

## **Addendum**

My judgment is that this book would be incomplete without an addendum. There are some things that some of you will need and want that are not included in the preceding chapters. It is even possible that some of you will consider this addendum the most helpful in the entire book. This will tend to be true of those of you who like the satisfaction of doing some personally creative study. I hope this is true of all of you to some degree, whether you are a pastor, another church staff member, a Sunday School teacher, or a lay member of your church who yearns for a deeper understanding of the Scriptures.<sup>1</sup>

### **Books**

The books suggested in this section will be restricted almost exclusively to general reference books. These are the kind of books that can and should be helpful over and over again. Such books are usually rather expensive. For this and other reasons you should carefully add these and others to your personal library. Also, you may wish to ask the opinion of your pastor or some other mature Christian whose judgment you trust for an evaluation of the books.

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<sup>1</sup> On one hand, Maston's reference to resources he used for this book could be considered dated. On the other hand, value can still be found in even older resource materials. As well, the resources he includes provide more data about the context out of which he wrote and the context to which he wrote. To compensate for any sense of datedness, however, the editors have accumulated an "Addendum to the Addendum," following Maston's content. This additional content provides additional contemporary resources for those who desire to continue the considerations Maston has put forth.

All of us should remember that the value of a personal library, as is true of any church, community, or school library, cannot be determined by the number of volumes it contains. More important is the quality of the books, and particularly important is their real or potential value to you and others who may use them. This means, among other things, that books that may be of considerable value to one person may not be worth the space they would require in someone else's library. Let me suggest again that, if possible, you should carefully check these books for yourself before purchasing them.<sup>2</sup> Also, you should be on the alert for any that are not listed that you may want to examine.

### **1. General reference books**

There are two books that have been so helpful in the preparation of the preceding chapters and are so distinctive that I think they should be listed separately. The most helpful book has been W. E. Vine's *An Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words*. First published in 1940 as a four-volume set, it has gone through many printings or "impressions." As a one-volume book, the copy I have is from the "Seventeenth Impression" (1966, published by Fleming H. Revell). Vine also produced a dictionary of Hebrew and Chaldean words. Similarly, Revell has *Vine's Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words* (1568 pages). Nelson recently produced *The Expositor's Dictionary of Biblical Words* (832 pages).

The original plan was to give the price of all the books to which reference is made. As you know, however, prices change so much from time to time that I decided not

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<sup>2</sup> Maston's point of purchasing books gives little attention to finding these resources in libraries, whether local, regional, even congregational. He had the benefit of working at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary which, at the time and for some years, was one of the largest theological library collections anywhere. He used that library for his research.

to give the prices. Most of the books to which reference will be made vary in price from \$10.00 to \$20.00 [at the time of writing *Little Words That Challenge*].

Bethany House and Zondervan both have brought out paperback editions of Vine. Revell has produced a thumb-indexed edition.<sup>3</sup>

The other book that was particularly helpful to me as I prepared the chapters of this book was *The Englishman's Greek Concordance of the New Testament*. The value of this book is evidence to some degree of the fact that it was first produced in the 1840s and is still in print, with some additions from time to time. The copy that I have is the ninth edition (1908). It gives all the Greek words that are translated by a particular English word. An extreme case is “come,” the subject of the first chapter of our study together. There are approximately thirty Greek words that are at times translated “come.” There are many others that are translated “come after,” “come forth,” or similar expressions.

You can get considerable help from *Englishman's* even if you have never studied Greek. Let me repeat, however, that you should, if possible, examine it and other reference books before purchasing them.

Two additional books that I have found through the years to be very helpful reference books include Alan Richardson, ed., *Theological Word Book of the Bible*, The Macmillan Company, 1950. The copy I have is from the Eighth Printing, 1959. There are approximately thirty contributors to this book. The other book is *A Companion to the Bible*, edited by J. J. Von Allmen, Oxford University Press, 1958. This is a translation from the French, with a

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<sup>3</sup> These three publishing companies have all gone through corporate rearrangements and rebranding since Maston's reference to them. The review of these rearrangements can be a fascinating education regarding the Christian publishing world.

brief introduction of the English translation by H. H. Rowley.

