

EXEGETICAL • VERSE BY VERSE • HISTORICAL-GRAMMATICAL HERMENEUTICS

BIBLE LESSONS INTERNATIONAL

A Great Commission Ministry: Evangelism and Discipleship--Matthew 28:18-20

Dr. Bob Utley - 903.935.2532 - 800.785.1005 - PO Box 1289, Marshall, TX 75671

Spring 2010

WE NEED YOUR HELP

We want to continue translating the commentaries into other languages of the world. Do you have a special people group or language on your heart? If so, consider sponsoring a translation for that group. The cost of translation for one book is usually \$3000 to \$6000, with some costing as much as \$10,000. These translations are available online for anyone to download or print. You could make a significant contribution to the evangelization and discipleship of an entire people group!

Please pray about this request. We can dedicate the volume to a loved one or organization of your choice. What a lasting memorial!

The Bible books that we want translated first are John and I, II, III John and Romans:

- Who Is Jesus? (John)
- What is Christianity? (Romans)
- How Should We Live as Christians? (I John)

Your gift could impact young preachers, Bible teachers and believers in places that have no commentaries, study Bibles, or Christian education opportunities!!!

All donations to this ministry are tax-deductible; we a 501 (c) (3) corporation.

I can still remember from years ago, as I heard teaching pastors present Bible studies, thinking to myself, "Wow, I want to do that"! My call from God and my education have allowed me to pursue that spiritual "aha" moment. The study of hermeneutics has equipped me to articulate a "common sense" Bible study procedure for all believers. All of the commentaries that I have produced over the last 40 years have been an illustration of that method of Bible study! Now, several factors have come together (I think by the will of God) to allow me to extend the influence of this Bible study method.

1. I have written a textbook on hermeneutics which explains the method (free online)

2. I am interim Pastor in Dallas and the church allowed me to teach through the seminar using this method (summer, 2009)

3. Some of the latest technology has allowed us to put the new textbook and the 15 hour revised seminar on one DVD

The new 2010 version of the CD-ROM commentaries (now entitled "Verse by Verse Computer Bible Study Library") will include everything that is on the current version and all of the new commentaries on

the Old Testament as well as the new revisions of three New Testament volumes. Also included are all of the commentaries which have been translated into 23 languages. And now the new DVD!

In May we are producing 25,000 of the new CD-ROM to be given away worldwide. Some of our prayer requests are:

- that the translators will translate accurately
- that we will find new translators for more languages
- that God will provide the money needed to make all of this available free of charge to the world (online and on CD-ROM/DVD)
- that the Holy Spirit will touch the hearts and minds of both believers and not yet believers as they view the Bible study materials
- that all of us at Bible Lessons International will be diligent as we write, type, edit, produce and mail these materials.

You are a crucial part of this Great Commission ministry. Please, please pray for us and pass on our free Bible Study website (www.freebiblecommentary.org) to those interested in verse-by-verse, in-depth Bible study.

- Dr. Bob Utley

IMPACTING THE WORLD

(These letters are printed just as we receive them. We always enjoy these letters and hope that they will give you a glimpse of how all of us together are making an impact on parts of God's world. We cannot print them all because there are too many. Please pray for these people as they serve the Lord.)

Dear BLI,

First of all, many thanks for your valuable resources on the web. I'm using them here in Spain for my own study and as a resource for training the young people we work with.

Dave Philbrick, Biblical Ministries Worldwide, Sant Cugat Spain

Dear Bob,

I would like to say what real blessing it has been to listen to your seminars on line; such insight and generosity of understanding is difficult to come by.

I have been very skeptical of stuff from your neck of the world but I am warming to good teaching and becoming more receptive to good teaching wherever it comes from. (sorry but I have had to repent of a

prejudice: TV evangelists; CZ etc) I note that many of the applications in your seminars are directly related to your own situation, but I can confirm that England is no better; there are too few good teachers about who know or want to empower the reader as you do.

