

The Burning Books - the impact of William Tyndale

Worksheet A

Shortly before his death, William Tyndale wrote the following letter (originally- in Latin) from his cell to the prison governor. What does this tell you about him? Highlight in different colours the sections that tell you:

- about his cell conditions
- about what he is doing with his time
- about his beliefs

I believe, sir, that you know what has been decided about my fate. Therefore I beg your lordship, in the name of the Lord Jesus, that if I am to remain here through the winter, you will ask the store-keeper to have the kindness to send me, from the goods of mine that he has, a warmer cap; for I suffer greatly from cold in the head, and am afflicted by a perpetual catarrh, which is much increased in this cell; a warmer coat also, for this which I have is very thin: a piece of shirt too to patch my leggings. My overcoat is worn out; my shirts are also worn out. He has a woollen shirt, if he will be good enough to send it. I have also with him leggings of thicker cloth to put on above; he has also warmer night caps.

*And I ask to be allowed a lamp in the evening; it is indeed wearying, sitting alone in the dark. But most of all I beg you to ask the store-keeper urgently, that I may be allowed my Hebrew Bible, Hebrew grammar and Hebrew dictionary, that I may pass the time in that study. In return, I wish you everything you want in the world - providing it brings you salvation for your soul. If any other decisions have been taken about what will happen to me before winter, I will be patient, accepting the will of God, to the glory of my Lord Jesus Christ whose Holy Spirit I hope may ever guide you.
Amen*

William Tyndale

Either:

Imagine you could write him an encouraging letter in prison. What would you want to say? Write the letter.

Or:

Write a poem about what it could be like to be locked up in prison for your beliefs.

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