## **2. Translations**

In recent years there have been many new translations of the Scriptures. It may be difficult for you to decide which ones of these are or will be of sufficient value for you to purchase a copy. If you are a preacher or teacher in Sunday School, you may decide that it will be wise for you to use the King James Version for your public ministry. The age or educational level of those to whom you minister may be a factor in your choice of a version. For example, my wife (Mommie) teaches the class of oldest women in our church. She thinks it is wise for her to use in the class the King James Version. She uses other versions, to some degree, in the preparation for teaching.

I taught in Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary for many years. I used for the latter years of that teaching the Revised Standard Version. I also used for the earlier years the American Standard Version. The copy of the Revised Standard Version that I have has a valuable preface, which I assume is in all editions or printings. This preface gives some reasons for a new translation.

In addition to the RSV and ASV, I have several other translations. Some of these I have referred to from time to time in the preceding chapters. A glance over those chapters reveals that I have referred most frequently to the New American Standard Bible (NASB), the New English Bible (NEB), and the Good News Bible or Today's English Version (TEV). There have been occasional references to some other relatively recent translations.

Another translation or version that is popular with some folks is the New King James Version (NKJV). It may not be enough different from the old King James Version to

justify its purchase. At least, be sure to check it out before purchasing.

A translation that was quite popular when it first came out but, if I interpret correctly, is not as generally read and used as formerly is The Living Bible (TLB).<sup>4</sup> If you do use it, be sure to remember that it does not claim to be a new translation. It claims to be only a paraphrase. That means that it, more than most if not all other contemporary translations, is an interpretation. It seems relatively clear that it in some places so translates the Scriptures as to support a particular theological position.

There are two other translations to which special attention should be called. One is The Jerusalem Bible. The most distinctive thing about it is the inclusion in the Old Testament section of some of the books usually included in the Apocrypha. The following are included in the historical books of the Old Testament: Tobit, Judith, Esther, and First and Second Maccabees. In addition, there are two books incorporated in the section on the Wisdom books: The Book of Wisdom and Ecclesiasticus. The Jerusalem Bible also includes a brief introduction to every major division such as The Pentateuch, The Historical Books, etc.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> The New Living Bible had not been published with this manuscript draft's production. As well, reviews of The Living Bible paraphrases were available for comparison. Some readers found the TLB opened the sense of Scripture to them in ways that other more formal versions never had.

<sup>5</sup> In Maston's classic *Biblical Ethics*, published first in 1967, he had a chapter dedicated to "The Apocrypha, Pseudepigrapha, and Dead Sea Scrolls." These represented the theological literature produced during the 400-year intertestamental era. Some of these, for example Ecclesiasticus, Maston noted in conversation several years ago, demonstrate a level of authenticity and inspiration that reflect that of those declared canonical. Interestingly, Maston did not include any literature that has been determined to be New Testament Apocrypha.

The other translation that I have found through the years to be very helpful has been the translation of the New Testament by Charles B. Williams. It was originally published by Moody Press in 1937. The copy I have is dated 1958. In the Introduction there are three statements praising the translation. Two of these are by well-known Baptist seminary professors: Edward A. McDowell and J. R. Manley. The other is by a teacher from Moody Bible Institute (John Masters). Williams himself says in the Foreword: “Our aim is to make the greatest book in the world [the Bible] readable and understandable by the plain people.”

The one thing that has been the most helpful to me personally about the translation is the fact that Dr. Williams, a Greek New Testament scholar, was careful to bring out the tense of the Greek verbs. For example, when Jesus sent the Twelve out his order was: “And as you go *continue* to preach . . . *keep on curing* the sick, *raising* the dead. . . I *am sending* you out as sheep surrounded by wolves” (Matthew 10:7-8, 16).<sup>6</sup> The continuing usefulness of Williams’ translation is evidenced by the fact that Holman, now affiliated with Broadman, has recently brought out a new printing of Williams almost fifty years after it first appeared.

