

Bible Resources for a Christian Library

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Below is a list of what many have found to be useful resources for a personal Christian library. Some items name the type of text, while others provide actual titles and authors. If you purchased all of these, you would drop a minimum of three thousand dollars – and that’s if you obtained nothing but discounted and used volumes. There are electronic libraries that can provide many of these resources in a more useful format for a few hundred dollars.

There are a couple of free bible-study packages that have a central search engine into which you may plug great numbers of out-of-copyright texts. You can even do original language study (e-Sword, Online Bible, Theophilus, etc.). Some of the best commercial versions of bible software for general use include WordSearch (which is transitioning to Logos), PC Study Bible (from biblesoft.com; probably the best value), and the expensive Logos (Libronix engine). For *original language study*, Logos is the leader.

A friendly caution: If you haven’t read the bible from cover to cover at least twice, please don’t try to assemble this kind of library. If you haven’t committed yourself to living the life of Christ first, don’t get distracted by acquiring a bare knowledge of the Scripture that may puff you up instead of build you up. Commit first to love. “As I have loved you, so you must love one another.” Enjoy the feast!

Source Texts –

New Testament

- NA - Nestle-Aland
- WH - Westcott-Hort
- UBS - United Bible Societies (UBS)
- TR - Textus Receptus
- MT - Byzantine Majority Text
- SYR – Syriac Peshitta

Old Testament

- Septuagint – OT Greek translation of OT (c. 250 BC)
- Vulgate – Jerome – Latin translation of Bible (c. 400 AD)
- Masoretic Text
 - Ben Asher Hebrew Text – aka Leningrad, B19a, or “L”
 - Ben Chayyim Hebrew Text – aka Daniel Blomberg 1516, 2nd Rabbinic Bible 1524
- Jewish Publication Society
- Syriac Peshitta (c. 200 AD)
- BHS - Biblia Hebraica **Stuttgartensia**
- DSS - Dead Sea Scrolls (Dead Sea Scrolls Bible – Abegg, Flint, & Ulrich)
- Apocrypha (for historical purposes only – it is not part of the canon)

Translations –

Literal (word for word)

- Lamsa (Syriac Peshitta)
- KJV – King James Version (TR)
- NKJV – New King James version (TR)
- NET – New English Translation (eclectic with 62k translator notes)
- NASB – New American Standard, also “updated” version (NA-UBS)
- ESV – English Standard Version (eclectic from the RSV)
- HCSB – Holman Christian Standard Bible (retranslated from NA)

Dynamic Equivalence (idea for idea)

- NIV – New International Version (NA-UBS)
- JB – Jerusalem Bible (Catholic)
- J.B. Philips (NT only – UBS)

Paraphrased

- LB - Living Bible

NLT - New Living Translation (yet accurate, esp. the OT, and very readable)
Interpretive - Inductive
The Message – Peterson (should not be used for bible study)

Tools –

Study Bible (e.g.)

Nelson's Study Bible NKJ,
NIV Study Bible,
ESV Study Bible,
NLT Study Bible,
Reformation Study Bible ESV (Sproul)
MacArthur's Study Bible

Commentaries

John Calvin
Matthew Henry (6 vol. or single)
John Gill
Matthew Poole
Crossway Classic Commentaries
NIV OT/NT Commentaries (3-vol set includes Matthew Henry)
Jamieson, Faussett, & Brown
Adam Clarke (excellent, but Arminian)

Jewish Commentaries:

Torah
Mishnah
Tosefta (supplement to Mishnah)
Midrash
Talmud
Targum

On Revelation:

More than Conquerors – Wm. Hendriksen (Revelation)
Triumph of the Lamb – Dennis E. Johnson (Revelation – *excellent!*)

Apocrypha (for historical purposes only – it is not part of the canon)

Legends of the Bible (JPS)

Nave's Topical Bible

Treasury of Scripture Knowledge – bible cross references

Original Language

Interlinear – Jay Green

Word Study

Robertson's
Vincent's
Vine's
Zodhiates

Hebrew Lexicon

Brown-Driver-Briggs

Greek Lexicon -

Grammars

Basics of Biblical Greek – Mounce

Basics of Biblical Hebrew – Pratico & Van Pelt

Concordance

(software concordances are faster and easier to use)

Strong's – all words in bible by number – specifies original language word

Englishman's – all instances of a particular Strong's number

Harmonies

Synoptic Gospels

NIV/NASB Harmony of the Gospels – R. Thomas and S. Gundry

A Harmony of the Gospels – A. T. Robertson

Chronicles-Kings

A Harmony of Samuel, Kings, and Chronicles – Wm Day Crockett

Chronological Bibles–

Reeses' Chronological Bible (KJV)

The Narrated Bible – F. LaGard Smith

Dictionaries - Encyclopedias

Bible Dictionary (Holman's is very good)

Bible Encyclopedia

Bible Handbook

Dictionary of Theology

Dictionary of Apologetics

Encyclopedia of Christian Apologetics - Geisler

Encyclopedia of Bible Difficulties – Gleason Archer

Maps

Holman Bible Atlas

Charts

Timeline Charts of the Western Church - Peterson

Theology

Creeds

Apostle's

Nicene

Chalcedon

Athanasian

Helvetic

Confessions

Smalkald Articles 1537

French Confession 1559

Belgic 1561

Westminster 1646

London Baptist 1644/1689

Orthodox Statements

Council of Orange 529

Canons of Dordt 1619

Catechisms

Didache

London Baptist

Heidelberg

Westminster Longer & Shorter

Spurgeon's

Systematic Theology

John Calvin – *Institutes of the Christian Religion*

Louis Berkhof

Charles Hodge

Wayne Grudem

Donald Bloesch (flawed theology)

