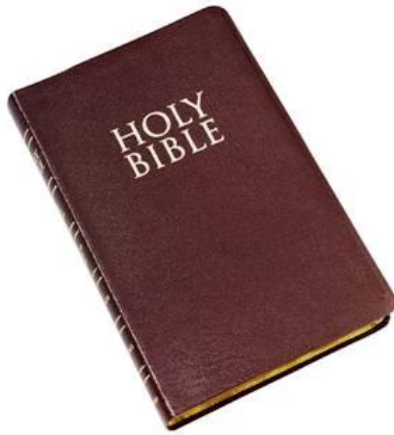


Reading List and Bible Study Resources



Dr. Jerry Nelson

Bible Software: I highly recommend “Logos.” Many software packages come with commentaries and other devotional works as part of the package. A reader should note that the other materials are not necessarily theologically sound. Instead of uncritically reading such commentaries, it is probably better to select authors you are more likely to trust.

Word Study Books: I don’t recommend any particular word-study books. Word studies have limited value because the biblical context is the primary source of meaning. (See Scripture/Interpretation books listed below.) Electronic Bible software will allow you to see how specific words are used elsewhere in the Bible (see Bible Software above).

On-line Sites: Monergism.com (The best site I know for commentary on specific biblical passages and papers on theology, etc. Desiringgod.org (Many good resources but best known for Piper’s sermons on many passages of Scripture). Cyberhymnal.org or Nethymnal.org (trying to find a song that you almost know the words to). thegospelcoalition.org/resources/topic-index/a/221636# (Excellent resource for articles and commentaries on subjects and Bible texts – these are authors and preachers I largely trust). Biblegateway.com (searchable Bible; some commentaries) Brainyquote.com (When you need to find the source of a quote you almost remember). www.soundliving.org (my website of sermons and articles)

Scholarly authors I trust:

Older: Charles Spurgeon, Matthew Henry, J.C. Ryle, A.W. Pink, John Owens,

Contemporary: D.A. Carson, John Piper, Craig Blomberg, Gordon H. Clark, J.I. Packer, James M. Boice, Timothy Keller

Scholarly Commentary Authors:

OT: Derek Kidner, G.J. Wenham, R. K. Harrison, Tremper Longman III, Bruce Waltke, Alec Motyer

NT: C.S. Keener, Robert A. Guelich, Darrell Bock, D.A. Carson, F.F. Bruce, Doug Moo, P.T. O'Brien, W.D. Mounce, Craig Blomberg

There are many devotional commentaries and sermons on selected passages of Scripture. But it is best to begin with a scholarly commentary that specifically addresses the text (usually phrase by phrase). With a good understanding of the text first, then devotional material may assist in thinking of application(s). See www.monergism for excellent aids.

Excellent Bible Introductions (one volume each of NT and OT where each book is summarized: [A survey of the Old Testament](#) by Hill and Walton 2009, [An Introduction of the New Testament](#) by Carson, Moo and Morris 1992

Theological Reading List

Study Bible: I highly recommend the ESV (English Standard Version) Study Bible as a basic Bible study tool. I think it is superior even to the NIV Study Bible. I don't recommend the Ryrie or Scofield study Bibles.

Apologetics: *When Skeptics Ask: A Handbook on Christian Evidences* (Geisler and Brooks), *Who Made God and Answers to over 100 Other Tough Questions of Faith* (Zacharias and Geisler), *The Reason for God* (Tim Keller)

Atonement/Cross of Christ: *The Death of Death in the Death of Christ* (Owen) Classic work, worth reading, *The Cross of Christ* (Stott) More popular work, easier to understand; *The Future of Justification* (Piper) A defense of penal substitution.

Baptism/Lord's Supper: *Christ, Baptism and the Lord's Supper* (Vanderzee)

Church: *The Church* (Edmund Clowney)

Church History: *Church History in Plain Language* (Shelly) A very good and concise history of the church

Commentaries: *Matthew Henry, A commentary on the Whole Bible* (Old but the best SINGLE AUTHOR source for a commentary on the whole Bible. **Other commentaries** should probably not be purchased in sets but book-by-book based on who are the best commentators on that particular book. (See Authors above)

Denominations: *Dictionary of Christianity in America* (IVP) Best single volume source of explanations of who's who and what's what in different denominations and movements in religion in America.

Discipleship: *Master Plan of Evangelism* (Coleman), *The Training of the Twelve* (A.B. Bruce) Classic, *The Cost of Discipleship* (Bonhoeffer), *Desiring God* (Piper)

Doctrine: *Systematic Theology* by Wayne Grudem, *Doctrine* by Mark Driscoll and Gerry Breshears

End Times: *The Blessed Hope* (G.E. Ladd)

Evangelism: *Words to the Winners of Souls* (Bonar), *The Insider* (Peterson/Shamy), *Mere Christianity* (Lewis), *Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God* (Packer)

False Religions/World views: *The Universe Next Door* 2004 ed. (Sire)

Leadership: *The Call* (Guinness), *Spiritual Leadership* (Blackaby)

Men/Women: *Recovering Biblical Manhood & Womanhood* (Piper/Grudem)

Ministry: *Five Smooth Stones; Working the Angles; Under the Unpredictable Plant* (Trilogy by Eugene Peterson), *Brothers We are Not Professionals* (Piper), *The Unnecessary Pastor* (Dawn/Peterson), *The Reformed ("Revived") Pastor* (Baxter)

Missions: *Let the Nations Be Glad* (Piper), *Missionary Methods – St Paul's or Ours* (Roland Allen), *The Spontaneous Expansion of the Church* (Roland Allen)

Prayer: *Prayer* (J.I. Packer), *Daring to Draw Near* (White)

Scripture/Interpretation: *How to Read the Bible for all it's Worth* (Fee and Stuart), *Introduction to Biblical Interpretation* (Klein, Blomberg, Hubbard), *Knowing Scripture* (Sproul)

Speaking: *How to Present like a Pro* (Aredondo), *Biblical Preaching* (Robinson), *The Supremacy of God in Preaching* (Piper), *Preach the Word* (Ryken & Wilson)

Spiritual Disciplines: *The Spirit of the Disciplines* (Willard), *Celebration of Discipline* (Richard Foster), *Conformed to His Image* (Ken Boa)

Spirituality: *A Quest for Holiness* (Packer), *Holiness* (J.C. Ryle), *Disciplines of a Godly Man* (Hughes)

Theology: *Evangelical Dictionary of Theology* (Elwell) Best single volume source of short explanations of theological themes, *The Christian Life* (Ferguson) a Basic primer in theology., *Doctrine* by Driscoll and Breshears, *Systematic Theology – An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine* (Grudem), *Does God Exist – the Great Debate* (Moreland and Neilson), *The Supremacy of Jesus* (Stephen Neil), *Knowing God* (Packer), *The Holy Spirit* (Ferguson)

Worship: *In Search of Wonder* (Anderson), *A Royal Waste of Time* (Dawn), *Unceasing Worship* (Best), *Proclamation and Praise* (Ron Mann), *Christ-Centered Worship* by Bryan Chapell, Many more articles on www.soundliving.org