There is an excellent study Bible put out by Holman that many of you would find helpful. It is The New American Standard Master Study Bible, Holman Brothers Publishers (1981). It includes a considerable section on “The Life and Teachings of Jesus,” which includes a section of over one hundred pages on “The Gospels Paralleled.” There is also a comparable section on “The Teachings of Jesus Arranged by Subjects” of approximately sixty pages. Also, there are comparable sections of an encyclopedia, a master study Bible, and a concordance.

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<sup>6</sup> Italics added for emphasis.

It may be of interest to many of you to know that Thomas Nelson and Sons has published *The Apocrypha* (Revised Standard Version) as a separate volume (1957).

### 3. Dictionaries

Any serious student, biblical or otherwise, should have readily available a good general dictionary. An elderly teacher of mine many years ago, in emphasizing the need for a good dictionary, frequently added: “And you had better place it close by where you can reach it without having to get up. Many of you will be too lazy to get up or will think that it is not important enough to get the exact word you need or the correct spelling.” If you are a pastor, a speaker, or a writer, or simply a student of the Scriptures, you should have a good dictionary.

As is frequently true in other areas, one of the best Bible dictionaries is quite old. This is the *Smith's Bible Dictionary*. The copy I have, and use was published by Holman Co. It is a revised edition and includes, among other things, an analytical and comparative concordance. Some of you may be interested to know that I have a copy of Smith's that is a highly prized possession. It is a copy revised by F. H. and M. A. Paloubet, copyright 1894. The inscription on the flyleaf is what makes this book so highly prized by me. It was inscribed by S. H. Maston, my daddy, June 10, 1892, several years before my birth. The price is also interesting. It was purchased for \$1.50, which was the regular price.

Other Bible dictionaries that you may want to check are *Hasting's Bible Dictionary*, revised by Frederick C. Grant and H. H. Rowley (1963) and published by Charles Scribner's sons, and *Harper's Bible Dictionary* by Madelaine S. Miller and J. Lane Miller. The eighth edition was 1973.

A few years ago, Eerdmans Publishing Company produced *The New Biblical Dictionary*, edited by J. U.

Douglas and four consulting editors, one of whom was the well-known and highly respected F. F. Bruce. One of the better one-volume dictionaries is by Merrill Unger and was published by Moody Press in 1957. It is a volume of 1192 pages.

Some of you may be interested in checking a couple of books that are not typical Bible dictionaries. One is *Expository Dictionary of Bible Words*, Zondervan (1985), by Lawrence G. Richards. The other is *The Dictionary of Religious Terms*, Revell (1967), by Donald T. Kauffman.

The original plan was to have a section on encyclopedias. There are several more or less comprehensive Bible encyclopedias, but they are multi-volume sets. Also, some of the dictionaries and concordances serve the purpose of encyclopedias. Some are combinations of concordances and encyclopedias.

#### **4. Concordances**

Some of you may have a copy of Young's *Analytical Concordance of the King James Version* and/or Strong's *Exhaustive Concordance*. There is no comparable concordance of the Revised Standard Version as Young's unless it is the one by Clinton Morison, published by Westminster in 1979.<sup>7</sup> Some of you would find very helpful the Index-Lexicon of approximately one hundred pages in the Concordance.

If you have a favorite of the newer translations that you use considerably, you may want to check to see whether there is a concordance on that version. There are several such concordances, including one on the New International Version (NIV). If you are interested in others, my suggestion

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<sup>7</sup> *Analytical Concordance to the Revised Standard Version of the New Testament*.



is that you check in a library or bookstore if such is available to you.

As suggested earlier, some books, such as concordances, have additional source material that may be of interest. For example, the concordance of the New American Standard Bible has both a Hebrew-Aramaic dictionary and a Greek dictionary. This volume was published by Holman in 1981.

