

I felt pretty convicted when I read a Charles Spurgeon quote saying: “*The fact is, we sometimes read Scripture, thinking of what it ought to say, rather than what it does say.*” I’m just as guilty as anyone of reading scripture and watering it down to convict me less, or trying to add some flavor to make it stronger. If we aren’t careful to seek good biblical teaching, we will quickly become guilty of trying to re-mold God’s truth to fit our own emotions about a topic. That’s why we need some guidance. The tools below will be a great help to you if you are looking at taking a step deeper into scripture. These tools don’t *replace* scripture, but they are helpful explanations of it. The authors behind these tools are imperfect sinners just like you and I— but these theologians have been redeemed and given a holy calling that comes in tow with a great deal of study and experience in relationship with God. It would be foolish to not accept good explanations of scripture. Like The Ethiopian Eunuch (Acts 8), we ought to be willing to seek explanation of scripture (even when we are pretty confident we get it). To put it simply: we need to be teachable. **God’s word is an eternal well given to us by an infinite mind. We will never reach the bottom.**

Study Bibles

Many bibles have footnotes on the bottom of their pages, but Study Bibles go into greater detail. They can get a little bit pricey sometimes, but there are many affordable options as well! If you really want one and are unable to get one on your own, pray about it and then talk to your church leaders and we will navigate the barrier together. Here are a few affordable options that may help get your search going in the right direction: [ESV # 1](#), [ESV #2](#), [NIV #1](#), [NIV #2](#), [NLT](#).

Online Commentaries (available online and as an app)

Commentaries and study tools like those provided below are very helpful for understanding context, historical situations, cultural breakdowns, and lexicological (language/translation) issues.

Enduring Word: Easiest To Use

The “Enduring Word” App is a commentary of the entire Bible compiled by Pastor David Guzik. It is easy to navigate and is laid out in an outline format. This one is one of my personal favorites because it is easy to use, and each outline contains notes made by other incredible theologians. (available in app and online)

Bible Hub & Blue Letter Bible: The Widest Array of Tools

Bible Hub: It may take a few repetitions to get used to the interface, but the tool is extremely valuable. You can access commentaries, greek definitions, comparisons between versions of scripture, and much more! [Tutorial here](#).

Blue Letter Bible: The Blue Letter Bible Engine offers almost everything that Bible Hub offers, but it also provides users with sermons and other resources that are relevant to the passage they are studying. [Tutorial Here](#).

The LOGOS App: Better Grasp of Words/Original Meanings, access to commentaries and other translations

The LOGOS app is a useful tool for understanding individual words and greek translations. There are a few commentaries you can access as well should you choose to. There is a Youtube Tutorial that you can follow along with by clicking [here](#).

Apps for Scripture Reading Plans and Devotionals:

The Bible App, “She Reads Truth”, & “He Reads Truth”