



**PREACHING
TOOLS**

PREACHING TOOLS

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

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Seminary Hill Press
2001 West Seminary Drive
Fort Worth, Texas 76115

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

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ISBN: 978-0-9975886-3-7

Publication Date: June 2016

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ROMANS

EXEGETICAL COMMENTARIES

Abernathy, C. David. *An Exegetical Summary of Romans 1–8*. 2nd ed. Dallas: SIL International, 2008.

Preachers should own every volume in this excellent series published by the SIL division of Wycliffe Bible Translators. Abernathy surveys 19 commentaries and Greek lexicons and summarizes what they say about lexical, syntactical, and semantic relationships in Romans in a verse-by-verse format. This work is an unbelievable time-saver, though it should not be used in place of commentaries. A semi-literal translation is given, followed by any textual variations, the lexical meanings of key words in context and exegetical questions are presented and then answered in a clear, concise manner. Extremely valuable. I have used them for years.

Cranfield, C. E. B. *Romans*. 2 vols. ICC. Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark, 2004.

Detailed exegesis. Its objectivity is one of its foremost and finest assets, says Martin. Barber calls it a “magisterial handling of the grammar and syntax.”

Godet, F. *Commentary on Romans*. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 1977 [1883].

“Exhaustive ... provides an excellent treatment of the argument of the epistle,” says Barber.

Longenecker, Richard. *The Epistle to the Romans*. NIGTC Commentary. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2016.

Based on the Greek text, Longenecker provides solid scholarship and innovative solutions to long-standing interpretive problems. Critical, in-depth exegesis, and constructive, yet pastoral in its application. A monumental work. Schreiner calls it “magisterial.” A must have if doing serious preaching through Romans

EXPOSITORY COMMENTARIES

Barrett, C. K. *Reading Through Romans*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1977.

Martin calls it “a minor masterpiece.” You will find it helpful.

Dunn, James D. G. *Romans*. WBC. Dallas: Word, 1988.

A generally good treatment. Excels at tracing both the logic of Paul’s argument and the flow of that argument.

Kruse, Colin G. *Paul's Letter to the Romans*. PNTC. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2012.

Intended as the replacement volume for Morris. Kruse bases his almost 600 pages of exegesis in conversation with the scholarly literature, especially of the last 30 years. He writes with clarity and succinctness. He provides a fair assessment of the so-called "New Perspective" of Paul, finding it wanting. Watch for the helpful "additional notes" that expand on theological and interpretive issues along the way. Reformed in orientation. A very important commentary for expository preachers.

Luther, Martin. *Lectures on Romans*. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1961.

Pauck's translation with notes is very helpful to the modern reader. Luther's *Romans* should be in every preacher's library.

McClain, Alva J. *Romans: The Gospel of God's Grace*. Chicago: Moody, 1973.

Many will overlook this volume, but it is worth your time. Premillennial perspective. Very helpful on Romans 9–11.

Moo, Douglas J. *Romans 1–8*. WEC. Chicago: Moody, 1991.

First-rate work by a first-rate New Testament scholar. The exegesis is superb.

_____. *Romans*. NIVAC. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2000.

Excellent for preachers. Moo focuses on application, as the series demands. His illustrations are helpful, some from personal experience. His application is timely.

_____. *The Epistle to the Romans*. NICNT. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1996.

As always in this series, the commentary is based on the English text, but Moo's analysis of the Greek is top-notch. Bauer says this work is "fair and balanced."

Morris, Leon. *The Epistle to the Romans*. PNTC. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1988.

Originally published in 1988, this work received the 1989 Gold Medallion for Commentaries from the Evangelical Christian Publishers Association. Slightly Reformed in orientation. At more than 500 pages in length, it is an outstanding work on Romans that no preacher can afford to be without.

Osborne, Grant. *Romans*. IVPNTC. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2010.

This is a good exposition of Romans that will be helpful to all preachers. Osborne writes from an Arminian perspective and provides a good balance to Reformed commentaries on Romans.

Robinson, Thomas. *Studies in Romans: Expository and Homiletical*. 2 vols. in one. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 1982 reprint [1878].

875 pages of an amazing combination of scholarship (Greek notes at the end of each verse treatment) coupled with expository and practical helps galore. Surprising that Carson misses this volume.

Schreiner, Thomas R. *Romans*. BECNT. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1998.

Schreiner, Professor of New Testament at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, is one of the premier New Testament scholars among Baptists and evangelicals at large. He has provided an excellent treatment of Romans that employs solid exegesis with theological depth. No preacher on Romans should fail to consult Schreiner. Written from a Reformed soteriological perspective.

Stott, John. *The Message of Romans: God's Good News for the World*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 1994.

Stott is always conversant with scholarship but excels as an expositor when he treats books of the Bible from his pastoral perspective. This volume is a must-have in my book when preaching through Romans. I recommend you own and read everything by Stott, but lament his annihilationist tendencies.

Vaughan, Curtis and Bruce Corley. *Romans*. SGC. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1976.

Excellent, brief but meaty treatment of Romans from Southwestern Seminary's beloved teacher of New Testament and Greek. Vaughan was my favorite professor while a student at Southwestern from 1978–1981, and I now have the privilege of occupying his study carrel containing some of his memorabilia, which he allowed me to keep just before his death. Corley also taught New Testament at Southwestern for many years and wrote his Ph.D. dissertation on Romans 9–11.

DEVOTIONAL COMMENTARIES

Moule, H. C. G. *The Epistle of St. Paul to the Romans*. EB. Minneapolis: Klock & Klock, 1982.

Devotional exposition very helpful to the preacher. Based upon careful exegesis. Strong on practical application.

Stedman, Ray C. *From Guilt to Glory*. 2 vols. Waco, TX: Word, 1978.

Stedman was a pastor who preached expositionally. This volume's strength is in practical application.

Newell, William R. *Romans: Verse by Verse*. Chicago: Moody, 1948.

One of the finest devotional commentaries on Romans. Not to be missed when preaching through the book. Rosscup noted that Chafer, president of Dallas Theological Seminary until 1952, used to say that Newell knew more about Romans than any man he knew.

SPECIAL STUDIES

Barnhouse, Donald Grey. *Exposition of Bible Doctrines, Taking the Epistle to the Romans as a Point of Departure*. 10 vols. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1952–64 [Since published in 4 vols.].

This classic work could qualify as an expositional commentary. Lots of illustration and application for the preacher.

Glynn, *Commentary and Reference Survey*. 10th ed. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2007.

Glynn gives a helpful list of books regarding homosexuality in Romans 1:21–26 on pages 165–66.

Stott, John. *Men Made New*. London: InterVarsity, 1966.

Devotional and homiletical help on Romans 5–8. Originally delivered at the 1965 Keswick Convention. Own and read everything Stott writes.

SERMONS

Liddon, H. P. *Explanatory Analysis of St. Paul's Epistle to the Romans*. Minneapolis: Klock & Klock, 1977.

A rich and insightful work, it forms the basis of Liddon's expository sermons. Demonstrates the "kind of analysis every preacher should engage in prior to attempting to deliver God's Word," says Barber.

Lloyd-Jones, David Martyn. *Romans*. 14 vols. Edinburgh: Banner of Truth, 2003.

Lloyd-Jones preached these sermons on Friday evenings at Westminster Chapel in London over a period of 13 years! He was an expositor *par excellence* in his generation, though I don't recommend taking 13 years to preach through any book of the Bible! His material is helpful, but he is primarily concerned, like the old Puritans, to extract and explain doctrine wherever he can. This makes for some tedious reading along the way, but no preacher can afford to be without this set when preaching through Romans.

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*.