I hope that God will continue to bless your ministry, if you ever come to England I would love to come and support your work and perhaps even meet.

Martin Arnold, United Kingdom

Hello dear Brother Bob,

A few days ago I received a letter from Dr. V.S. Ryaguzov, former Rector of Moscow Theological Seminary, nowadays – professor of Kubansky Evangelical Christian University (it's on the south of Russia). I shared with him some current situation with the translation of your commentaries. I suppose it might be interesting for you to know his opinion (literal translation from Russian) as well:

“...Thank you wholeheartedly for your letter and information concerning your work on translating of the commentaries. This work is very significant and at the same time it needs a lot of time. If your ministry as a church pastor does not suffer from this, please, go on with this translating. The results of your work will be required

by not only contemporary Christians of different denomination but future generations.

Such authors, like Robert Utley, enrich appreciably our moderate conservative theology. Certainly, the translation of NASB version into Russian itself would be a thing of great value for serious pastors and preachers in spite of criticism of every new translation of the Bible. ”

Yours in Him, Alexander, Pastor Baptist Church, Siberia (Russian Translator)

Hey,

You were the interim pastor at my church in West Monroe, Louisiana. I never got a chance to thank you before you left. Our church was so blessed to have you come. You made my husband and I delve into God's word and we have not quit yet! My mom (in Searcy, AR) downloaded many of your commentaries. I use one every morning in my quiet time. It is amazing to KNOW the truth. I cannot thank you enough for being willing to come to our church. (We miss you terribly.) Thank you for your sacrifice. May God continue to bless you, your family and your ministry.

Your sister in Christ, Tonya F.

Dear Dr. Utley,

The free CD-Rom Bible commentary arrived at my home in Indonesia yesterday. To be frank I really did not expect to receive it. I thought I would get a note saying you do not ship to remote areas like South East Asia or something like that. Instead it arrived without a hitch.

I am a fairly new convert. I was a Moslem for almost 26 years and was baptized in February 2006. I started as a Moslem that followed Jesus. I felt He called me to follow Him and so I did. Christianity just sort of sinks into me gradually. I have difficulty reading the bible and have a lot of excuses. My good friend who prayed for my salvation for 15 years gave me my first large print bible. Then friends leaving to go back to Louisiana gave me a parallel bible. I had other friends sending me bibles. I still did not really

“ I am thankful to God for your ministry, and I pray He continues to direct you. ”

read the bible. I started but it petered off. Then I got this huge Concordance for my birthday. A friend from Texas bought me the bible in DC, read by Alexander Scourby, I listened but never really finished the bible. He also sent me The Tyndale handbook of bible charts and maps. They said I needed a Dictionary of the Bible and I went to look for it on the internet. I somehow chanced upon your site. It offered a Bible commentary and I clicked it. Then, a few days ago, I took refuge at my son's home while they fogged my house to kill the mosquitos. I walked around and lo and behold! A dictionary of the Bible! I called my son and said I wanted it and took it home. Then yesterday your CD Rom Bible commentary came. I don't think I know of anyone MORE equipped to study the Bible than myself. I have run out of excuses.

Today I downloaded your teaching of the book of Ruth which we are studying at the moment at our small group. I cannot begin to tell you how you bless me and I cannot stop thanking and praising the Lord for using you to light my path. Thank you Dr. Utley. May I ask, when you read this, to say a little prayer for me to have the perseverance to read the Bible from cover to cover at least once, and may my mind and heart be opened to the Word that I may, in turn, be a blessing to others and to my community. Thank you.

With love in Christ, Setiawati.

A comment on Facebook:

I am thankful to God for your ministry, and I pray He continues to direct you. There is no doubt God has used your efforts to reach across the globe! Did you ever imagine when you entered the ministry that years later God

would allow your commentaries to be translated into so many languages?? Praise God that His plans are vastly bigger than ours. Thanks for being a faithful steward.

