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## HERMENEUTICS THEOLOGICAL & PEDAGOGICAL IMPLICATIONS

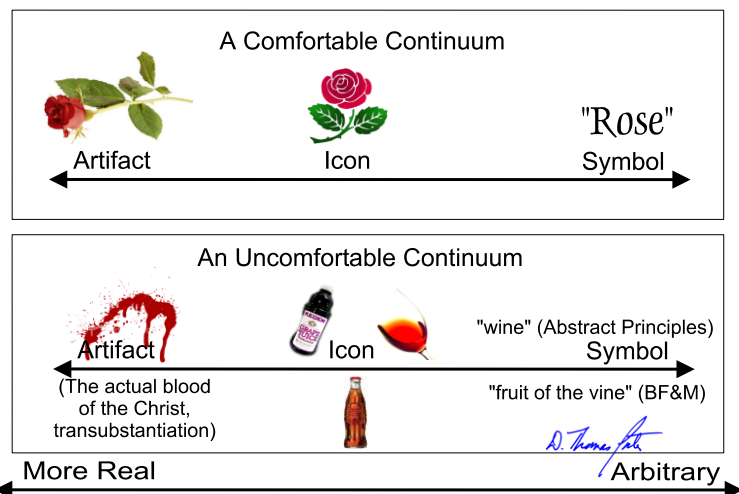
PRE 501– An Detailed Examination of Translation Manipulation

### REVELATION 2:9 — THE WORKS (εργον) OF SMYRNA

1. It is a continuing challenge for students of the Word who use the Scriptures to understand the Word. Our intellect is filled with biased linguistic, cultural, and theological baggage. We forget we are creatures who use language, *symbolic* language, to explain, explore and reify reality. Intellectually, of course, we recognize we are not Deity, but we act often as if we were. This author asserts our most common evil is just that—thinking and acting as if we were Deity. Yet, counter-intuitively, we are ironically also called to think and act as Deity—to love others, to mimic Deity's attributes, to be holy as Deity is holy.

2. Given our predisposition to see, hear, remember and do what we want to see, hear, remember and do—our linguistic prowess is simultaneously Deity-like and prone to idolatry. Consider our difficulty of distinguishing artifact, icon, and symbol. “A rose by any other name would smell as sweet,” according to Shakespeare. But, so much of what humans encounter theologically are more than symbolic and less than artifactual. We worship artifacts, we venerate icons, and we manipulate symbols. And... Truth discovery suffers.

#### Representing the Ideas of Rose and Christ's Blood



3. Consider the translation of Revelation 2:9. The Christ is detailing the challenges, the evil, and the good in a variety of churches in Asia Minor. The church in Smyrna gets a rather raw review by the Lord God; specifically they are called a “synagogue of Satan” —almost as bad as the Laodiceans, if not worse. So what does the Christ have to say about the church in Smyrna?

*“I know your works, tribulation, and poverty (but you are rich); and I know the blasphemy of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.” <sup>KJV</sup>*

4. But what did Jesus the Christ actually say to the church at Smyrna?

## TRANSLATIONS OF REVELATION 2:9

1. New International Version  
I know your afflictions and your poverty—yet you are rich! I know about the slander of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.
2. New Living Translation  
I know about your suffering and your poverty—but you are rich! I know the blasphemy of those opposing you. They say they are Jews, but they are not, because their synagogue belongs to Satan.
3. English Standard Version  
I know your tribulation and your poverty (but you are rich) and the slander of those who say that they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.
4. Berean Literal Bible  
I know your tribulation and poverty—but you are rich—and the blasphemy of those claiming themselves to be Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.
5. King James Bible  
I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan.
6. New King James Version  
“I know your works, tribulation, and poverty (but you are rich); and I know the blasphemy of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.
7. New American Standard Bible  
‘I know your tribulation and your poverty (but you are rich), and the slander by those who say they are Jews, and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.
8. NASB 1995  
‘I know your tribulation and your poverty (but you are rich), and the blasphemy by those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.
9. Amplified Bible  
‘I know your suffering and your poverty (but you are rich), and how you are blasphemed and slandered by those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan [they are Jews only by blood, and do not believe and truly honor the God whom they claim to worship].
10. Holman Christian Standard Bible  
I know your affliction and poverty, yet you are rich. I know the slander of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.
11. American Standard Version  
I know thy tribulation, and thy poverty (but thou art rich), and the blasphemy of them that say they are Jews, and they are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.
12. English Revised Version  
I know thy tribulation, and thy poverty (but thou art rich), and the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and they are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.
13. GOD'S WORD ® Translation  
I know how you are suffering, how poor you are—but you are rich. I also know that those who claim to be Jews slander you. They are the synagogue of Satan.

14. Majority Standard Bible

I know your works and your affliction and your poverty?though you are rich! And I am aware of the slander of those who falsely claim to be Jews, but are in fact a synagogue of Satan.

15. NET Bible

I know the distress you are suffering and your poverty (but you are rich). I also know the slander against you by those who call themselves Jews and really are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.

16. Webster's Bible Translation

I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them who say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan.

17. World English Bible

"I know your works, oppression, and your poverty (but you are rich), and the blasphemy of those who say they are Jews, and they are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.

18. Literal Standard Version

I have known your works, and tribulation, and poverty—yet you are rich—and the slander of those saying themselves to be Jews, and are not, but [are] a synagogue of Satan.

19. Berean Literal Bible

I know your tribulation and poverty—but you are rich—and the blasphemy of those claiming themselves to be Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.