## **5. Commentaries**

I personally have a few complete sets of commentaries on the New Testament and one or two on the Old Testament or both Old Testament and New Testament. I have needed these in the teaching and work that I have done. If you have read the preceding chapters, you have noticed references to commentaries, more to *Word Pictures in the New Testament* and to *Cambridge Bible* than to any others. The first is a set of commentaries on the New Testament, written by A. T. Robertson, famous Baptist New Testament scholar, who taught for many years at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. The Cambridge series covers the Old Testament and the New Testament. Each volume, with a few exceptions, was written by a different British scholar. As is usually true of sets of books written by different authors, they differ somewhat in quality. One of the things I like about *The Cambridge Bible Commentary* is its compactness.

Unless you are a preacher or a teacher in a college or theological seminary you will doubtless prefer to restrict your purchases to particular or special volumes more or less closely related to the study you are or will be doing for occasional responsibilities that you have or for Sunday teaching or simply for the enrichment of your own life.

There are two one-volume commentaries of the entire Bible that may be worth investigating. One is *The Abingdon Bible Commentary*, Abingdon Press (1929). There

are approximately sixty-five contributors to the volume. There are a dozen articles on the Bible as a whole, fifteen articles on the Old Testament, and thirteen on the New Testament. In addition to the commentaries on the various books of the Old and New Testaments, there are six pages of maps and an index of forty-one pages. Its overall length is 452 pages and was copyrighted by Abingdon Press in 1929.

The other one-volume commentary of the entire Bible that I believe is worth checking about is *The New Layman's Bible Commentary*, edited by G. C. D. Howley, F. F. Bruce, and H. L. Ellison, copyright 1979 by Pickering and Inglis, LTD., in Great Britain, and by Zondervan in the United States also in 1979. This commentary has sixteen general articles on the Old Testament, four of them by F. F. Bruce. There are fourteen general articles on the New Testament with two of them written by the well-known and generally favorably known biblical scholar F. F. Bruce. This is a volume of 1712 pages and is my personal preference of the one-volume commentaries.

May I close this section on “Books” by suggesting again that you should be very careful about the books you purchase. Major on books that you will need to use repeatedly.

### **Additional Little Words**

You know, of course, that the preceding chapters have not called attention to all the significant “Little Words” in the Scriptures. In this section I want to suggest some possible areas for your personal study. It is hoped that you will have the joy and the sense of fulfillment that comes when one has worked out a message or a series of messages that has resulted from one's own study.

## **1. Additional Four- and Five-Letter Verbs**

There are an abundance of four- and five-letter verbs that have not been discussed in the preceding chapters. Each of the following has been checked in Vine's *Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words*. There are enough references where these verbs are used to work out a message. You may even want to work out for yourself a series of messages based on the following verbs:

amaze, anger, avoid, bear, beat, bless, break, bring, burn, call, care, cast, cease, cover, doubt, drink, dwell, enter, fall, fear, fill, gain, give, grow, guard, have, hear, help, hide, judge, keep, leave, live, light, look, lust, make, meet, mind, mourn, move, name, need, obey, offer, open, past, pray, press, prove, raise, read, rest, rule, save, seal, serve, show, shine, speak, spend, stand, stir, take, tarry, teach, tell, tempt, think, touch, turn watch, work, write.

## **2. Little Nouns**

Vine lists nouns as well as verbs. Really, there are some nouns as well as verbs that could be the basis for a series of messages. This is certainly true of "love" as a verb and/or as a noun.

## **3. A Special Little Verb**

There is one little word that you may wonder why a chapter was not devoted to in the previous chapters. There were several reasons for not devoting a chapter to it. The word is "go." Let me simply suggest a possible outline that you might use sometime. You may wish to fill out the following outline if you care to use it or work out an outline of your own:

## Introduction

1. Who should go?
2. Why should we go?
3. Where or to whom should we go?

Conclusion: What will be our reward for going?