Thanks Bob.

You have created a wonderful resource. We are likeminded and we pray the Lord with use your ministry in a powerful way. I was blessed to read the Statement of Faith page. I love the statement – “In essentials-unity, In peripherals-freedom, In all things-love.” Lord bless you brother.

Serving gladly,

Dan Foley, Family Discipleship Ministries

Dear Dr. Utley –

Thank you for writing Ethnic Harvest. We will be glad to link to your commentaries.

A personal note: In the course of checking out your site I followed the link to YouTube and watched two of your online sermons. I was very appreciative to the Biblical message, which is so lacking in these “prosperity gospel” days in America.

But your message “God Loves You” was especially timely for me. My dad died two days before Christmas. Our family has been broken and estranged for 30 years. Your sermon spoke to me, and I plan to send the link to my sister with a loving email. I am praying that it will help melt her heart and reunite our family.

Thank you for your ministry,

Barb, Ethnic Harvest

Dear Bob Utley,

Greetings to you in Jesus name, Amen. Spread The Word Bible College has decided to take two of your book as a course for this semester;

TRANSLATED LANGUAGES

The languages that we have translated thus far are:

- Afrikann—South Africa
- Arabic—Middle East
- Bahasa—Indonesia
- Bengali—Bangladesh, India
- Farsi—Iran
- French—many countries
- Hindi—India
- Hungarian—Hungary
- Korean—Korea
- Mandarin—China and Taiwan
- Oromo—Ethiopia
- Portuguese—Brazil, Portugal, Togo, and many others
- Punjabi—India, Pakistan
- Russian—Russia
- Serbian—Serbia
- Slovak—Slovakia
- Spanish—many countries
- Tagalog—India
- Thadou—India
- Telugu—India
- Turkish—Turkey
- Urdu—India and Pakistan
- Vietnamese—Vietnam

Languages that will soon be available:

- Bulgarian—Bulgaria
- Norwegian—Norway
- Amharic—Ethiopia
- Romanian—Romania
- Swahili—Africa

It is very interesting to see the flags and language symbols of these countries:

www.freebiblecommentary.org

- The Superiority of the New Covenant: Hebrews
- Old Testament Apocalypses: Daniel and Zechariah
- We are willing to take all your books as a course in the Bible College.

We will name you as a member of the faculty reflected as Adjunct Professor for using your books in the Bible College.

*God Bless You, Rev. Godstime
Spread The Word Bible College*

Pastor Utley,

I am so thankful for all the help you have been to this ministry in this Maximum Security Prison. We are able to broadcast your lessons over our "in house TV channel" and we play one every day, so the tapes are wearing out. We really could use the DVD's you spoke of in your latest newsletter, ie Jesse who is transferring your Bible lessons to DVD. We would like to have the entire Bible, but whatever you can send would be much appreciated ASAP. As you probably know, we are not permitted to use State funds to purchase Christian material.

May God continue to Bless your ministry!

*Chaplain
Columbia Correctional Institution*

Dear Dr. Bob,

I am extremely grateful to you for sending me the bible commentary CD barely a couple of months ago. In fact, the voice is so clear and very impacting so much so that my approach as an elder to interpretation of the Bible has been greatly influenced by your very insightful work of grace you have blessed me with. The material is not only meant to equip me in

the pulpit but also to correct some personal biases and ill methodologies used in interpreting scriptures. Confessedly, I am bolder now but I want to humbly use this rare opportunity to solicit your usual help by getting me enrolled in an online seminary/bible school to help me upgrade myself.

I am a teacher by profession and have taught for 10 years. Apart from my pulpit work as an elder of The Church of Pentecost, I also have a great passion for evangelism and counseling. I am 33 years of age and single.

I also want to find out if you are through with your new areas of research which you told me about. If you are, then I can't wait to have it plus any other material. May I humbly request you to be my father?

