Right hand Bible, left hand commentary?, on: 2009/4/26 8:55
With so many books advertized and so many ways to be distracted, lately, I have been wondering about cutting down to just my bible for awhile...but I would also like a good commentary.

Does anyone have a suggestion for the best one on the market?...in all of history...

Henry? MacArthur? ... what does/did Poonen use?

Blessings,
BrianMira

Re: Right hand Bible, left hand commentary?, on: 2009/4/26 23:00
Hi Brian & Mira. Praying you both are well.
I'd like to suggest just downloading e-word if you haven't already and just using Torrey's "Treasury of Scriptural Knowledge" - Robertson's Word Pictures and any Dictionary offered, like the King James Concordance and with the KJV+ Numbers to the Strong's.
I think "word studies" in the original languages oneself and the help of the cross-referencing in Torrey's book is better than commentaries. Besides, it's free. :-)

Re: Right hand Bible, left hand commentary? - posted by Drawn2Jesus (), on: 2009/4/26 23:19
Hello, I would like to recommend a great Bible and commentary in one called the "life in the Spirit study bible" formerly the "Full life study bible". It's put out by Zondervon. It's been a real blessing to me and my brothers and sisters in the Lord and is full of many enlightening articles on various and sensitive bible topics it gives a straight forward scriptural perspective on the word of God with many scriptural references to bolster any comments made. If you believe in sanctification and spiritual purity and holiness as a standard for God's people I would strongly recommend this study bible. As you know no commentary is inerrant but this study bible comes as close as I've seen to the Spirit that has inspired the written word of God. God bless you in Christ,Howie. :-)

Re: - posted by TaylorOtwell (), on: 2009/4/26 23:31
Great question.

Matthew Henry is very "devotional", but also has good insights into the text.

Matthew Poole is briefer than Henry, and more focused on simply expositing the text. He usually doesn't elaborate as much as Henry.

John Gill is really solid. But pretty hefty at 8 volumes.

If I were going to pick one commentary set for the whole Bible, it would be hard for me to pick between John Gill and Matthew Henry. C.H. Spurgeon said that he would take Matthew Poole over any other set.

I would also mention John Calvin's commentaries, but he did not write one for every book in the Bible. However, the books he did finish are very good as well.
Re: am I confused?????, on: 2009/4/27 0:31
Thank You, ALL.

I am wondering if I am asking about the right book; I know the difference between a commentary and a concordance... which should I be focusing on having in my left hand?! (more so than the other)

Re: - posted by BeYeDoers (), on: 2009/4/27 0:44
I think a good concordance will be much more valuable than a commentary. Your best bet is a KJV bible with a Strong's exhaustive. If you prefer "modern" English, go with a NASB; Zondervan has an exhaustive NASB concordance that is very good.

As far as commentaries (if you are looking), I second the e-sword idea. For what it's worth (not much I'm sure), I really am not impressed with John Gill or John MacArthur. Their theology clearly gets in the way of their exegesis in many instances, and they are not always very honest with the text. I agree with TaylorOrwell that Henry can be a little too devotion al at times, but he is very good, and tends to be very humble and more honest with the text than most.

In summary: go with a Bible/concordance, it will take you much farther.

Commentaries: I have come to appreciate some commentaries as a way to have fellowship with other believers.

Please do not misunderstand me. There is a place for commentaries and surely God uses them. But man is also likely to use them, and sometimes poorly. Many pastors point to the time they lost what turned out to be crucial communion with God by seeking out commentaries in preparing messages for those under their care. The growth of many "students" is stunted when think they have settled the issue (never true) having read a honestly great commentary.

When you ask which ONE commentary you should you choose, ("the best in all of history"), you may be asking which ONE has heard the most (more extensively, deepest truth, etc.) from the Holy Spirit. You might do best to never read them until long, long after you have heard from the Holy Spirit of God yourself. Your post suggests that you may even have had enough of commentaries for a while (God leading you?). I am sure you know that the writers of any commentaries you would want to read ("the best in all of history") did just that, heard directly. Why would we want something "second-hand." It is not that there is not truth in commentaries. Truth can be learned in several ways. But God IS Jealous and first-hand IS best. There is no way that you can forget first-hand revelation. It is living truth. There is the intimacy with God. The increased prayer. There is no question God has fed you. You have asked and He has answered. You can grow greatly in recognizing Him, how He leads. The indwelling Spirit of God knows exactly what and when to teach you very specific Truth for your growth and usefulness and God's glory.

This is a long post for a short caution. What I would really like to know Brian, and what I am thanking God for, is What God is wanting to reveal to you that He brings you to the point of this question?