## Discussion Questions:

1. Does this addendum from Maston create a kind of dissonance for you as you move from an etymological study to a review of Bible versions, translations, and helps? Or does Maston's idea of including an addendum fit your sense of the pattern or model he has put forward?
2. With regard to biblical reference resources, what do you think of a group of pastors or church leaders representing different traditions building cooperatively a collection of these kinds of resources? The resources could be managed in the fashion of contemporary libraries, with both hard copies as well as digital versions.
3. How have you been educated in reading, interpreting, and applying Scripture? Do you have a favorite version or translation? If so, why?
4. Maston's thought of using an "old" dictionary, i.e. Smith's, begs the question, *How does one determine the value of a publication related to its age of production?* What value is there to Maston's manuscript, without and with contemporary contextualizing?
5. What has been your experience of the *authority* of Scripture being conflated with the authority of the *interpretation* of Scripture?
6. Does Maston's suggested list of other little words give you ideas for developing a sermon or lesson series on some of these words? Which ones pique your interest?
7. Maston did not list any "little word" nouns. What might be some?

8. What is your response to the lack of a chapter on “go”?
9. Some of the editors of the manuscript suggested that Maston left “a dangling conversation” with the lack of a conclusion that summarizes the book’s intents and suggestions for applications. How would you write the conclusion?

## **Addendum to the Addendum**

**By Bill Tillman, with additional contributions from  
David Morgan, Erin Conaway, and Jake Raabe**

General reference books, commentaries, Bible translations, Bible dictionaries, and concordances continued to be published after Maston’s book was completed. And, without a doubt, such resources will continue to be published. The Maston Foundation intends to provide updates to this “Addendum to the Addendum” from time to time.

A format not available in Maston’s time is the internet, of course, which includes in digital form some of the resources he considered helpful. With online information available, one’s research and study can be broader and deeper than was formerly possible. Following, then, are suggestions regarding all of Maston’s range of helpful bibliography and more. These suggestions are from those who participated in one way or another on the editorial work on *Little Words That Challenge*. They have found these additional resources to be helpful in the contemporary cultural context.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> Underlining and coloring of some book titles in this “Addendum to the Addendum” indicates that clicking on the title connects to the book’s location on amazon.com as of 8/6/2024. Other books listed may also be found on amazon.com. In addition, books listed may be found at other online sites and at some local or academic bookstores. Website addresses were operable when accessed on 8/6/2024.

## 1. General reference books

The two general reference books Maston named remain in print. They have withstood the test of time and remain relevant today for students of Scripture. Thomas Nelson Publishers has merged Vine's Old and New Testament word studies into *Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words*. *The Englishman's Greek Concordance of the New Testament* is now offered by Hendrickson Academic.

You might also consider *The Englishman's Hebrew Concordance of the Old Testament*. Students without backgrounds in Hebrew or Greek will find these books especially useful.

Here are some additional general reference books to consider:

*Dictionary of Biblical Imagery*, ed. Leland Ryken, James C. Wilhoit and Tremper Longman III, IVP, 1998.

Understanding images and their symbolism is critical to a fruitful, responsible reading of any biblical passage. The *Dictionary of Biblical Imagery* considers thousands of common symbols throughout the Old and New Testaments, connecting them to elements of the writer's historical context and comparing them with and contrasting them to the use of that symbol in other passages of the Bible. When you notice a certain image showing up repeatedly in a passage, this book is a great resource for thinking more holistically about what it might mean.

*Lives of Great Religious Books* series, Princeton University Press.

This is a secular series about the history of interpretation of various religious texts. Several volumes cover books of the Bible. At the time of this writing, the series has entries on Genesis, Exodus, Job, Song of Solomon, and Revelation, as well as on several important theological works such as Thomas Aquinas's *Summa Theologica* and John Calvin's *Institutes of the Christian Religion*. Each volume is a careful, thorough examination of the way Christians have interacted with these texts throughout the history of the church.

*An Introduction to the New Testament*, Raymond Brown, in *The Anchor Bible Reference Series*, Doubleday, 1996.