Hoping my request would meet your usual zeal and prominence. Below are my details and attached picture. Thanks.

Elder Samuel Aidoo, Ghana-West Africa

Dear Bob, greetings.

I went through the web site and viewed the Spanish area and a couple of the commentaries...I then forwarded this to two of our professors to determine how we can use this in a practical manner at the seminary. I take it that the written material in the Spanish link is all available for free and that we can print it or transfer to pen drive or similar for wider use?

Once I hear from them I will be back in touch...Thanks..

*Blessings, Dan Olson
Evangelical Seminary of Caracas*

Bro. Bob,

I have just finished the 20th chapter of John! Praise God! On Wednesday I will finish the translation of



Elder Samuel Aidoo, Ghana-West Africa

the Gospel. I have learned so much from your writing. This Saturday is our graduation at the Seminary one hundred students will receive their Diplomas. I have been sending corrected translations to you. I will be working right through December with two other people on the Epistles. I think this is all for now.

*God Bless, Bro. Walt
Seminario Bautista, Nicaragua*

It's Joe G. down in Lufkin.

I just received and installed the Logos 4 software. I'm working on the SS lesson for 12-20-09, the Christmas lesson, and see where they are using your material in the study of Luke's gospel. I'm really glad to see that.

My name is Ronald. I am a Sunday school teacher and deacon at my church. I have been listening to Dr. Bob Utley's sermons for several months now. I have found his teaching to be refreshing, challenging to my presuppositions and encouraging. I am thankful to God for his exegesis, bold yet sometimes lighthearted approach to teaching the Bible. He has a real passion for teaching and preaching. He truly has a gift from God and he has been a ministry to me.

Thanks, Ronald

Dear Dr. Bob Utley,

Thank you so much for your lovely email and the website of free download. Praise the Lord!!!! This will be a blessing for my ministry.

*God bless you!!, Rev Lalfakmawia
Lutheran Theological Seminary, Myanmar*

Dr. Utley,

I just wanted to write to you to share just how profound of an effect your ministry has had on me and my family. I wanted to personally thank you for your hermeneutics seminar which has drastically helped me in organizing and structuring my personal bible study time. I have watched it a number of times, each time gleaning more and more help, and gaining more and more insight. I also have had the pleasure of watching many of your video sermons over the past year or so and they have really helped to shape my Christian life and worldview. I find your preaching and exegesis genuine, refreshing, passionate, true to the text, and challenging. I came from a reformed background and often times had problems reconciling doctrine with all of Scripture. Your teachings on dialectical tension and biblical paradoxes has reinvigorated my faith, harmonized my biblical worldview, and sparked my personal drive for biblical truth. You have helped me to break down many manmade barriers and traditions in my life which have been more destructive than constructive. I thank you so

very much for challenging me and my convictions. I have now come to a place in my walk where I am able to better understand and apply the truths from all of Scripture, without having to engage in Scripture twisting or depreciation. I thank God for you and your ministry because I wouldn't be the Christian that I am today!

Now that I've talked you up, please don't get a big head (just kidding). Thank you for answering your call daily and for allowing yourself to be vulnerable for the building up of the Body. I will keep your ministry in my prayers. Everything you have, you received from the Lord, so boast in Him. To Him be the glory, honor, and praise!

*God bless you brother,
T.M., Sr. Systems Engineer*

P.S. A big thank you to your wife as well. I know you aren't a one-man show (as my wife likes to tell me). I pray her back gets to feeling better as well.

Dear Dr. Utley,

My name is Kent Seckinger. I live in Greenville SC. I came across your hermeneutical series and commentaries a few years ago as a new Christian.

