

Have you ever bought something, and when you read the manual, the language in it was clearly written by someone from another country (irony intended)? It is very common these days, especially as so many items that we buy are made in China.

Recently I bought a waterproof bag for my cell phone. The instructions were very interesting, and I list them here (verbatim):

*For waterproof phone carrier:*

- 1. A new high-security performance waterproofing system waterproof, waterproof through rigorous testing.*
- 2. The use of special soft waterproof material, does not affect the answer phone, perturbation effects and other operations functions.*
- 3. Fear of certain fish may play a protective role in loss prevention Fangshuai inside.*
- 4. When using this product, such as cameras, mobile phones and other products to mention when the water, will automatically cropped.*

I can almost figure out what is meant except for the line that refers to “fear of certain fish”. What is that all about?

I have heard that these foreign companies use the program “Google Translator” to crank these out. The program uses a system of rules (i.e., “works”) that do not comprehend the true meaning of the instructions. I simply cannot understand why they don’t use a real English-speaking person to check the translation!

After thinking about this for a bit, it struck me that the way we translated our image of God may be just as corrupted. We must realize, as someone has said, that “We are the only Bible some people read.” This is a sobering thought. We need to translate it properly (and check it to ensure clarity) so that others can see the greatness of the God of Grace.