

e-Sword®

The sword of the Lord!

How to use the best FREE bible study software that money can't buy!

Agenda

10:00 Open in prayer

I. Why Use Bible Study Software?

A. How deep do you want to go?

1. Basic contextual understanding of the text

a) Find context through Concordance and Treasury of Scripture Knowledge.

2. Language level understanding

a) Original words help to understand the context and meaning.

b) Without original word you can not know the writers intent.
Demonstrate 1Thes 2:13 "received"

3. What Theologians say

a) Commentaries –

Understanding what theologians of historical orthodoxy have said regarding the passage is helpful to see that your understanding of the passage lines up with the orthodox understanding. You also can often find slightly different understandings that line up accurately with scripture. Without the computer you would need different commentaries at great expense to have this important resource.

II. Why use e-Sword®

A. Convenience

You can read the word in any translation that you want right from your desk or recliner (my favorite). You don't have to leave that location to get a resource for deeper study.

B. Modular

You can begin at any level of knowledge and need and build you program up by downloading more modules as you feel the need.

C. Price

You don't have to wait or go into debt to study the word in depth, e-sword® is completely free. So as you grow in your knowledge of scripture and want to delve deeper you don't have to wait till you can afford it.

Rick Meyers spent a lot of time and effort to make a professional level piece of software for the study of the word of God. He asks for your support by donation if you can afford it but it is never required. So use it for a while and then if you feel that you have gained in your understanding of scripture with the help of the program please make a donation the size is up to you.

1. FREE Downloads

Most of the available Bibles, Dictionaries, Commentaries and resources are free. The software comes with the KJV and KJV with Strong's numbers it also comes with Strong's concordance. There are many other Bibles, and for those with a second language that you feel more confident in there are many other language Bibles also and most are free.

2. Premium downloads

If you want the NASB translation the one used by myself and Pastor Harris this is a premium Bible, meaning that you will have to license it from the Lochman Foundation. It is a one time fee that will allow you to use the license for many different platforms. Your license is recorded in the database of the Lochman foundation and if you want to download any software in the NASB translation they will allow it once the license has been purchased. The fee was like \$19 when I purchased it.

There are more premium downloads all with their own price most very minimal.

III. How to use e-Sword®

A. Download / Install program

B. Download some commentaries and tools that you want below is a list of some that I use...

1. Robertsons Word Pictures

Gives an in depth language study, not for the faint of heart (LOL) or novices but good for the intermediate student of the word. New Testament only.

2. Vincent's Word Studies

A good historical study of God's word with language meanings a very profitable tool Old and New testament.

3. Keil and Delitzsch

Another good historical commentary Old Testament only

4. Jamieson – Fausset – Brown

A very good Historical commentary of both Old and New Testaments

C. Tools

1. TSK - Treasury of Scripture Knowledge

This might be called the Bible margin book, when you look in your Bible margins you see related Scripture, related through similar words, phrases, or passage. This is of great importance in study

because you want to know how to understand it in light of other places where similarities exist. Imagine the amount of work it took to compile this tool. I had the hardcover book and found it very useful but there is a lot of page turning involved but with e-Sword® it is sooo much faster.

2. Dictionaries

View the full dictionary meaning of any word with Strong's number that you have clicked on.

3. Bible Window

a) Compare

When you highlight a verse and then press the compare tab in the Bible window it compares that verse in all of the Bible versions you have. You might see how very helpful that can be.

b) Parallel

This allows you to pick several Bible translations to sync side by side so you can compare the complete text and not just one verse at a time.

c) Split

This allows you to have 2 different Bible versions open simultaneously.

d) Tabs

Similar to Bible tabs

4. Bible Search

You can open the Bible search tool on the top toolbar and type in any word and then do a Bible search to see where it is used. There is also a simple way to use it by highlighting in the Bible window and then hitting the Bible search icon in the Bible window. The Bible search will open with the search already done.

D. Tutorial

There are online tutorials available that are not great but can be helpful. There are e-Sword® user groups available also. <http://www.biblesupport.com/>

There is much more to do and see and hopefully we will be able to get to it all. Most importantly, you use that program and delve deeply into the word being careful not to assume that what you uncovered is accurate entirely. Take the time to read the commentaries on the subject and see if what you discovered lines up. We as Bible students must understand the Bible in light of 2000 years of orthodoxy and be certain that we are not straying too far. We are called to understand the truth of the Bible and not to brave new territory. You are in as solid a church with solid teaching that you can be so I know this program will only enhance and help in your continued growth in the understanding of God's word.

12 PM End in Prayer

Here is a list of the downloads for *E-Sword* that I think are worth looking at. I list them by what is free, and then those that are worth purchasing (Priority items will have an *asterisk). Please note that some of these works are written from more liberal theological perspective, but are included because they give insight into meanings of words & grammar and perhaps historical and cultural settings. Always be cautious. Each is listed by their "Caption" name instead of the full name.

Bibles - free

Darby, ESV, KJV, KJV+, LEB, YLT

Bibles - purchase

*NASB, NKJV

If you learn Greek and / or Hebrew

ABP-G+, GNT-V, LXX+, GNT-TR+, HOT+

Commentaries - Free

Clarke, Barnes, MacLaren, EBC, Geneva, JFB,
Henry, Psalms, TSK, RWP

Commentaries - Purchase

*BKC, *MacArthur, Wuest

Dictionaries - Free

BDB, Easton, Fausset, ISBE, KJC, Nave
Strong, Thayer, Torrey, Webster

Dictionaries - Purchase

VineNT

Devotions - Free (I have not used devotionals in many years. The only one listed I have used is: Spurgeon (uses older English, but thought provoking)
Rylisms (If this is J.C. Ryle, it would be good, but I have not used it).

Graphics - Free

I like graphics, charts and maps - If you have the space, download them all
If your space is limited
ABS, Timelines, Classic, Historical, Mitchell, Smith

Reference - Free

All of those listed are good, but tend to be on very specific topics or periods of history that would be helpful for more specific studies. The following would be the more generally useful to anyone.

Fox's Book of Martyrs History of the Christian Church
Knowledge of the Holy (Very good for Theology proper)
Sketches of Jewish Social Life The Attributes of God (Pink)
The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah The Temple - Its Ministry and Service

Reference - Purchase

Bible Manners and Customs (covers many of same subjects as *Sketches of Jewish Social Life*)
Bible Maps and Charts (this would be in addition to the maps in Graphics above)
Hard Sayings of the Bible (helpful with problem passages).

ADDITIONAL Downloads / Resources AT
www.biblesupport.com