They have been instrumental in encouraging me to read the bible for myself seeking truth with a growing dependence on God that encompasses the whole of my life. I have

learned so much about how much I don't know! Most of all, I am continually learning that we serve the Lord no matter where we are in our lives and in an age when we often miss God in our present because we seek to know His calling in our the future. Such doing bypasses the important lessons He teaches us in waiting on Him. However, I do believe that He has a vocation for us. Do you have any recommended readings or suggestions that address this "cross roads" of waiting on the Lord and pursuing His vocation for one's life. I realize you are busy and understand if you cannot reply. Mainly, I'd just like you to know your works for Christ have touched me and my family to grow in Christ.

Kent S.

Dear Dr. Utley,

I am glad to inform you than the translation of Johannine Writings in Arabic is under good progress. As promised, I am hoping to submit to you the translation in a PDF format soon.

Needless to say that I am really impressed with the theological depth and practicality of this study guide. I do appreciate your hard work. Do you plan to have these study guides available in print as well?

*The Revd Riad Kassis, PhD
Overseas Council, Regional Director for
Middle East and Central Europe*

Dear Professor Utley,

Thank you very much for your email. I find your website a very valuable, systematic and informative contribution to Bible studies and I shall highlight it in our links. May I congratulate you for its creation and for offering it as a free service and may I

“ I find your preaching and exegesis genuine, refreshing, passionate, true to the text, and challenging. ”

ask you to keep us in your prayer as we shall keep you in ours. May the Lord protect us and strengthen our endeavours for bringing preaching and love in this world.

*Costas
United Kingdom*

Dr. Utley or whomever may read this,

I have been using your website for quite a while and I want to first say that it is a major blessing to me. I am currently attending the Assembly of God Theological Seminary and I have used your commentaries quite often in my own personal studies as well as in many of my assignments. I am currently in a Systematic Theology class and I am writing a term paper on Calvinism and Arminianism and the need for a theological balance between the two. I was wondering if there were any sources I could use for this paper that would support your position (and mine) regarding the middle ground between the two theological thoughts. You have also said that Eastern writings often utilize tensions in their writings and I was wondering if there were any sources I could use to support that position for my paper. Any help would be greatly appreciated.

Anthony

I am non-Christian and very much interested in Bible scripture, History & Archeology.

Dear Bob Utley,

Thank you so much for your love and concern towards us, we have distributed your CD ROM TO Pastors and Student Pastors during the conference and after the conference.

Rev. Phil Cornwell from N.J. U.S.A. collected one of your CD Rom and promise to email you when he gets to United States. I told him how you contributed \$600 to get the 500 CD ROMS for Pastors during this conference.

He was blessed to see your Bible Lessons Commentary in our Library.

Please view photos below of the CD ROM distributed. Please email me, If you receive the photos.

*Thanks,
Rev. Godstime Evbota,
Spread The Word Bible College
spreadthewordbiblecollege.org*

Greetings

I am non-Christian, 28 and very much interested in Bible scripture, History and Archeology. I am not very satisfied regarding my religious concerns and Want to know the right path. Due to shortage of electricity, power supply and networking problem I am unable to read the material online. I am also Short of computer most of the time. I am very much thankful to you if you will send the Bible commentaries in Urdu specially revelation and others. Please consider my request and spread the Gospel to all the nations. Please If possible send the material in staple or gum binding.

Syed, Pakistan



Spread the Word Ministry , Rev Godstime Evbota

Greetings to you from Myanmar!

I must say how much blessed I am reading your internet website. Your internet has lifted me up to a new spiritual level. My prayer is that God continue providing so that we can continue to gain from your internet website. I had one CD of yours contains one Bible Commentary which is sent to me from a friend in the USA. Thank you very much for your worthwhile mission. God bless your free Bible Lessons International.

*Yours in Myanmar, Roger Than Maung
United Missionary Fellowship*

Dear Dr. Bob Utley,

Praise the Lord, We are fine in Kenya doing well in the Lord Jesus Christ. We are getting blessed with the CDrom of the commentaries, you send to us and also the computer you bought for us is doing very well. We are praying for you, that in all situations, God almighty may bless the work of your hands and expand your territories, so that you may be able to reach the furthest end with the message of the heavenly kingdom. Have a good time with the lord Jesus Christ. Thank God for the far he has brought us. Have a nice moment as we approach the end of the year 2009. Looking forward to hear from you soon. God bless.