Re: , on: 2009/4/27 3:37

Quote:
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JoanM wrote:
This is a long post for a short caution. What I would really like to know Brian, and what I am thanking God for, is What God is wanting to reveal to you that He brings you to the point of this question?
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I appreciate your caution.

I think my first mistake was in stating commentary rather than concordance... other than that, I believe God 'is wanting to reveal' Him to me, which is why I asked the question.
Yes, I understand your point about the Holy Spirit. Actually, I was waiting for someone to point that out.

I just need some help with the connection of scriptures, which I believe is the purpose of the concordance.

Thank you though... I am seeking Him and hope to more and more and more.

Blessings,
BrianMira

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Re: Right hand Bible, left hand commentary?, on: 2009/4/27 10:30

Hi Brian,

Quote:
----------------------I just need some help with the connection of scriptures, which I believe is the purpose of the concordance.
----------------------

I used to use Young's concordance (which now comes with Strong's numbers), because it doesn't offer any opinion at all . But, the section for some words are very long, which makes Bible study comparatively laborious, although not without the benefits of the hidden gems one discovers on the way - such as the different Hebrew words with their specific meanings, which seem to arrive in English sounding the same.

(I find Young's Literal Translation helpful and full of the love of God, as well as dense in places. Sometimes he is far more direct than the KJV - for instance, in translating what Jesus said to the Pharisees. He is consistently useful in underst anding the tense of verbs, and, the definite and indefinite article.)

To speed up this process, I now use www.olivetree.com's online Bible search (link at foot of their homepage screen), which allows a phrase of up to four words or a chapter, or, a chapter and verse to be searched for. I've never used their facility to compare different versions of one verse, but it can be done quite easily.

(The main translation not included in their options, is the NIV, for which very occasionally I use www.biblegateway.com to search.)

The Newberry Bible, with its excellent introduction and notes on the Hebrew, is, sadly, not online; but Tyndale's New Testament in modern English is, (I think - possibly in breach of copyright), both of which help one to follow the thought of the writers. Ron Bailey has put Tyndale online with Old English spelling.

Latterly, I've taken an interest in the Greek alphabet, to isolate a word I want to study from the online Interlinear (Berry's) in olivetree.com. One then can search Strong's number on that word, (probably less rather than more spiritual), and, one can search for all the places that particular word (or root of it) occurs in the New Testament.

Similarly, one can search an online Septuagint for the Greek translation of the Hebrew, to see how the usage changes in the New Testament, if it appears there at all. (This may be a bit of a blunt instrument, but it definitely helps to sifting out the English when it doesn't communicate clearly.) The more I write, the more I realise I'm not answering your question!

It depends what you mean by 'connection of scriptures'. Definitely, the Holy Spirit will stop you at a word or verse He wants you to delve into, and will remind you of revelation you've had before, as much as give you revelation you've never had before. The minister can take others only as far as he has gone himself - which I feel must be quite obvious from the se comments!

God bless you!

Perhaps there is a reasonably priced CD containing a stock of these resources, which would then run on a laptop or pc without the internet? The only problem I've noticed in the past with such CDs, is they often contain more reading than you will live to complete.
I think the people in this thread bring up some interesting points.

I don't think one needs to make concordances and commentaries mutually exclusive. I think, ultimately, it would be wise to own both (whether through e-Sword or print is up to you).

I don't mean to be contentious or wish to start an argument, but would like to present perhaps a different view of using commentaries than many on this site would advocate. I used to be of the notion that one shouldn't use a commentary until they've "heard from the Holy Spirit" themselves. I don't think you will really find any support for this Biblically. What I see in the Scripture is that we are to use the means available to us in order to understand the Scriptures, and we are to use the resources passed down to us by our fathers in the faith. So, if you don't understand a portion of Scripture, grab a commentary and don't feel bad about it. Thank the Lord for allowing us to have these resources and thank the Lord for working through these resources to enlighten our minds and hearts.

With care in Christ,
Taylor

I think many of the mentioned commentary are good to use, also concordance and dictionary's.

My self have used many different kinds and have been blessed by many. We have to find our own way so to speak, there are numerous methods to use as an instrument for digging in Gods word, but the way some have been blessed don't necessarily will help you in your study.

There are a few principles and some things that are good to use as a guide, but i believe it comes down to find the way that reveals most to you personally, the way that makes you know God more and makes you practice what you get revelation on.

