

How to Study the Bible

April 29, 2023

1. Pray for understanding

In prayer, humble yourself before the Lord and His Word, committing yourself to believe whatever His Word teaches and obey whatever it commands, and asking for grace to do so.

Pray for understanding of the text. Without the Spirit's illumination, you will be in the dark.

Continue in prayer throughout your study.

Charles Spurgeon: "If you do not understand a book by a departed writer you are unable to ask him his meaning, but the Spirit, who inspired Holy Scripture, lives forever, and he delights to open up the Word to those who seek his instruction. He is always accessible: 'he dwelleth with you and shall be in you.' Go to him for yourselves and cry, 'Open thou mine eyes that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law.'"¹

2. Study introductory matters for the book of the Bible in which your passage is located

For this, I recommend reading the introductions that are found in two good study Bibles. Good introductions will include information on matters such as the book's title, human author, date of writing, background and setting, occasion, themes, outline, message, and purpose. Take notes on things that will be important to keep in mind as you study and teach your text.

I recommend most highly *The MacArthur Study Bible*. It was put together by John MacArthur and other faculty members of the The Master's Seminary. This can also be found in commentary form under the title, *The MacArthur Bible Commentary*. I also recommend *The ESV Study Bible* and *The Reformation Study Bible*.

3. Find out where your passage is located in the flow of the book

Unless the book is too lengthy for this, read the whole book, paying attention to how your text relates to the flow of thought in the book. Pay special attention to what comes just before your text and just after your text. Look at the outlines of the book found in the study Bibles to see where your text fits in those outlines. Take notes on things you find that will be important to keep in mind in your study of your text.

¹ Charles H. Spurgeon, *Commenting & Commentaries: A Reference Guide to Book Buying for Pastors, Students, and Christian Workers*, 32.

4. Read your passage repeatedly until you have a good grasp of what it says

You need to read the text many times, marking key words and phrases. Oftentimes key terms are repeated in a passage. Read the text in at least three English translations. I recommend ESV, NASB (or LSB), and CSB. In the OT, I also recommend NKJV.

Keep reading through the text until you are confident that you have grasped what it says.

5. Outline your passage

Divide the text into its main sections, and then write an outline that shows the main sections. You do not need to include subpoints. Outlining forces you to seek to understand the text, and how the different sections relate to one another.

As you study your passage further, you may want to improve this outline.

6. Read study Bibles or commentaries on your passage

You should read at least three study Bibles or commentaries on your passage.

Some commentaries are essentially sermons in book form. (Examples are John MacArthur's and James Boice's commentaries.) I will term these, "sermonic commentaries," and other commentaries, "non-sermonic commentaries." At least two of the commentaries you read should be non-sermonic. (Study Bibles count as non-sermonic commentaries.)

In addition to reading commentaries, it is beneficial to listen to a good sermon on your text. I recommend sermons by Alistair Begg, John MacArthur, Tom Pennington, John Piper, and Steven Lawson. These preachers have numerous expository sermons available online. As you listen to good preaching on your text, you learn your text better, it is brought to bear on your life, and you learn how to teach by example.

Avoid commentaries that are theologically liberal. And be on the alert for the effects of liberalism on the commentaries you read. Be discerning when reading commentaries, disregarding ideas that are unhelpful or unbiblical.

When you find something that is helpful and likely will benefit your lesson, write it in your notes. Organize your notes by verse and then by phrase. You can do this efficiently in a program like Microsoft Word. At the top of your notes document, include notes on the context of your passage and on your passage as a whole. At the bottom of your document, include general notes on the application of your passage.

Your notes should not be a summary of what you read, because your lesson will not be a report on what you read. Your notes should only include thoughts that likely will benefit your lesson or benefit your interpretation of the text.

7. Seek to understand how your passage is connected to Christ and the gospel

Consider if your passage...

- a. Makes a direct reference to Christ²
- b. Prepares us to understand the work of Christ, or shows our need for Him and His work
- c. Reveals God's nature that provides redemption through Christ
 Consider what your passage reveals of God's justice, holiness, goodness, lovingkindness, grace, mercy, faithfulness, provision, and/or deliverance. The nature of God stands in contrast to man's fallen nature, and shows God to be a redeeming God.
- d. Results from the work of Christ
 The instructions that are given to Christians in the Bible are given because we have been redeemed by Christ. It is because of the Holy Spirit who has applied to us Christ's finished work, that we have a heart and the ability to follow this instruction

If your passage is in the OT, consider if the NT relates something in your passage to Christ and the gospel.

