

## Study Bible Selection/Recommendations:

### Criteria:

- Readability. (Translation/Paraphrase)
  - Committee vs. Individual work.
  - Recent Publication
  - Theological Perspective
  - Visibility/size of print
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- **In Print-** Study Bibles with various translations and helps. (call me for further recommendations), Bible Dictionaries, Encyclopedias, Histories, Lexicons, Commentaries, and Maps. Look at NRSV Student Bible, NRSV Wesley Study Bible, Oxford Annotated Study Bible, NIV Study Bible, NLT Study Bible, Life Application Study Bible (various translations) and NASB New Inductive Study Bible. These are all good choices- pick the one with the translation and format that you find easy to understand, yet is challenging and enlightening at the same time. For study, Translations are to be preferred to Paraphrases: translations more closely approximate the wording and intent of the original languages, whereas paraphrases are a looser re-wording of the texts.
  - **OnLine-** Countless websites with different Bible translations, search engines, and daily devotionals. Check out <http://umc.org/> (our Denominational site contains info about our beliefs, missions, and ministries) <http://biblegateway.com> , <http://bible.org/> (and the free NetBible), [wikipedia.org](http://wikipedia.org) , (great articles on Theology), [biblia.com/](http://biblia.com/) , <http://devotional.upperroom.org/> and [Our Daily Bread](#) devotionals.
  - **For Your Computer-** You can pay hundreds of dollars for premium software, but *Your best bet (and bang for your buck)* is to get free starter software, with an introductory free starter library, and the add/purchase additional references as you desire. These packages include everything that you will find in a good study Bible and more. They are libraries in and of themselves! My three favorites are:
    - **E-Sword-** “The Sword of the Lord with an electronic edge” Download from <http://www.e-sword.net/> Download for free, Complete program with expandable library, many free add-on resources
    - **Bible Explorer 4-** “Available as a Free Download, with no strings attached.” Browse the over 200 free Bibles, Commentaries, Dictionaries, and more. The software is full-featured, not a trial or demo. <http://www.bible-explorer.com/>
    - **E4 Group-** “36 Titles, Zero Dollars!” <http://freebiblesoftware.com/> Go to this website to order free CD by mail.
  - **Apps For Your Smart Phone-**
    - “My Sword for Android” Like E-Sword for PC, but for your phone (free)
    - “AND Bible” (Android) - coolest feature- With a text-to-speech engine, it will narrate the Biblical text- an audio bible that takes a fraction of the storage space! (free)
    - Wave Study Bible for i-phones (available at AppleStore) (\$\$\$)
    - Acrobible for some Blackberry phones (\$\$\$)
    - For Audio Devices (CDs, mp3s, etc.) Contact Christian Book Distributors for various formats. Call 1-800-CHRISTIAN to order and receive a printed catalog by mail, or see website <http://www.christianbook.com/> Great for drive-time and the visually-impaired