WHY BUILD A BIBLICAL/THEOLOGICAL LIBRARY?

Books are to the minister of the gospel of Jesus Christ what tools are to the carpenter: the essentials of the trade. A call to ministry is a call to preparation, and the building of a ministry library is a must, not an option.

As the apostle Paul faced his impending death, he still remained a student, requesting of Timothy that he bring the books when he came to visit him in prison (2 Tim. 4:13). This booklet has been prepared for those who desire to follow in Paul’s steps.

Warren Wiersbe offers some sound wisdom for this very task: “My books are my tools, and I use them. I cannot afford to be a book collector; neither the budget nor the diminishing shelf space ... permits such a luxury ... I enjoy my library. Each book is a friend that converses with and teaches me. Better to have fewer of the best books than to clutter your shelves with volumes that cannot serve you well. Above all, love your books, use them, and dedicate all you learn to the service of Jesus Christ.” To that end we have provided more than 1,000 titles to assist you in building your library and faithfully serving our Lord. Most titles are written from an evangelical perspective, having been authored by individuals who affirm the full authority and inspiration of Scripture (Matt. 5:17-18; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:20-21).

While a good library is necessary as a solid foundation for ministry, training under godly men and women is also important (2 Tim. 2:2). You may be someone who senses God’s calling for further study and preparation. Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary exists for this very purpose, with a faculty and programs of study designed to enable the student to be a careful and equipped teacher of the God’s Word. Whether your calling is to be a missionary or evangelist, pastor or teacher, counselor, educator or minister of music and worship, Southeastern Seminary is a community of faith which can better prepare you for service in the body of Christ.

Southeastern Seminary is committed to training men and women in sound evangelical scholarship to reach a lost world for Jesus Christ (Matt. 28:18:20). If God leads you our way, we will look forward to working with you.

“Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.” (2 Tim. 2:15).

In His Name,

Daniel L. Akin, President
Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary
Wake Forest, North Carolina

Special thanks to Shane Shaddix for his assistance in updating this version.
## CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Guide to Abbreviations</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commentary Tagging System</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General References to the Bible</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Resources</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Old Testament</strong></td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introductions and Surveys, History and Background, Archaeology, Old Testament Theology, Special Studies, Books of the Old Testament</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>New Testament</strong></td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introductions and Surveys, History and Background, Archaeology, New Testament Theology, Special Studies, Books of the New Testament</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Biblical Languages</strong></td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hebrew, Introductory Hebrew Grammars, Syntax/Advanced Hebrew Grammars, Greek, Introductory Greek Grammars, Syntax/Advanced Greek Grammars, Textual Criticism</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Theology</strong></td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surveys, Dictionaries, and Encyclopedias, Systematic Theology, Biblical Theology, Philosophical Theology/Philosophy of Religion, Contemporary Theology, Prolegomena, Revelation and Scripture, Apologetics, Hermeneutics, Theology Proper, Creation, Angelology, Humanity and Sin, Gender and Sexuality, Christology, Pneumatology, Soteriology, Prayer, The Christian Life, Ecclesiology, Eschatology, Theology and Culture</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Church History and Historical Theology</strong></td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Christianity, World Christianity, Baptist History, Reformation, Biography</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ethics</strong></td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Missions and Church Planting</strong></td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cults</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Evangelism and Disciple-Making</strong></td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Preaching</strong></td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Counseling</strong></td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Marriage and Home</strong></td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pastoral Ministry</strong></td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Christian Education and Leadership</strong></td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leadership and Management, Education and Teaching</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Worship</strong></td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abbreviation</td>
<td>Title</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>-------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AB</td>
<td>Anchor Bible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AOTC</td>
<td>Apollos Old Testament Commentary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BNTC</td>
<td>Black’s New Testament Commentary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BSC</td>
<td>Bible Study Commentary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BST</td>
<td>Bible Speaks Today</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BTC</td>
<td>Brazos Theological Commentary on the Bible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CBC</td>
<td>Cornerstone Biblical Commentary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCE</td>
<td>Christ-Centered Exposition Commentary Series</td>
</tr>
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<td>DBT</td>
<td>Discovering the Biblical Text</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EBC</td>
<td>Expositor’s Bible Commentary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Encountering Biblical Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EBT</td>
<td>Explorations in Biblical Theology</td>
</tr>
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<td>GWFY</td>
<td>God’s Word for You Commentary Series</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HOTC</td>
<td>Holman Old Testament Commentary</td>
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<td>HNTC</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICC</td>
<td>International Critical Commentary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INT</td>
<td>Interpretation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ITC</td>
<td>International Theological Commentary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IVPNTC</td>
<td>IVP New Testament Commentary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAC</td>
<td>New American Commentary</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
COMMENTARY TAGGING SYSTEM

① **Technical** – These commentaries are primarily intended for those with advanced or intermediate knowledge of biblical languages (Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek).