C. H. Spurgeon: "From every town and every village and every hamlet in England, wherever it may be, there is a road to London... So from every text in Scripture there is a road towards the great metropolis, Christ. And my dear brother, your business is, when you get to a text, to say, now what is the road to Christ? ... I have never found a text that had not got a road to Christ in it, and if ever I do find one...I will go over hedge and ditch but I would get at my Master, for the sermon cannot do any good unless there is a savor of Christ in it."³

8. Further study anything in your passage as needed

Historical/cultural background

Includes geography, historical people and events, political situations, units of money, weights and measures, agriculture, manners, customs, etc.

The best all-around resources for studying historical/cultural background are Bible dictionaries and Bible encyclopedias. Encyclopedias give more information than dictionaries. I recommend the *International Bible Standard Encyclopedia* (ISBE), revised edition (copyright 1979-1988). The original 1915 edition is available for free online.

² This list is derived from Bryan Chapel, *Christ-Centered Preaching: Redeeming the Expository Sermon*, 2nd ed, 281-88.

³ Spurgeon, "Christ Precious to Believers," in Bryan Chapel, *Christ-Centered Preaching: Redeeming the Expository Sermon*, 2nd ed, 288.

Meanings of words

It can be helpful to learn the meanings of the original Hebrew, Aramaic, or Greek word. Be mindful that these words have multiple meanings, just as our English words have multiple meanings.

There are two parts to a word study:

1. Lookup the meanings of the word

The meanings of a word are found in a lexicon, which is similar to a dictionary.

Digital resources make lexical information more easily accessible. If you don't already know how to use such resources, I recommend using Blue Letter Bible, which is free. They have both a webpage interface and an app. Using the webpage interface, do the following:

- a.) Go to blueletterbible.org
- b.) In the "BLB Searches" area, search for the verse using ESV.
- c.) After the verse is displayed, click "TOOLS" to the left of the verse
- d.) All the words in the verse will then be displayed in a list. Find the word and click on its "Strong's" number. (Strong was the author of a well-known concordance.)
- e.) A lot of information will then be displayed. Scroll down to the section, "Outline of Biblical Usage," which gives the most helpful information about the meanings of the word. (You may need to click "Show All" to view all of it.)

2. Read all the verses where the word is used, seeing how the word is actually used in various contexts.

To do this using Blue Letter Bible's web interface, do the following:

- a.) Follow the steps given previously for finding the meanings of a word.
- b.) Scroll down further to "Concordance Results Shown Using the ESV." This section lists all the verses that contain the Hebrew, Aramaic, or Greek word you are studying.

Depending on how many times a word is used in the Bible, you may need to limit your study to its uses in the book that contains your text, or its use in the gospels, or its use in the epistles, etc.

After studying a word's various meanings and how it is used in different contexts, consider what the word means in your text. Compare how various English translations render the word in your text.

Biblical themes

If there is a biblical theme that has a significant place in your text, it may be helpful to study this theme throughout the Bible. Examples of themes include the following: the fear of the Lord, son of man, the eyes of the Lord, God's right hand, the day of the Lord, the glory of the Lord, and eternal life.

To study a biblical theme, you can use a topical Bible such *The MacArthur Topical Bible*, or *Nave's Topical Bible* which can be found for free on the internet.

You can also use a concordance or a digital search of the Bible, searching for occurrences of a word or phrase. To study the believer's calling, you could search for every occurrence in the NT of a word that starts with the letters "call."

Depending on how many verses come up in your search, you may need to limit the scope of your study to only include verses in the same book, or the same section of Scripture.

As you study a theme, take notes on anything you find that you think might be beneficial to bring out in your lesson.

Other resources that are helpful in studying biblical themes include *Evangelical Dictionary of Biblical Theology*, edited by Walter Elwell, and *New Dictionary of Biblical Theology*, edited by Alexander, Rosner, Carson, and Goldsworthy.

Doctrines

If there is a doctrine that is closely related to a significant part of your text, it may be helpful to study this doctrine in systematic theology books.

