

## Books for Bible Expositors

The works listed here are only suggestions. Each person will need to adapt it to fit his own needs. "Books are like clothes: what fits one person's needs and style may not fit another person's at all". Also, this list is limited to a basic collection in the fields of biblical studies and theology, and does not identify other items that an expositor may wish to acquire. The expositor should acquire a number of important items on current biblical and theological issues to assist him in his study and keep himself current. The purpose of this list to assist a new generation of aspiring expository preachers in gathering a collection of tools for this worthy task. It includes books which have or will stand the test of time and tries to avoid items based only on current theological speculation.

The list has a wider purpose, however. It is for a wide spectrum of readers who are seeking to assemble a well rounded library. Serious expositors should consider the entire list as a model library. A reasonable goal is to acquire the volumes in ten years. The first items to purchase have been marked with an asterisk (\*). These same ones can serve as a basic list for a serious layman or devoted pastor who wishes to accumulate less than the proposed 500+ titles for assistance in Bible study. The following are clarifications regarding the list:

1. Some of the volumes listed under individual commentaries are parts of sets which are also included in the list. They have not been counted twice.
2. When entire sets are recommended, it is understood that individual volumes within each set are uneven quality because of a variety of authors. The expositor should sometimes buy selectively from sets with this in mind. In other cases, he should own entire sets so that he has resources on the whole Bible.
3. The expositor may choose to wait to purchase commentaries on individual books of the Bible until he needs them. He should remember, however, that books are in and out of print and that he may not always have the time or be in the right place to secure good materials. The KEY to building a good library is a good "want list" carefully pursued over a period of time. Books tend to show up when least expected and often cannot be found when needed! They are often cheaper when a need for them is not so urgent.

The list can also be used as a study guide for those with access to a theological library. It can also be modified and made suitable as a basis for a church library in biblical studies.

### I. Bibliographic Tools

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\*These are entry level titles that a lay person would first add to his library. A college or seminary student would want to go beyond these titles.

Bible Software Programs: Many of the titles listed above can be found in several Bible Software programs like:

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**GRAMCORD** a powerful desktop arrangement of parallel Greek/Hebrew/English Bibles, word concordances, Greek/Hebrew lexicons and dictionaries, and related Bible study tools and permits exporting of Bible passages into word-processing documents.

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### **Abbreviations**

- ICC = International Critical Commentary
- NICNT = New International Commentary on the New Testament
- NICOT = New International Commentary on the Old Testament
- TNTC = Tyndale New Testament Commentaries
- TOTC = Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries

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