② **Pastoral** – These commentaries are primarily intended for pastors, teachers, and serious students of the Bible. Knowledge of biblical languages will be helpful but not necessary to benefit from these works.

③ **Devotional** – These commentaries are primarily intended for personal Bible study and edification, focusing on the meaning and practical application of the text.

* Indicates first suggested selections for your library
### GENERAL REFERENCES TO THE BIBLE*


### General Resources

Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Thesaurus. 2nd ed. Merriam Webster, 2010.


### OLD TESTAMENT

### Introductions and Surveys


History and Background


Archaeology


Old Testament Theology


Special Studies


### BOOKS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

#### Pentateuch


#### Genesis


#### Exodus


**Leviticus**


**Numbers**


**Deuteronomy**


Wright, Christopher. Deuteronomy. NIBC. Hendrickson, 1996. ☀️

Joshua


Judges-Ruth


Firth, David G. The Message of Joshua. BST. IVP Academic, 2015. ☀️


1 & 2 Samuel


### 1 & 2 Kings


### 1 & 2 Chronicles


### Ezra-Nehemiah-Esther


**Job**


**Psalms**


**Proverbs**


**Ecclesiastes**


**Song of Solomon**


### Isaiah


### Jeremiah-Lamentations


### Ezekiel


### Daniel

*Akin, Daniel L.* *Exalting Jesus in Daniel*. CCE. Holman Reference, 2017. ◊◊


*Baldwin, Joyce G.* *Daniel*. TOTC. repr. IVP, 2007. ◊◊


The Minor Prophets


Hosea


Amos


Obadiah


Jonah


Micah


Micah


**Nahum**


**Habakkuk**


**Zephaniah**


Zechariah


---

**Malachi**


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**NEW TESTAMENT**

**Introduction and Surveys**


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**History and Background**


**Archaeology**


**New Testament Theology**


**Special Studies**


BOOKS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

Matthew


**The Sermon on the Mount**


**Mark**


**Luke**


*———. *A Theology of Mark’s Gospel: Good News About Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God*. Zondervan, 2015.


**John**


**Acts**

1 Corinthians

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Publisher</th>
<th>Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bruce, F. F.</td>
<td>1, 2 Corinthians. NCBC. Oliphants, 1971.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2 Corinthians

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Publisher</th>
<th>Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Galatians

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Publisher</th>
<th>Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
Wilson, Todd A. Galatians: Gospel-Rooted Living. PTW. Crossway, 2013. 

Ephesians

*Bruce, F. F. The Epistles to the Colossians, to Philemon, and to the Ephesians. NICNT. Eerdmans, 1984. 

Philippians


25


Colossians-Philemon

*Bruce, F. F. The Epistles to the Colossians, to Philemon, and to the Ephesians. NICNT. Eerdmans, 1984. ○○


Martin, Ralph P. Colossians and Philemon. NCBC. Eerdmans, 1981. ○


Wright, N. T. The Epistles of Paul to the Colossians and to Philemon. TNCTC. Eerdmans, 2007. ○○

1, 2 Thessalonians


**Pastoral Epistles**


**Hebrews**


**James**


Osborne, Grant R., Mullholland, M. Robert, and Comfort, Philip W. *James, 1 & 2 Peter, Jude, Revelation*. CBC. Tyndale, 2011. ○○


**1 Peter**


Helm, David R. *1 and 2 Peter and Jude: Sharing Christ's Sufferings*. PTW. Crossway, 2008. ○○


Osborne, Grant R., Mullholland, M. Robert, and Comfort, Philip W. *James, 1 & 2 Peter, Jude, Revelation*. CBC. Tyndale, 2011. 


*Schreiner, Thomas R. 1, 2 Peter and Jude*. NAC. B&H, 2003. 


2 Peter and Jude


*Schreiner, Thomas R. 1, 2 Peter and Jude*. NAC. B&H, 2003. 


