

Bible Study – Reference Materials

Overview

Bible study can be greatly enhanced with adequate reference materials. The following will be short summary of the basic materials, which I recommend.



Internet

Using the Internet can provide a valuable source for good Catholic materials. There are many more but these will provide you with most of your needs.

- WWW.catholic.com is quite probably one of the best Web sources and lives up to its name of Catholic.
- WWW.vatican.va is the Vatican web page.
- WWW.newadvent.com is a good source for an on line Catholic Encyclopedia and other good material.
- WWW.osv.com is the web page for Our Sunday Visitor weekly magazine.
- WWW.americancatholic.org is the web page for the Franciscans.
- www.rekindlingourfaith.com is my personal web site for Catholic teachings

Reference Books and Publications

You can spend a small fortune (as I have) on reference books but the following is a list of must have and like to have books.

Must Have

- *New American Bible (NAB)*: The NAB is the recommended source for Catholics and

generally follows the text in the readings of the mass.

- *Catechism of the Catholic Church*
- *Dictionary-Concordance*: This book features words, names and other biblical terms.

Nice to Have

- *A Catholic Encyclopedia* is more powerful than the dictionary counterpart – providing more in depth materials and pictures.
- *Bible Commentary*: A commentary is useful to explain and interpret the bible text from the bible. There are several on the market but I have found the *Collegeville Bible Commentary* as being the best.

Recommended Authors

In addition to above materials there are a few authors that have written good Catholic books and are fine reading to enlighten and expand ones understandings. My favorites are as follows:

- Frank Sheed is the author of *Theology for beginners* and *To Know Christ Jesus*. Frank has the ability to take complex subjects and make them understandable.
- C. S. Lewis has written some of the best Christian books available.
- Thomas Merton was a Trappist Monk and a proliferate writer whose books are still in demand long after his death.
- Bob and Penny Lord: are a husband and wife team who have written several good books.
- Saint Augustine wrote many publications that continue to be read in modern times. His book *The Confessions of St. Augustine* is required reading in many seminaries. His book *City of God* is a classic.
- G.K. Chesterton is another prolific Christian writer and his book *The Everlasting Man* is a classic.