I recommend the following short/concise systematic theologies:

- Wayne Grudem, *Christian Beliefs: Twenty Basics Every Christian Should Know*
- J. I. Packer, *Concise Theology: A Guide to Historic Christian Beliefs*
- R. C. Sproul, *Essential Truths of the Christian Faith*
- John M. Frame, *Salvation Belongs to the Lord: An Introduction to Systematic Theology*

I recommend the following longer systematic theologies:

- John MacArthur and Richard Mayhue, *Biblical Doctrine: A Systematic Summary of Bible Truth*
- Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine*
- Louis Berkhof, *Systematic Theology*

I have some significant differences with some of the above systematic theologies. But I still find them very helpful on many doctrines.

As you study a doctrine, take notes on anything you find that you think might be beneficial to bring out in your lesson.

9. Identify the significance of your passage, and some main points of application

Seek to understand the significance of this passage for our lives. For what purpose(s) has God given us this passage? What is the main way(s) this passage ought to impact our lives?

Consider if the passage mainly does one of the following:

1. Teaches the truth and/or rebukes false doctrine (2 Tim 3:16)⁴
In this case, the application has to do with rejecting the false doctrine, and growing in our understanding of the truth and in our faith in the truth. Doctrine is to be understood, believed, and then taught to others.
2. Trains believers in godly living and/or corrects wrong patterns of behavior (2 Tim 3:16; 4:2)
In this case, the application has to do with how to do what Scripture commands, and what to avoid as we seek to follow the commands.
3. Tests the state of people's hearts and/or brings conviction of sin (Rom 7:7; Heb 4:12-13; 1 John 5:13)
In this case, the application has to do with examining one's life in the light of Scripture and/or confessing sin and repenting of it.
4. Encourages and/or exhorts believers (Rom 15:4; 1 Cor 14:3; 2 Tim 4:2)
In this case, the application has to do with receiving the Scripture's encouragement and/or heeding the exhortation by God's grace for God's glory.

This list is not exhaustive, but includes some of the main kinds of application.

Write down your conclusions.

10. Respond to God's Word, first in prayer

⁴ This list comes from Murray Capill, *The Heart is the Target: Preaching Practical Application from Every Text*, 62-71.

Recommended Commentaries for Studying God's Word

compiled by Pastor Steve Sherman

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Notes: I am not including commentaries written for students who know the original languages.

Used copies of these books can be purchased at alibris.com and other online stores.

Commentaries on the entire Bible

John Calvin wrote commentaries on most books of the Bible. They are accessible for free at www.ccel.org (Christian Classics Ethereal Library). Calvin had a great understanding of God's reasons for writing what He did in Scripture.

Matthew Henry's Commentary. This Puritan work is accessible for free at www.ccel.org

The Expositor's Bible Commentary, edited by Frank E. Gaebelin, published by Zondervan. This 12-volume set is predominantly Premillennial. The first volume was published in 1979. Some of the sections in this set have been replaced by newer authors.

Commentaries on the entire New Testament

John MacArthur's set of commentaries, "The MacArthur New Testament Commentary." These are sermonic commentaries.

Genesis

John J. Davis, *Paradise to Prison: Studies in Genesis*. Baker Book House, 1975. Davis was President and Professor of Old Testament and Hebrew at Grace Theological Seminary. Calvinistic and Premillennial.

James Montgomery Boice, *Genesis: An Expositional Commentary*. 3 volumes. Baker Books, 1985. James Boice was the senior pastor of Tenth Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia, and was Premillennial. This is a sermonic commentary.

Dale Ralph Davis, *Faith of Our Father: Expositions of Genesis 12-25*. Christian Focus, 2015. Davis was Professor of Old Testament at Reformed Theological Seminary.

Sidney Greidanus, *Preaching Christ from Genesis* (Foundations for Expository Sermons). Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2007.

Exodus

Walter C. Kaiser, "Exodus," in *The Expositor's Bible Commentary*, volume 2, published in 1990. Kaiser was President and Professor of Old Testament at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary.

John J. Davis, *Moses and the Gods of Egypt*. Baker, 1972.

Douglas K. Stuart, *Exodus* (The New American Commentary). B&H Publishing Group, 2006.

Philip Graham Ryken, *Exodus: Saved for God's Glory* (Preaching the Word), Crossway, 2015. Ryken was the senior pastor of Tenth Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia. This is a sermonic commentary.

Leviticus

Mark F. Rooker, *Leviticus* (The New American Commentary). B&H Publishing Group, 2000.

