

LESSON SEVEN

TYPES AND EXAMPLES OF RESOURCES, cont'd. . .

COMPUTER PROGRAMS.

The greatest downside of computer Bible programs is that it robs you of holding the book in your hands and highlighting it. However, they do provide a way to amass a large library quickly at less cost.

Programs with which I am familiar (and possess) are:

ACCORDANCE. Accordance is a choice only for Mac users. It has a good interface, is user friendly, and has a large library from which to choose. As with most Bible programs, it has a wide variety of packages from which to choose. The best choice is the Super Bundle. It includes three packages that separately would sell for \$887.00. Packaged together they sell for \$599.00. Accordance is strong on understanding the Greek and Hebrew text. It has many additional resources that can be added and always has some of them on sale. Its commentary selection is not as good as others.

BIBLE WORKS 9. Version 9 was just released. It added a number of resources and has a really fine program. It is not as user friendly as Accordance or Logos. It is at its best in working with languages. It is almost bereft of tools to use in preparing the body of a lesson. It was made only for PCs but will work with Parallels on Mac. The new release is \$359.00. It is a one-package deal.

LOGOS. Logos is designed for both Mac and PC. Like Accordance, it is packaged based, but also has a large selection of additional resources. Some (mostly old enough not to be protected by trade mark) are sold through "Community Pricing," a process through which they go to collect enough money to take the resource to contract. When it reaches that point it goes to pre-publication pricing that is still less than the final retail price. As an example, I recently purchased a 57-volume set of commentaries, *The Cambridge Bible for Schools and Colleges*, for \$50.00. It is now on pre-pub priced at \$199.95. Retail is listed at \$1,050.00. While I doubt that it will ever sell for that retail price, I am confident that its final cost will be more than \$50.00. Logos' packages range in price from \$149.95 to \$4,290.00.

The latter is given a print equivalent of \$31,000.00. Don't take it too seriously, however, because this package, and most if not all of the others contain material that you will never use. The major purpose of some is undoubtedly to make the price look better. That said, the best package for the money in my opinion is the Scholar's Silver package. It is not cheap, costing \$999.95. Comparing it with the immediately lower package, the Scholar's Library at 629.95, it is a better deal if for no other reason than the fact that it contains both *The Pulpit Commentary* and *The New American Commentary*. The former is now at its lowest price of 179.00 and the latter is priced at \$499.95. Thus, those two alone cost more than the Scholar's Library package.

There are others available but these are the most useful of which I am aware. However, while you are saving money to purchase on of these (Logos will let you pay over time), there are some free internet sites that are available. Some are free up to a point, but charge for "premium" resources. If you "Google" "free internet Bible programs" you will get nearly 31,000,000 hits. Most of those on the first few pages are worthless and there is reason to believe that it gets no better if you traverse the entire list. The three that I found most helpful are: www.e-sword.net/, www.swordsearch.com, and www.ccel.org. The latter will sell you resources, but it will also let you read many of the resources for free online. Swordsearch sells a program for \$60 that you need to access its free resources. You must pay for its premium resources.

1. DICTIONARIES.

The teacher needs access to a Bible Dictionary and a Webster's Dictionary (or equivalent). General Bible dictionaries include *Baker's Bible Dictionary*, *Eason Bible Dictionary*, *Eerdmans Dictionary of the Bible*, *Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary*. All of these, plus a number of special dictionaries, are in my level of Logos. It sometimes helps to have a choice of the way the definitions are given. One may contain a great deal more than needs to be included.

COMPLETE CONCORDANCE.

If you have a computer program that searches for particular words you do

not need this. Most, if not all computer programs have search features for words and phrases. They also have other search features that are helpful. Accordance even has a “fuzzy” search feature in you don’t have the words quite right. If you need a hardback concordance, *Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance* is probably the best known. It is also helpful in helping you to tie in to *A Concise Dictionary of the Words in the Greek Testament and the Hebrew Bible*, that will give you definitions of the meaning of the original language, the translation of which you have looked up in the concordance.

To be cont’d. . .