1, 2, 3 John


Smail, Stephen S. *1, 2, 3 John*. WBC. Word, 1984. 


*Yarbrough, Robert W. 1, 2, 3 John*. BECNT. Baker, 2008. 

Revelation


BIBLICAL LANGUAGES

Hebrew


Harris, R. Laird, Gleason L. Archer Jr., and Bruce K. Waltke, eds. Theological


Introductory Hebrew Grammars


Syntax/Advanced Hebrew Grammars


Greek


Introductory Greek Grammars


Syntax/Advanced Greek Grammars


Textual Criticism


**THEOLOGY**

**Surveys, Dictionaries, and Encyclopedias**


**Systematic Theology**


Boyce, James P. *Abstract of Systematic Theology*. James P. Boyce, 1887.


**Biblical Theology**


**Philosophical Theology/Philosophy of Religion**


**Contemporary Theology**


**Prolegomena**


*———. No Place for Truth (Or Whatever Happened to Evangelical Theology?). Eerdmans, 1993.


Revelation and Scripture

DeYoung, Kevin. Taking God at His Word: Why the Bible is Knowable, Necessary, and Enough. Crossway, 2015.


**Apologetics**


**Hermeneutics**


**Theology Proper**


**Creation**


*———. *Darwin’s Black Box*. Free Press, 1996.


**Angelology**


**Humanity and Sin**


**Gender and Sexuality**


*DeYoung, Kevin. *What Does the Bible Really Teach about Homosexuality?* Crossway, 2015.


Köstenerger, Margaret E. *Jesus and the Feminists: Who Do They Say That He Is?* Crossway, 2008.


**Christology**


Ware, Bruce A. The Man Christ Jesus: Theological Reflections On the Humanity of Christ. Crossway, 2013.


Wright, Christopher J. H. Knowing Jesus Through the Old Testament. IVP, 1996.


**Pneumatology**


**Soteriology**


Gibson, David, and Jonathan Gibson (eds.). *From Heaven He Came and Sought Her: Definite Atonement in Historical, Biblical, Theological, and Pastoral Perspective*. Crossway, 2013.


**Prayer**


Whitney, Donald S. *Praying the Bible*. Crossway, 2015.

**The Christian Life**


Poythress, Vern S. *The Lordship of Christ: Serving Our Savior All of the Time, in All of Life, with All of Our Heart*. Crossway, 2016.


*———. This is Our Time: Everyday Myths in Light of the Gospel*. B&H, 2017.


*Whitney, Donald S. Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life (Revised and Updated)*. NavPress, 2014.


**Ecclesiology**


*———. What is a Healthy Church Member?* Crossway, 2008.


Eschatology


Theology and Culture


CHURCH HISTORY AND HISTORICAL THEOLOGY


**American Christianity**


World Christianity


Reformation


**Biography**


ETHICS


Merida, Tony, and Rick Morton. Orphanology: Awakening to Gospel-Centered Adoption


MISSIONS AND CHURCH PLANTING


*Ashford, Bruce, ed. Theology and Practice of Mission: God, the Church, and the Nations. B&H Academic, 2011.


DeYoung, Kevin, and Greg Gilbert. What Is the Mission of the Church? Making Sense of


Cults


EVANGELISM AND DISCIPLE-MAKING


**PREACHING**


COUNSELING


——. When People are Big and God is Small. P&R, 1997.

MARRIAGE AND HOME


Dobson James. The New Dare to Discipline. Tyndale, 1992.


PASTORAL MINISTRY


Laniak, Timothy S. Shepherds After My Own Heart: Pastoral Traditions and Leadership in the Bible. IVP, 2006.


*Merkle, Benjamin, and Thomas R. Schreiner. Shepherding God’s Flock: Biblical
Leadership and Management


CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND LEADERSHIP


Education and Teaching


**WORSHIP**


*Webber, Robert E. Worship is a Verb. 2nd ed. Hendrickson, 2006.


Updated: May 2017
Daniel L. Akin has been president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary since January 2004. Known by many to embody the combination of a strong leader, brilliant scholar, zealous evangelist and genuine man of God, Dr. Akin has served as a pastor and professor and has authored numerous books, commentaries and journal articles.

After earning his bachelor’s degree from Criswell College, Dr. Akin earned an M.Div. from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and a Ph.D. from the University of Texas at Arlington.

Dr. Akin and his wife, Charlotte, have four sons, three daughters-in-law and twelve grandchildren.