

## Preface

This work forms the substance of my thesis for a PhD, awarded in 2010 by the University of Manchester. Perhaps more importantly, it represents a thorough (if, perhaps, not final) scratching of an itch I have felt practically as long as I can remember an intellectual life. The problem of translation has always fascinated me, and translation issues seem to me to form the knotty, many-stranded interpretive puzzle at the centre of the puzzle of puzzles that is the Bible. As an earnest and bookish young Christian in the 1970s, I learned to love the Bible – especially the one I was given by my parents on my 16th birthday. I have it in front of me now, inscribed 1977. It is a black-bound RSV, with Metzger's Oxford Concordance in the back. To me, the heft of the thing, its smell and feel, and above all the words inside, with their quiet, firm insistence, are *the* Bible. The calm assurance conveyed by these dignified words, though, gave way to confusion, doubt and anxiety as I matured intellectually; this doubt was compounded during my time studying philosophy, politics and economics at Oxford. It continued during adulthood, though covered over by many things, as I found a path through life. I always had a thought that 'one day' I would get to the bottom of some of these doubts. Certain developments in my career led at one stage to a lot of long distance commuting and being away from home, and (after exhausting the less edifying ways to spend the time) I decided to learn ancient Greek, and later Hebrew. The studies that this opened up led towards the present work, and in 2006 I finally had the opportunity to take an extended break from a career in business finance to do something full time.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank my erstwhile colleagues at Montagu Private Equity for facilitating that break. I would also like to thank Tom Deidun at Birkbeck College (University of London) for opening up the Greek language. Todd Klutz at the University of Manchester supervised my PhD, and was a constant source of criticism, observation, encouragement and, above all, sheer

enjoyment – his good humour and positive frame of mind, as much as his intelligence and knowledge, were a vital source of energy during the marathon that is a doctorate. I also benefitted from input from Peter Oakes, Alan Williams and Mona Baker at the University of Manchester, Ward Blanton of the University of Glasgow, and my long-standing friend Richard Young. I have gained enormously from talking about communication and translation issues with many business people over the years, working in various parts of the UK but also Europe, Scandinavia, the USA, Japan and Africa. I owe especial thanks to my colleagues at Fusion Capital in Nairobi and elsewhere in East Africa, who have helped me (just occasionally) to glimpse how the world looks from another's eyes and in another's language.

Finally, and above all, I would like to thank my wife, Estelle, for her love, encouragement and forbearance over many years.

Phil Goodwin,  
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