I have for my self used methods that gave me great knowledge in the bible and doctrines, but it didn't really change my life, its good to know these things, but for me now i don't use a very advanced method, i just read the word and when my heart gets warmed and God speaks to me, i can stay with one single verse for a long time. Comparing it and looking at different commentary's ect and look at dictionaries and look other passages where that word occurs etc etc.

so what i am saying, if these methods and pointers by other help you to know God more and obey him more, wonderful, but seek God, find the way that gives you most. different ways works for different people.

some time ago i started searching for this myself, and set out on a long journey to find the "secret" in how to study the bible, i read much from many of the "heroes of faith" through out classic christianity, and compiled a thread, some of it i practiced and still do, some dont work for me, some blessed me, maybe you find something for you as well

(https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/newbb/viewtopic.php?topic_id15692&forum36&88) how to get the most from reading your bible

what i do recommend is get a kjv widemargin bible, strongs concordance and dictionary, a few notebooks for longer writing that wont fit the widemargins, a treasure of scriptural knowledge and you have a few very powerful tools, in america you can get these items very cheap, i just spoke with a brother in finland that said the cheapest interlinear bible he had found was about 1200 dollars, a dictionary can cost up to 800 dollars, and if you know english you can get these items for under 80 dollars i think, so being able to read English is a huge blessing and advantage, many people can never use these tools due to economy and other things. So let us use these things with a great gratitude and privilege that they are.

God bless you

Quote:
--------------------------i just spoke with a brother in finland that said the cheapest interlinear bible he had found was about 1200 dollars, a dictionary can cost up to 800 dollars, and if you know english you can get these items for under 80 dollars i think, so being able to read English is a huge blessing and advantage, many people can never use these tools due to economy and other things. So let us use these things with a great gratitude and privilege that they are.
--------------------------

This was sobering. A good reminder to be thankful for what has been given to us and use it wisely.

Re: , on: 2009/4/27 14:26
Matthew Henry.

Krispy

Thank you Brian for your gracious reply. If I understand you better you might want to look at Zodhiates (Complete Word Study (Old and New Testament) and dictionary.

Before his death, God used him in my life to KNOW HIM (Phi 3:10) specifically through actual Greek. He had a great burden to do this with first Greek and later Hebrew. There may even be recordings of him teaching passages from the new testament so you could check him out that way.

My recollection from his testimony is evangelism flowed out of this labor to bring into English the riches he was flooded with from the Greek of the Word. I too have found great Glory of God hidden in God's choice of language. All translators wrestle with this. In case it encourages you, God revealed Himself as Jesus the Christ as I struggled to get the perfect English translation of the Greek word, Logos in John 1:1. (yea, I know odd) You probably know that in Greek, when you give the Logos, you give the “thing itself”. God was merciful to this clueless tiny one truly laboring to grasp the Truth of His word Logos. Thus I later appreciated Zodhiates and his burden from the time of his new birth.

All of this was long ago and I am certainly not the most knowledgeable on references. No one had mentioned him so I have.

Re: - posted by theopenlife, on: 2009/4/27 18:22
For general commentaries I prefer Henry and Calvin.

For the Gospel's, Ryle's "Expository Thought on the Gospels" is an easy choice. For the Psalms, Spurgeon's "Treasury of David."

For concordances, I am only familiar with Strong's and Young's. Normally Strong's is enough. For me, comparing scripture with scripture is usually sufficient.


Quote:
--------------------------For the Gospel's, Ryle's "Expository Thought on the Gospels" is an easy choice.
--------------------------

I forgot about this one, but I really like what I have read from Ryle. I like Henry's devotional style, does Ryle have that same approach?
Re: - posted by theopenlife, on: 2009/4/28 21:04
Rye is exceedingly practical. His book "Holiness" is FIRST RATE.

Agreed. "Holiness" by Ryle was probably one of the first Puritan-esque books I laid hands on.

Re: , on: 2009/4/28 21:30

Quote:
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KrispyKrittr wrote:
Matthew Henry.
Krispy
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Do you want to hear (read) something funny (sad)?! Last year while I attended my first year of seminary, our professor would not accept any paper with Henry as a reference. We were continuously 'encouraged' to use the more 'up to date' scholars, who were more 'learned' and 'wise'. :-(

It always struck me as strange, especially since I read and hear of the usefulness of his work.

By the way, thank you all for your advice. One must consider that I am in South Korea, where good ...anything... commentaries or concordances are rare, if not impossible to come by.

However, I am willing to buy something like a concordance if it will be of use.

Thank you again. Also, my wife has been doing much much better. We had an ultrasound the other day (we are able to as often as we like) and the stubby (9 week) sweetheart started dancing. We were tickled.

Blessings,
BrianMira