

A collection of vintage tools is arranged on a dark, textured surface. At the top is a long wooden level with a bubble level in the center and the word 'DEFIANCE' on the left. Below it are a square, a hammer, and a hand saw. In the center, a white rectangular box contains the text 'PREACHING TOOLS'. Below the box is a red book or folder. At the bottom are two large wooden vices, a smaller vice, a pair of pliers, and a drill bit.

PREACHING TOOLS

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**AN ANNOTATED SURVEY OF COMMENTARIES AND
PREACHING RESOURCES FOR EVERY BOOK OF THE BIBLE**

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*Preaching Tools: An Annotated Survey of Commentaries and Preaching Resources
for Every Book of the Bible*

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JOHN

EXEGETICAL COMMENTARIES

Barrett, C. K. *The Gospel According to St. John: An Introduction with Commentary and Notes on the Greek Text*. Revised. London: SPCK, 1988.

Barrett is a mixed bag. He is none too concerned with historical issues but sees the book as a theological unity. His work remains one of the top commentaries on John.

Keener, Craig S. *The Gospel of John*. 2 vols. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 2003.

A massive tome of 1,636 pages! No stone left unturned here!

Köstenberger, Andreas J. *John*. BECNT. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2004.

A well-written commentary from the professor of New Testament at Southeastern Baptist Seminary. John is Köstenberger's specialty. Consult it.

Westcott, B. F. *The Gospel According to St. John*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1950.

Originally published in 1881, this work is still a masterpiece of exegesis. He was called "in learning a second Origen; in piety a second Augustine." G. Campbell Morgan said of it: "... not a finer has been written on the Gospel of John than Westcott's commentary."

EXPOSITORY COMMENTARIES

Borchert, Gerald L. *John 1–11*. NAC. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1996.

A worthy exposition of John. Solid and helpful for the expository preacher.

_____. *John 12–21*. NAC. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 2002.

See above.

Burge, Gary M. *John*. NIVAC. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2000.

I like what Burge has done with 1 John, and this work on John is also very helpful.

Carson, D. A. *The Gospel According to John*. PNTC. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1990.

See under Matthew above. One will find solid exegesis and exposition designed especially for the preacher.

Godet, F. *Commentary on John's Gospel*. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 1980 reprint. 2 vols in one.

See on Luke above. This volume was first published in English in 1893. Barber says, "Thorough and exhaustive without being elaborate or verbose. ... One of the finest expositions of John's gospel ever produced. No preacher should be without it." Smith said of it: "Here are some of the finest pages of Christology to be found anywhere."

Michaels, J. Ramsey. *The Gospel of John*. NICNT. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2010.

Thankfully uninterested in source and redaction criticism, Michaels deals with the text we have. Detailed, verse by verse, deals with the Greek but is accessible to pastors. Attempts to see the cohesive whole of John's Gospel. This is the fruit of Michaels' lifetime work on John.

Morris, Leon. *The Gospel According to John*. NICNT. Revised ed. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1995.

Assumes historical reliability of John as well as the theological nature of the book. Contains a "subtle richness and depth," says Bauer. Barber says, "Superlative scholarship." No preacher can afford to be without this commentary when preaching on John.

DEVOTIONAL COMMENTARIES

Mitchell, John G. *An Everlasting Love: A Devotional Study of the Gospel of John*. Portland, OR: Multnomah, 1982.

Excellent devotional commentary from the pen of the founder of Multnomah School of the Bible and pastor of Central Bible Church in Portland. Don't miss the illustrations and applications.

Van Doren, William. *Gospel of John*. 2 volumes in one. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 1981.

Lots of sermonic help here from this hefty volume!

SPECIAL STUDIES

Bernard, Thomas Dehany. *The Central Teaching of Christ: A Study of John 13–17*. Minneapolis: Klock & Klock, 1985 reprint [1892].

“A must for every pastor,” says Barber.

Blomberg, Craig. *The Historical Reliability of John’s Gospel: Issues & Commentary*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2011.

Glynn describes it as 223 pages of commentary, 50 pages of introduction, and a useful 32-page bibliography.

Brown, John. *Exposition of Our Lord’s Intercessory Prayer*. Minneapolis: Klock & Klock, 1978.

Brown was both pastor and exegete. This work is worth consulting. “His exposition serves as a model,” says Barber.

Köstenberger, Andreas J. and Scott R. Swain. *Father, Son, and Spirit: The Trinity and John’s Gospel*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2008.

The title says it all. Helpful volume.

Maclaren, Alexander. *The Holy of Holies*. London: Alexander & Shephard, 1890.

Very good expository sermons on John 14–16 by the master Baptist expositor and contemporary of Spurgeon.

Rainsford, Marcus. *Our Lord Prays for His Own*. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 1985 [1895].

Regarded by many as the greatest classic ever written on John 17. Rainsford pastored St. John’s Church in London from 1886 to his death in 1897. Barber calls it a true masterpiece of devotional and expositional literature. This volume is a must.

Swete, Henry Barclay. *The Last Discourse and Prayer of Our Lord*. London: Macmillan, 1914.

SERMONS

Lloyd-Jones, David Martyn. *John 17*. 4 volumes. Wheaton: Crossway, 1988–89.

Expositions from sermons preached in 1952–53 at Westminster Chapel. Moving devotional material here.

Every effective preacher needs tools to craft faithful, text-driven sermons. However, since pastors have limited time each week and there are thousands of potential preaching resources, knowing the best commentaries and books to help in sermon preparation can be a daunting task.

In *Preaching Tools*, David Allen draws from the well of more than 40 years of experience in the pulpit, both as a pastor and preaching professor, to provide the top commentaries and resources for every book of the Bible. Resources are categorized for quick reference, and Allen's annotations provide insight into the books' strengths, weaknesses, and backgrounds.

“What I’ve tried to do in this book is provide an annotated bibliography for preachers of helpful resources, mostly commentaries, for every book of the Bible, in English. Most of the books listed in this bibliography I own in my personal library. These are the works that I have found to be the most helpful in sermon preparation.” – David Allen



David Allen serves as dean of the School of Preaching, distinguished professor of preaching, George W. Truett Chair of Ministry, and director of the Center for Expository Preaching at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. He has led or been a part of more than 400 revivals, Bible conferences, and lecture series, including study tours in the Philippines, Israel, Oxford, and Germany. He is the author of *1–3 John: Fellowship in God’s Family* in Crossway’s Preaching the Word series and *Hebrews* in the New American Commentary series. He is also co-editor of *Text-Driven Preaching: God’s Word at the Heart of Every Sermon*.