20. Young's Literal Translation

I have known thy works, and tribulation, and poverty — yet thou art rich — and the evil-speaking of those saying themselves to be Jews, and are not, but are a synagogue of the Adversary.

5,6,14,16,17,18,20

But... here is what was written in the Greek Text (<https://biblehub.com/interlinear/revelation/2-9.htm>)

◀ Revelation 2:9 ▶

1492 [e]	4771 [e]	3588 [e]	2347 [e]	2532 [e]	3588 [e]	4432 [e]		235 [e]	4145 [e]	1510 [e]	2532 [e]	3588 [e]	
Oida	sou	tēn	thlipsin	kai	tēn	ptōcheian		alla	plousios	ei	kai	tēn	
9 Οἶδά	σου	τὴν	θλίψιν	καὶ	τὴν	πτωχείαν	—	ἀλλὰ	πλούσιος	εἶ	—	καὶ	τὴν
I know	your	-	tribulation	and	-	poverty		but	rich	you are	and	the	
V-RIA-1S	PPro-G2S	Art-AFS	N-AFS	Conj	Art-AFS	N-AFS		Conj	Adj-NMS	V-PIA-2S	Conj	Art-AFS	

988 [e]		1537 [e]	3588 [e]	3004 [e]	2453 [e]	1510 [e]	1438 [e]	2532 [e]	3756 [e]	1510 [e]	235 [e]
blasphēmian	ek	tōn	legontōn	Ioudaiou	einai	heautous	kai	ouk	eisin	alla	
βλασφημίαν	ἐκ	τῶν	λεγόντων	Ἰουδαίους	εἶναι	ἑαυτοῦς	, καὶ	οὐκ	εἰσὶν	, ἀλλὰ	
slander	of	those	claiming	Jews	to be	themselves	and	not	are	but	
N-AFS	Prep	Art-GMP	V-PPA-GMP	Adj-AMP	V-PNA	RefPro-AM3P	Conj	Adv	V-PIA-3P	Conj	

4864 [e]		3588 [e]	4567 [e]								
synagōgē	tou	Satana									
συναγωγὴ	τοῦ	Σατανᾶ	.								
a synagogue	-	of Satan									
N-NFS	Art-GMS	N-GMS									

<https://biblehub.com/interlinear/revelation/2-9.htm>

◀ Revelation 2:2 ▶

Ephesus

Revelation 2 - Click for Chapter

1492 [e]	3588 [e]	2041 [e]	4771 [e]	2532 [e]	3588 [e]	2873 [e]	2532 [e]	3588 [e]	5281 [e]	4771 [e]	2532 [e]	3754 [e]	3756 [e]	
Oida	ta	erga	sou	kai	ton	kopon	kai	tēn	hypomonēn	sou	kai	hoti	ou	
2	Οἶδα	τὰ	ἔργα	σου	, και	τὸν	κόπον	και	τὴν	ὑπομονήν	σου	, και	ὅτι	οὐ
	I know	the	works	of you	and	the	labor	and	-	endurance	of you	and	that	not
	V-RIA-1S	Art-ANP	N-ANP	PPro-G2S	Conj	Art-AMS	N-AMS	Conj	Art-AFS	N-AFS	PPro-G2S	Conj	Conj	Adv

1410 [e]	941 [e]	2556 [e]	2532 [e]	3985 [e]	3588 [e]	3004 [e]	1438 [e]	652 [e]	2532 [e]	
dynē	bastasai	kakous	kai	epeirasas	tous	legontas	heautous	apostolous	kai	
δύνη	βαστάσαι	κακούς	. και	ἐπίρασας	τοὺς	λέγοντας	ἑαυτοὺς	ἀποστόλους	και	
	you are able	to tolerate	evil [ones]	And	you have tested	those	claiming	to be	apostles	and
	V-PIM/P-2S	V-ANA	Adj-AMP	Conj	V-AIA-2S	Art-AMP	V-PPA-AMP	RefPro-AM3P	N-AMP	Conj

◀ Revelation 2:19 ▶

Thyatira

Revelation 2 - Click for Chapter

1492 [e]	4771 [e]	3588 [e]	2041 [e]	2532 [e]	3588 [e]	26 [e]	2532 [e]	3588 [e]	4102 [e]	2532 [e]	3588 [e]	
Oida	sou	ta	erga	kai	tēn	agapēn	kai	tēn	pistin	kai	tēn	
19	Οἶδά	σου	τὰ	ἔργα	, και	τὴν	ἀγάπην	, και	τὴν	πίστιν	, και	τὴν
	I know	your	-	works	and	-	love	and	-	faith	and	-
	V-RIA-1S	PPro-G2S	Art-ANP	N-ANP	Conj	Art-AFS	N-AFS	Conj	Art-AFS	N-AFS	Conj	Art-AFS

1248 [e]	2532 [e]	3588 [e]	5281 [e]	4771 [e]	2532 [e]	3588 [e]	2041 [e]	4771 [e]	3588 [e]	2078 [e]	4119 [e]	3588 [e]	
diakonian	kai	tēn	hypomonēn	sou	kai	ta	erga	sou	ta	eschata	pleiona	tōn	
διακονίαν	, και	τὴν	ὑπομονήν	σου	; και	τὰ	ἔργα	σου	, τὰ	ἔσχατα	πλείονα	τῶν	
	service	and	the	perseverance	of you	and	the	works	of you	the	latter	[are] greater	than the
	N-AFS	Conj	Art-AFS	N-AFS	PPro-G2S	Conj	Art-ANP	N-ANP	PPro-G2S	Art-ANP	Adj-ANP	Adj-ANP-C	Art-GNP