R. K. Harrison, *Leviticus: An Introduction and Commentary* (Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries). IVP, 1980.

Andrew Bonar, *Leviticus* (The Geneva Series of Commentaries). The Banner of Truth Trust. First published 1846.

Numbers

R. Dennis Cole, *Numbers* (The New American Commentary). B&H Publishing Group, 2000.

Gordon J. Wenham, *Numbers* (Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries). IVP, 1981.

Deuteronomy

Michael A. Grisanti, “Deuteronomy,” in *The Expositor’s Bible Commentary*, volume 2, published in 2012. This is the newer edition. Grisanti is Professor of Old Testament at The Master’s Seminary. Calvinistic and Premillennial.

Daniel I. Block, *Deuteronomy* (The NIV Application Commentary). Zondervan, 2012.

Ajith Fernando, *Deuteronomy: Loving Obedience to a Loving God* (Preaching the Word). Crossway, 2012.

Fernando teaches and preaches in Sri Lanka, which gives him an interesting perspective on some applications. This is a sermonic commentary.

Joshua

Paul P. Enns, *Joshua* (Bible Study Commentary). Zondervan, 1981.

David M. Howard, *Joshua* (The New American Commentary). B&H Publishers, 2002.

Dale Ralph Davis, *Joshua: No Falling Words*. Christian Focus, 2000.

James Montgomery Boice, *Joshua: An Expositional Commentary*. Baker Books, 1989. This is a sermonic commentary.

Judges

Daniel I. Block, *Judges, Ruth* (The New American Commentary). B&H Publishers, 1999.

Leon J. Wood, *The Distressing Days of the Judges*. Wipf and Stock Publishers, 1998.

Dale Ralph Davis, *Judges: Such a Great Salvation*. Christian Focus, 2000.

John J. Davis, *Conquest and Crisis: Studies in Joshua, Judges, and Ruth*. BMH Books, 2008.

Ruth

Daniel I. Block. See Judges.

Robert L. Hubbard, *Ruth* (New International Commentary on the Old Testament). Eerdmans, 1988.

John J. Davis. See Judges.

1 & 2 Samuel

Robert D. Bergen, *1, 2 Samuel* (The New American Commentary). B&H Publishers, 2002.

Dale Ralph Davis, *1 Samuel: Looking on the Heart*. Christian Focus, 2000.

Dale Ralph Davis, *2 Samuel: Out of Every Adversity*. Christian Focus, 1999.

1 & 2 Kings

Paul R. House, *1, 2 Kings* (The New American Commentary). B&H Publishing Group, 1995.

Dale Ralph Davis, *1 Kings: The Wisdom and the Folly*. Christian Focus, 2002.

Dale Ralph Davis, *2 Kings: The Power and the Fury*. Christian Focus, 2005.

Philip Graham Ryken, *1 Kings* (Reformed Expository Commentary). P&R, 2011. This is a sermonic commentary.

1 & 2 Chronicles

J. A. Thompson, *1, 2 Chronicles* (The New American Commentary). B&H Publishers, 1994.

J. Barton Payne, "1 and 2 Chronicles," in *The Expositor's Bible Commentary*, volume 4, published in 1988.

Ezra & Nehemiah

J. Carl Laney, *Ezra and Nehemiah* (Everyman's Bible Commentary). Moody Press, 1982.

Derek Kidner, *Ezra & Nehemiah: An Introduction and Commentary* (Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries). IVP, 1979.

Mervin Breneman, *Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther* (The New American Commentary). B&H Publishers, 1993.

James Montgomery Boice, *Nehemiah: Learning to Lead*. Fleming H. Revell, 1990. This is a sermonic commentary. I found this commentary not as strong as Boice's other commentaries that I have read.

Esther

Mervin Breneman. See Ezra & Nehemiah.

John C. Whitcomb, *Esther: Triumph of God's Sovereignty* (Everyman's Bible Commentary). Moody Press, 1979.

Job

Robert L. Alden, *Job* (The New American Commentary). B&H Publishing Group, 1993.

Derek Thomas, *Job: The Storm Breaks* (Welwyn Commentary Series). EP Books, 1995. Thomas has been the Senior Minister at First Presbyterian Church, Columbia, South Carolina, and Professor of Historic and Systematic Theology at Reformed Theological Seminary.

