News: Thought for the day – Tuesday 6th October 2020

William Tyndale – Rev John Marshall

On 6th October we remember William Tyndale, he was concerned that people should be able to read the Bible in English. He is reported to have said to a clergyman that “if God spare my life, ere many years pass, I will cause a boy that driveth the plough shall know more of the Scriptures than thou dost.”

It became his life’s task to translate the Scriptures, but that was a dangerous business. He left England and went to Europe and never returned. By 1525 his New Testament was ready for the press. He escaped arrest and it was published at Worms in Germany.

His translation of the New Testament has had a huge influence and earned him the title of “the Father of the English Bible”. The King James Bible contains 90% of his words and the Revised Standard Version 75%.

He was unable to complete the Old Testament. In 1535 he was arrested and executed. It is reported his last words were “Lord, open the King of England’s eyes.” A year later that came true, Henry VIII allowed the Matthew Bible.

Tyndale said “Evangelio (that we cal gospel) is a greke word, and signifyth good, mery, glad and joyful tidings, that maketh a mans hert glad and maketh hym synge, daunce and lepe for joy.”

Taken from an article by Tony Lane in the Lion History of Christianity.

Let us give thanks for Tyndale and all who help us to read the Bible.

And let us share the joy of the Gospel.