Yours in Christ, Pastor Geoffrey Simiyu

Dear Brethren,

Calvary greetings to the saints and fellow labourers in Christ who are at Marshall. Grace to you and peace from God our Father.

In behalf of the brethren I write to thank you all for the CD Rom given to us. Praying always for you. Since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all the saints.

We are sincerely thankful for the kind support and work God is using you to do mostly in fulfilling the great commission of His dear Son Jesus Christ.

The CD-Rom Bible Commentary sent to us is a great tool in teaching and preaching the word of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, especially now that we can differentiate the difference between Old Testament teaching text and the textual application in interpretation and how it is applied in the New Testament also.

Yours Sincerely, Innocent Ofem Ubi

Dr. Utley,

First of all I have to thank you deeply for the wealth of resources you've posted for free on your website. I've already gotten good use out of much of it and have pointed others in that direction as well. I especially appreciate your treatment of original languages, manuscript evidence, and patristic commentary in your introduction(s) to different books. It seems external witness is an oft-neglected area of study and teaching. You've not only covered that base, but provided the work free of charge to any willing to do some reading! I personally cannot thank you enough for that. So many of the good commentaries that do much with the original languages charge so much for their publications. (i.e. the New Inter-

national Commentary edited by Fee – at the top of my “wish list”) You've enabled me to hold off for now from making a purchase that would be unnecessary at least and at worst irresponsible (even for a commentary it's hard to justify a \$500 purchase!)

*Jeff Whittum,
Director, Full-Proof Ministries*

“ I thank God for leading me to your teaching online! ”

First, I just want to thank you so much for your ministry. I thank God for leading me to your teaching online! It has been like a cool drink to a thirsty man. I love to study the bible. I am self-taught via many books on Hermeneutics and grammar studies. I have always wanted to know, for myself, what God wants me to know about Him, so that I may know Him, love Him, and serve Him. Your studies have given voice to what I have been taught via the written text. Thanks.

I was listening to one of your studies, somewhere in Matthew 24 or 25. You mentioned a resource about “the views of the second coming” in which you discussed the strengths and weaknesses of the various views. Is this resource on the website, or can I order via charge?

*Dan S
www.menofcourageonline.com*

Prayer for the Colossians' Growth

(Col. 1:9-14)

“For this reason also, since the day we heard of it (faith of the Colossians), we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience, joyously giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light. For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.”

This is such a beautiful prayer that Paul prayed for the Colossian believers and to us as well. The God we serve is awesome!!! We must share Him with others.

Pastor Utley,

Thank You for unraveling the years of Independent Baptist theological oppression. As a PK and an artist, you and my pastor, David Uth, have helped me feel the presence of God these last few years more than the first 40 years of my Life. Here is our part of the Great Commission, equipping

“Walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God . . .”
(Col. 1:10)

the missionary with content to further the Kingdom in today's visual society.

*Thanks Again for all you do,
P.S. Looking forward to reading FF Bruce,
Gordon D Fee and Douglas Stuart Dale*

Dr. Utley,

I would like to let you know how much I appreciate your on-line commentaries. I teach a class of adult women at New Chapel Hill Baptist Church in West Monroe, LA. After hearing you teach Romans, I have been using your commentaries to further my studies.

Thank you again for the intense work and dedication you give to helping others understand the Holy Scriptures.

Beth W.

Dear Dr. Utley

I am an Episcopal priest in the Diocese of Alabama. I just wanted to drop you a note of thanks. I am just finishing up an Adult Sunday school class on Hebrews. May God continue to bless you as your work has blessed us.

The Rev. Bruce

Bible Lessons International

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