Psalms

Charles H. Spurgeon, *The Treasury of David*.

Derek Kidner, *Psalms: An Introduction & Commentary* (Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries). 2 volumes. IVP, 1973.

Willem A. VanGemeren, "Psalms," in *The Expositor's Bible Commentary*, volume 5, published in 1991.

Steven J. Lawson, *Psalms* (Holman Old Testament Commentary). 2 volumes. B&H Publishers, 2003. Lawson is a teaching fellow at Ligonier Ministries, and Professor of Preaching at the Master's Seminary. Calvinistic and Premillennial.

Dale Ralph Davis, *The Way of the Righteous in the Muck of Life: Psalms 1-12*. Christian Focus, 2010.

Dale Ralph Davis, *Slogging Along in the Paths of Righteousness: Psalms 13-24*. Christian Focus, 2014.

Dale Ralph Davis, *In the Presence of My Enemies: Psalms 25-37*. Christian Focus, 2020.

James Montgomery Boice, *Psalms: An Expositional Commentary*. 3 volumes. Baker Books, 1994. This is a sermonic commentary.

Proverbs

Derek Kidner, *Proverbs: An Introduction and Commentary* (Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries). IVP, 1964.

Duane A. Garrett, *Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs* (The New American Commentary). Broadman Press, 1993.

Charles Bridges, *Proverbs* (Geneva Series of Commentaries). The Banner of Truth Trust. First published 1846.

Ecclesiastes

Duane A. Garrett. See Proverbs.

H. C. Leupold, *Exposition of Ecclesiastes*. Baker Book House, 1952.

Sidney Greidanus, *Preaching Christ from Ecclesiastes* (Foundations for Expository Sermons). Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2010.

Philip Graham Ryken, *Ecclesiastes: Why Everything Matters* (Preaching the Word). Crossway, 2010. This is a sermonic commentary.

Song of Solomon

Duane A. Garrett. See Proverbs.

Paige Patterson, *Song of Solomon* (Everyman's Bible Commentary). Moody Press, 1986.

Jack S. Deere, "Song of Songs," in *Bible Knowledge Commentary*, ed. John F. Walvoord and Roy B. Zuck, volume 1. Victor Books, 1983.

Isaiah

Geoffrey W. Grogan, "Isaiah," in *The Expositor's Bible Commentary*, volume 6, published in 1986. Premillennial.

W. E. Vine, *Isaiah: Prophecies, Promises, Warnings*. Zondervan, 1946. Premillennial.

Gary V. Smith, *Isaiah* (The New American Commentary). 2 volumes. B&H Publishing Group, 2007.

Jeremiah

Charles L. Feinberg, "Jeremiah," in *The Expositor's Bible Commentary*, volume 6, published in 1986. Premillennial.

Irving L. Jensen, *Jeremiah and Lamentations* (Everyman's Bible Commentary). Moody Press, 1966. Premillennial.

F. B. Huey, *Jeremiah, Lamentations* (The New American Commentary). B&H Publishing Group, 1993.

Philip Graham Ryken, *Jeremiah and Lamentations: From Sorrow to Hope* (Preaching the Word). Crossway, 2001. This is a sermonic commentary.

Ezekiel

Ralph Alexander, *Ezekiel* (Everyman's Bible Commentary). Moody Press, 1976. Premillennial.

Lamar Eugene Cooper, *Ezekiel* (The New American Commentary). B&H Publishers, 1994. Premillennial.

Charles L. Feinberg, *The Prophecy of Ezekiel*. Moody Press, 1969.

Daniel

John C. Whitcomb, *Daniel* (Everyman's Bible Commentary). Moody Press, 1985. Premillennial.

Stephen R. Miller, *Daniel* (The New American Commentary). B&H Publishing Group, 1994. Premillennial.

Dale Ralph Davis, *The Message of Daniel: His Kingdom Cannot Fail* (The Bible Speaks Today). IVP, 2013.

Minor Prophets

Robert B. Chisholm, *Interpreting the Minor Prophets*. Zondervan, 1990. Premillennial.

James Montgomery Boice, *The Minor Prophets*. Kregel Publications, 1986. This is a sermonic commentary.

Charles L. Feinberg, *The Minor Prophets*. Moody Press, 1977.

Matthew

William Hendriksen, *Exposition of the Gospel According to Matthew* (New Testament Commentary). Baker Book House, 1973. Calvinistic and Amillennial.