Concise Theology – J. I. Packer (excellent)

Biblical Theology – Gerhard Vos

Interpretation: Hermeneutics (the rules)

E.W. Bullinger *How to Enjoy the Bible*
Vern Polythress – *God-Centered Biblical Interpretation*
Bob Smith’s *Biblical Interpretation* (excellent introduction)
Milton S. Terry (seminary standard)
Bernhard Ramm (seminary standard)

History

Church History

Eusebius – Ecclesiastical History (ed. Cruse)
Philip Schaff (8-vol)
Nick Needham’s *2000 Years of Christ’s Power* (5 vols so far)
Mark A. Noll’s books (any of them)
Early Church Fathers (38-vol)
Kenneth Scott Latourette (2-vol)
The Bible as History – Keller
The Christian Tradition – Jarislav Pelikan (5-vol)
Cairns (1-vol)
No Other Foundation – Jeremy Jackson

Biographies

Foxe’s Book of Martyrs
The New Foxe’s Book of Martyrs – updated by Harold J. Chadwick

Creeds

History of the Creeds – by Philip Schaff
Credo – by Jarislav Pelikan

Theology

Christian Tradition - Jarislav Pelikan

Web Sites

<http://www.onlinebible.net> – free electronic bible; original language study
<http://www.e-sword.net> – free electronic bible; original language study
<http://www.crosswalk.com/> - personal bible study, articles, and resources
<http://www.spiritandtruth.org/spirit/resource.htm> - various bible study resources
<http://www.ccel.org/> - historical documents
<http://www.studylight.org/> - original language study
<http://www.godrules.net/library/vincent/vincent.htm> - NT word studies
<http://www.answersingenesis.org> - digital bibles
<https://www.billmounce.com/> - Learn Greek - Mounce
<http://www.godrules.net/bibles.html> - bible study var. translations; search engine
<http://www.searchgodsword.org/> - bible study var. translations; search engine
<https://www.bibleatlas.org/> - bible atlas online
<https://www.biblestudytools.com/commentaries/> - classic bible commentaries, mixed theology
<http://www.truthforlife.org/index.php> – Alistair Begg
<https://www.desiringgod.org/> - John Piper
<http://www.gospeldefense.com/> - Bill Parker (Baptist - Reformed)
<http://www.equip.org/> - Christian Research Institute – Hank Hanegraff
<http://www.reformed.org/> - Ctr for Reformed Theol. & Apologetics – harsh but good resources
<http://www.carm.org/> - Christian Apologetics & Research Ministry – doctrine and cults
<https://www.sbst.edu/the-global-campus/> - Southern Baptist Theological Seminary online
<https://prts.edu/academics/distance-education/> - Puritan Reformed Seminary online
<https://www.wts.edu/community-life/online-experience> - Westminster Theol. Seminary online

Other Tools -

Cults

Kingdom of the Cults – Walter Martin – either Hanegraff’s or Zacharias’ edition
Challenge of the Cults - Rhodes

More on Apologetics and Evangelism

Easy

- How to Give Away Your Faith – Paul Little
- Know What You Believe – Paul Little
- Know Why You Believe – Paul Little
- God in the Dock – C. S. Lewis

More Challenging

- New Evidence that Demands a Verdict – Josh McDowell
- Case for Faith – Lee Strobel
- Case for Christ – Lee Strobel
- Can Man Live Without God – Ravi Zacharias
- Abolition of Man – C. S. Lewis
- Christian Apologetics – Geisler
- Philosophical Foundations for a Christian Worldview – Moreland & Craig

Evolution

- Darwin on Trial – Phillip Johnson
- Reason in the Balance – Phillip Johnson
- Darwin's Black Box – Michael Behe
- Theistic Evolution – (opposition to) Meyer, Grudem, et al

Morality and Ethics

- Kingdom Ethics – Stassen & Gushee (great book!)
- Ethics – Bonhoeffer

Many exceptional books on *The Christian Life* have been written in the past 2000 years; but their ability to change us must flow from the truth and wonder of Scripture itself. Also, their effect depends on where you are in your Christian walk – so it's highly subjective. Rather than offer you those, let me give you just one: [*Alarm to Unconverted Sinners*](#) by Joseph Alleine, written in 1671. If you can make it past that one unchanged, the others probably wouldn't help. Yes, I realize that's a bit of hyperbole – and perhaps it's another subjective choice on my part. Why not read it yourself? An updated language version is on my website (click the link above). See also <http://www.onthewing.org/Classics.html>

Obviously this list is only a sampling. Solomon said, “of books there is no end” The bible continues to be the largest selling book in the world, and books about the bible continue to be best-sellers. Every month there are more. To repeat my earlier caution, be sure the bible is your **primary** source, and your **primary** focus. All these others are intended to help you understand, grasp, and apply the truth of God. Let that be your motive in your outside reading. We're not trying to impress friends and strangers with *what* we know, but **Who** we know, and **how** we love...