Textbook-style overviews of the Old and New Testaments are not hard to find, but Raymond Brown's New Testament introduction remains one of the most popular for serious but faith-committed study even more than twenty-five years after publication. Brown's volume is a thorough book-by-book historical and theological explanation of each book in the New Testament.

## **2. Translations**

*The Ultimate 84-Book Apocrypha: The Largest and Most Complete Collection of Lost Biblical Texts—Featuring Enoch, Jasher, and Jubilees, with Deuterocanon and Pseudepigrapha, Lost Gospels, Apocalypses, and More.*

This volume provides a collection of non-canonical books prepared during the intertestamental time as well as some prepared likely after, perhaps during the



time when the canonical books were written and canonized.

*The Word: The New Testament from 26 Translations*, by Curtis Vaughan, Mathis Publishers, Inc.

The production of this volume succeeded T. B. Maston's access to translations but also preceded translations that followed its original publication. Vaughan's work demonstrates the layers of meaning in the language of the New Testament.

*26 Translations of the Holy Bible (3-Volume Set)*, by Curtis Vaughan, edited by AMG Publishers.

The methodology exhibited in *The Word: The New Testament from 26 Translations* was applied to the Old Testament as well. As with the New Testament, this collection demonstrates the layers of meaning in the language of the Bible.

<https://www.biblegateway.com/>

*Biblegateway.com* is a searchable online Bible in more than 150 versions and 50 languages. In addition to free access to multiple translations, premium services are available for a fee. The Apocrypha is also accessible. Verse comparison from all translations is a helpful feature. For a quick way to compare and contrast translations of verses and passages, this resource is invaluable. BibleGateway is supported by HarperCollins Christian Publishing.

### 3. Dictionaries

[\*The Westminster Dictionary of Christian Ethics\*](#), by James F. Childress and John MacQuarrie, Westminster Press; 2<sup>nd</sup> Rev Sub edition (March 1, 1986).

This volume offers comparisons of definitions of terms, issues, and movements peculiar to the mid-1980s and before to now. It updates the *Dictionary of Christian Ethics*, by John MacQuarrie, Westminster Press, First Edition (January 1, 1967).

*Baker's Dictionary of Christian Ethics* by Carl Ferdinand Howard Henry, Canon Press (January 1, 1973).

This volume was available when Maston wrote *Little Words That Challenge*. Why he did not include it in his addendum remains a question. Although from the early 1970s, the book provides another view into the history of Christian ethics.

[\*Pocket Dictionary of Ethics: Over 300 Terms Ideas Clearly Concisely Defined \(The IVP Pocket Reference Series\)\*](#), by Stanley J. Grenz and Jay T. Smith, IVP Academic (August 1, 2003).

This is a starter book for those who have had little to no study in Christian ethics. Yet, the text can boost one into the reading and conversation around ethical concepts.

[\*The New Unger's Bible Dictionary\*](#), by Merrill F. Unger and R. K. Harrison, Moody Publishers, New edition (May 1, 2006).

This volume is an update of Unger's 1957 endeavor. The dictionary broadens the context of the words and

themes in the Bible, thus demonstrating the interface of theology and ethics.

*Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary: New and Enhanced Edition*, by Ronald F. Youngblood, F. F. Bruce, et al.

This is another dictionary that has had continuous updating. Combined with the foregoing treatments, the student of applied theology will be rewarded.

*Mercer Dictionary of the Bible*, Editors: Watson E. Mills, Edgar V. McKnight, Roger A. Bullard, Joel F. Drinkard, Jr., Walter Harrelson (September 1, 1997).

This volume is a useful tool that provides concise summaries of biblical books, places, and words. It will be helpful to students of Scripture at all levels, for those just starting and for those who are more advanced.

*HarperCollins Bible Dictionary*.

The *HarperCollins Bible Dictionary* is intended for a wide audience. It was written by academicians, but the presentation is nontechnical and accessible for most readers. The articles are descriptive in nature and not written to promote a specific theological perspective.

*IVP Bible Dictionary Series*, InterVarsity Press.

