

The Revision of the Chinese Union Version and Lü Zhenzhong's Translation

(An abstract)

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The present study reviews how the revision of the Chinese Union Version (和合本) in 1950s and 1960s was related to the translation done by Lü Zhenzhong (吕振中). Lü's translation was once proposed to be a basis for the revision of the Chinese Union Version because Lü was one of the few Chinese who were capable of translating the Bible. The difficulties in communicating with the Chinese congregations in Mainland China hampered the project, which was finally shattered when the Bible societies found that they could not adopt Lü's translation principles. Today, we have more Chinese experts in Biblical studies and translation. The communication among Chinese churches has also improved. Yet, in the future, we still have to struggle with our principles of translating the Bible in the light of new theories in translation and linguistic studies. New revisions and translations of the Bible will call for deeper reflections about the theology of the Bible, its authority, its hermeneutics and its translations. On the pastoral level, appropriate teaching strategies using different translations of the Chinese Bible may be needed so that the message of the Bible can reach all Chinese people in the coming era.