Leon Morris, *The Gospel According to Matthew* (The Pillar New Testament Commentary). Eerdmans, 1992. Amillennial.

D. A. Carson, "Matthew," in *The Expositor's Bible Commentary*, volume 8, published in 1984. Calvinistic and Premillennial.

James Montgomery Boice, *The Gospel of Matthew*. 2 volumes. Baker Books, 2001. This is a sermonic commentary.

Mark

William Hendriksen, *Exposition of the Gospel According to Mark* (New Testament Commentary). Baker Books, 1975.

Sinclair B. Ferguson, *Let's Study Mark*. The Banner of Truth Trust, 1999.

Mark L. Strauss, *Mark* (Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament). Zondervan, 2014.

Daniel L. Akin, *Exalting Jesus in Mark* (Christ-Centered Exposition Commentary). B&H Publishing Group, 2014. This is a sermonic commentary.

Luke

Leon Morris, *The Gospel According to Luke: An Introduction and Commentary* (Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries). IVP, 1988.

William Hendriksen, *Exposition of the Gospel According to Luke* (New Testament Commentary). Baker Book House, 1978.

Philip Graham Ryken, *Luke* (Reformed Expository Commentary). 2 volumes. P&R, 2009. This is a sermonic commentary.

John

William Hendriksen, *John* (New Testament Commentary). Baker Book House, 1953.

Merrill C. Tenney, "John," in *The Expositor's Bible Commentary*, volume 9, published in 1981.

D. A. Carson, *The Gospel According to John* (The Pillar New Testament Commentary). Eerdmans, 1991.

Leon Morris, *Reflections on the Gospel of John*. 4 volumes. Baker Book House, 1986.

Acts

Guy Prentiss Waters, *A Study Commentary on the Acts of the Apostles*. EP Books, 2015. Waters is Professor of New Testament at Reformed Theological Seminary.

John R. W. Stott, *The Message of Acts* (The Bible Speaks Today). IVP, 1990.

F. F. Bruce, *The Book of the Acts*, revised edition (The New International Commentary on the New Testament). Eerdmans, 1988.

Derek H. H. Thomas, *Acts* (Reformed Expository Commentary). P&R, 2011.

Romans

Leon Morris, *The Epistle to the Romans* (The Pillar New Testament Commentary). Eerdmans, 1988.

Douglas Moo, *The Epistle to the Romans* (The New International Commentary on the New Testament). Eerdmans, 1996. Premillennial.

John Murray, *The Epistle to the Romans*. Eerdmans, 1968. Murray was Professor of Systematic Theology at Westminster Theological Seminary.

James Montgomery Boice, *Romans*. 4 volumes. Baker Books, 1991. This is a sermonic commentary.

1 Corinthians

Leon Morris, *1 Corinthians: An Introduction and Commentary* (Tyndale New Testament Commentaries). IVP, 1985.

Mark Taylor, *1 Corinthians* (The New American Commentary). B&H Publishing Group, 2014.

Charles Hodge, *1 & 2 Corinthians* (Geneva Series of Commentaries). The Banner of Truth Trust. First published 1859.

2 Corinthians

Homer A. Kent, *A Heart Opened Wide: Studies in 2 Corinthians*, revised edition. BMH Books, 1982. Kent was President and Professor of New Testament and Greek at Grace Theological Seminary. Calvinistic.

Philip E. Hughes, *The Second Epistle to the Corinthians* (The New International Commentary on the New Testament). Eerdmans, 1962.

Paul Barnett, *The Second Epistle to the Corinthians* (The New International Commentary on the New Testament). Eerdmans, 1997.

Galatians

Timothy George, *Galatians* (The New American Commentary). B&H Publishing Group, 1994.

Leon Morris, *Galatians: Paul's Charter of Christian Freedom*. IVP, 1996.

John R. W. Stott, *The Message of Galatians: Only One Way* (The Bible Speaks Today). IVP, 1968.

Philip Graham Ryken, *Galatians* (Reformed Expository Commentary). P&R, 2005. This is a sermonic commentary.

Ephesians

Homer A. Kent, *The Glory of the Church: Studies in Ephesians*, revised edition. BMH Books, 2005.

Curtis Vaughan, *Ephesians* (Bible Study Commentary). Zondervan, 1977.

