

A Prioritized Bibliography

Compiled By:

**Scot McCallum
Mike Burkett
Amy McCallum**

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Note to the reader:

This bibliography has been compiled from the experience of personal reading, bibliographies from classes, and annotated bibliographies by various scholars. It will be updated periodically.

The original work for this bibliography was done with the Xenos Christian Fellowship Reference Library in view. However, it was also hoped that the members of Xenos could profit from such a list as they enhance their own libraries.

The list is by no means comprehensive. The compilers have tried to admit only those books which are the best on a given topic. The goal is simply that the reader will gain a better picture of what is available in these areas of study.

In many of the sections very little attempt has been made to prioritize the individual monographs. Often only an asterisk (*) will appear beside some of the better works in a given section. Thus a section such as Church History contains many good works, but there is no significance to their order of appearance. In such cases the order is alphabetical.

In the commentary sections, however, an attempt has been made to prioritize those commentaries which are better than others. Obviously this allows some measure of subjectivity and the compiler's judgement. The criteria for selecting the best commentaries were as follows:

1. **Thoroughness:** We were not so interested in homiletical helps as scholarly precision. Some commentaries have both, but they are few and far between. We have included at least one commentary under each book which is more helpful with the homiletical style.
2. **Insight:** The second greatest criterion was the creativity and insight of the commentator.
3. **Readability:** Attention was also given to the understandability and writing style of the author.

The first two commentaries under each biblical book generally qualify as the 1st and 2nd best, according to the compilers. From that point it becomes difficult to prioritize. The remaining commentaries under each book might be more or less equal.

The reader should be warned that authors and commentators were placed in the list regardless of their perceived theological orthodoxy, or lack thereof. Many scholars treat the Word of God as authoritative in their writings, even though they may

have critical presuppositions. Most of the time this does not adversely affect the quality of research or the conclusions.

Any suggestions the reader might have would be appreciated.

Scot McCallum

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Dictionaries/Encyclopedias

- Baker's Dictionary of Theology. Baker.
Bromiley, G.W., Ed. International Standard Bible Encyclopedia. Eerdmans, 1979.
Edwards, P. Encyclopedia of Philosophy.
* Ellwel, W. Evangelical Dictionary of Theology. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1983.
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Hastings. Dictionary of the Apostolic Church.
Hastings. Dictionary of the Bible.
Hastings. Encyclopedia of Religion and Ethics.
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The Dead Sea Scrolls

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Epstein, I. The Babylonian Talmud. 34 vols. London: Soncino Press, 1935-1952

Josephus & Philo

The Loeb Classical Library

Church Fathers

The Loeb Classical Library

English Trans. = Eerdmans' Fathers Series

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Textual Criticism

Greenlee, J.H. Introduction to New Testament Textual Criticism. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1964

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