This is an eight-volume set covering the entire Old and New Testaments by section. Each volume contains several hundred entries written by respected scholars in a manner easy for lay readers to understand. Topics include whole books, important characters, major theological and philosophical concepts, and anything else necessary for a strong

understanding of the section of the Bible each volume covers.

*Dictionary of Scripture and Ethics*, ed. Joel B. Green, Baker Academic, 2011.

This dictionary takes a topical approach to the Bible with a focus on ethics. Entries range from hot-button issues such as abortion and immigration to concepts such as natural law and virtue ethics. Entries are thorough and avoid coming across as polemical. Each entry compiles relevant biblical passages on the topic and makes suggestions for how those passages might come together to form a bigger ethical picture.

#### **4. Concordance**

*The New Strong's Expanded Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible*, Thomas Nelson; Expanded edition.

This concordance undergoes continuing expansion. An app is also available.

#### **5. Commentaries**

##### **a. Single-volume commentaries**

*The New Interpreter's Bible One-Volume Commentary*, by Beverly Roberts Gaventa, David L. Petersen, David L. Bartlett, (July 1, 2010).

Written for both the novice and the more advanced reader. The contributors come from a wide diversity of religious traditions. The focus is on exploring the Bible and engaging in theological conversation regarding the text.

*HarperCollins Bible Commentary, Revised Edition*, by James L. Mays, (November 21, 2000).

This commentary is an attempt at making accessible the best current scholarship to general audiences.

*Mercer Commentary on the Old Testament: Including the Deuterocanonical Literature* (Introductory Courses on the B.I.B.L.E), by Watson E Mills and Richard F Wilson.

*Mercer Commentary on the New Testament* (Introductory Courses on the B.I.B.L.E), by Watson E Mills and Richard F Wilson.

Mercer Press divided its one-volume commentary into two volumes, one for the Old Testament and one for the New. The commentaries offer an introduction and outline for each book and then provide commentary on the text. As with other one-volume commentaries, this set is limited in the information it provides, but it offers essential help without the cost of multi-volume sets.

## **b. Multi-volume commentaries**

*Interpretation: A Bible Commentary for Teaching and Preaching* (43 volumes), Westminster John Knox Press.

As the title suggests, this work is especially good for preparation of sermons. Contributors represent many Christian traditions, and each contributor is a respected biblical scholar. While using the best technical tools, the writing is not complex but quite accessible to most laypersons. As with most multi-volume sets, some treatments are more helpful than others.

*Smyth and Helwys Bible Commentary.*

This excellent general commentary is usable by laypeople as well as scholars. It is not as technical as some might wish because of the desire to be understandable to the general reader. It is especially helpful in sermon preparation and teaching small groups in Bible study. The series is not yet complete, and volumes continue to be released.

*New Testament for Everyone series*, by N.T. Wright,  
Westminster John Knox.

Wright's *New Testament for Everyone* commentary series provides a section-by-section walkthrough of each book of the New Testament, using illustrations and personal connections to aid in understanding and applying the text.

*IVP Application Commentary series*, InterVarsity Press.

The *IVP* [InterVarsity Press] *Application Commentary* series is a bit more technical than the *New Testament for Everyone* but is still a valuable resource for Bible readers of any background. Volumes have a unique layout. Each section starts with a traditional verse-by-verse commentary, then has a "Bridging Contexts" section that makes analogies between the text and contemporary contexts, and ends with a "Contemporary Significance" section that reflects on the major theological and ethical implications of the passage. Few commentary series do as good a job combining close study of the text with modern applications.

## **6. Other formats**

### **The Center for Action and Contemplation**

<https://cac.org/podcasts/>

The Center for Action and Contemplation produces several podcasts for nurturing spiritual health. The website lists other resources such as the Daily Meditation series.

### **The Bible for Normal People**

<https://thebiblefornormalpeople.com>

The link connects to podcasts, books, and courses, as well as giving a platform for those interested in discussing both biblical and non-biblical aspects of Christian faith.