Sinclair B. Ferguson, *Let's Study Ephesians*. The Banner of Truth Trust, 2005.

James Montgomery Boice, *Ephesians: An Expositional Commentary*. Baker Books, 1997. This is a sermonic commentary.

Philippians

D. A. Carson, *Basics for Believers*. IVP, 2004.

Gordon D. Fee, *Paul's Letter to the Philippians* (The New International Commentary on the New Testament). Eerdmans, 1995.

James Montgomery Boice, *Philippians: An Expositional Commentary*. Baker Books, 2000. This is a sermonic commentary.

Colossians & Philemon

Homer A. Kent, *Treasures of Wisdom: Studies in Colossians & Philemon*. BMH Books, 1978.

Douglas J. Moo, *The Letters to the Colossians and to Philemon* (The Pillar New Testament Commentary). Eerdmans, 2008.

Dick Lucas, *The Message of Colossians & Philemon: Fullness and Freedom*. IVP, 1980.

1 & 2 Thessalonians

Robert L. Thomas, "1, 2 Thessalonians," in *The Expositor's Bible Commentary*, volume 11, published in 1978. Thomas was Professor of New Testament at The Master's Seminary. Calvinistic, Premillennial, and Pretribulational.

D. Edmond Hiebert, *1 & 2 Thessalonians*. The Moody Bible Institute of Chicago, 1992. Premillennial and Pretribulational.

John R. W. Stott, *The Message of 1 and 2 Thessalonians: The Gospel and the End of Time*. IVP, 1991.

1 & 2 Timothy, Titus

Homer A. Kent, *The Pastoral Epistles*, revised edition. Moody Press, 1982.

D. Edmond Hiebert, *First Timothy* (Everyman's Bible Commentary). Moody Press, 1957.

D. Edmond Hiebert, *Second Timothy*. Moody Press, 1958.

John R. W. Stott, *The Message of 1 Timothy & Titus: Guard the Truth* (The Bible Speaks Today). IVP, 1996.

John R. W. Stott, *The Message of 2 Timothy: Guard the Gospel* (The Bible Speaks Today). IVP, 1973.

Philip Graham Ryken, *1 Timothy* (Reformed Expository Commentary). P&R, 2007. This is a sermonic commentary.

Hebrews

Leon Morris, "Hebrews," in *The Expositor's Bible Commentary*, volume 12, published in 1981.

F. F. Bruce, *The Epistle to the Hebrews*, revised edition (The New International Commentary on the New Testament). Eerdmans, 1990.

Peter T. O'Brien, *The Letter to the Hebrews* (The Pillar New Testament Commentary). Eerdmans, 2010.

Thomas Schreiner, *Hebrews* (Evangelical Biblical Theology Commentary). Lexham Press, 2021.

James

Homer A. Kent, *Faith that Works: Studies in the Epistle of James*. Baker, 1986.

D. Edmond Hiebert, *James*, revised edition. The Moody Bible Institute of Chicago, 1992.

Thomas Manton, *An Exposition of the Epistle of James*. Sovereign Grace Publishers. First published 1653.

R. Kent Hughes, *James: Faith that Works* (Preaching the Word). Crossway, 1991. This is a sermonic commentary.

1 Peter

Wayne A. Grudem, *1 Peter: An Introduction and Commentary* (Tyndale New Testament Commentaries). IVP, 1988.

Edmund P. Clowney, *The Message of 1 Peter: The Way of the Cross* (The Bible Speaks Today). IVP, 1988.
Clowney was President of Westminster Theological Seminary.

Thomas R. Schreiner, *1, 2 Peter, Jude* (The New American Commentary). B&H Publishing Group, 2003.

2 Peter & Jude

Thomas R. Schreiner. See 1 Peter.

D. Edmond Hiebert, *Second Peter and Jude: An Expositional Commentary*. Unusual Publications, 1989.

1, 2, 3 John

Ian Hamilton, *Let's Study the Letters of John*. The Banner of Truth Trust, 2008.

John R. W. Stott, *The Letters of John*, revised edition (Tyndale New Testament Commentaries). IVP, 1988.

Martyn Lloyd-Jones, *Life in Christ: Studies in 1 John*. Crossway, 2002. This is a sermonic commentary.

James Montgomery Boice, *The Epistles of John: An Expositional Commentary*. Baker Books, 1979. This is a sermonic commentary.

Revelation

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