THE MINISTER'S LIBRARY
2021

BOOK SELECTION HELPS

A revision of John Bollier's work published in 1979. An annotated list of over 500 reference works arranged under the following headings: books about the Bible, Bible commentaries, church history, Christian theology, world Christianity & world religions, Christian denominations, practical theology, Christian spirituality, and Christianity & literature. The first chapter is a list of a core collection of 22 books. One of the appendixes is a classified list of "The Literature of Theology on the Web." Contains author and title indexes.

A list of over 2,000 English language titles for ministers or those preparing for the ministry. Books were chosen because of “their usefulness for theological understanding within the broad context of the faith of the church, their significance in the history of Christian theology, and their evangelical scholarship.” Arranged under the following headings: theological reference works, types of theology, notable theologians, doctrines (arranged alphabetically by topic), theological traditions, and contemporary theological issues. Most titles are relatively recent although classic works are also included. Includes author index. Recommended titles are marked with an asterisk.

A selective bibliography of approximately 2,200 titles arranged under the following headings: whole Bible, Old Testament, early Judaism, and New Testament. Prepared primarily for the seminary student and minister. Annotations are provided for about 600 that he thinks are the most helpful. Contains lists of commentary recommendations for each biblical book. Includes author index.

A list of basic resources (about 900 Bible commentaries & 1600 other volumes) arranged under the following subjects: commentaries; O.T. & N.T. introductions, surveys, theologies, and backgrounds; Judaica; Bible dictionaries & encyclopedias; Hebrew & Greek resources; hermeneutics; theology, church history; exegetical and Bible study computer programs; computer resources & Internet Web sites. The emphasis is on commentaries (about 40% of titles listed), which are listed by biblical book in three categories: technical or semitechnical; exposition; & special studies. Each commentary is classified based on the following orientations: evangelical, evangelical/critical, conservative/moderate, or liberal/critical. Highly recommended commentaries are in bold print, and he provides an “Ultimate Commentary Collection” of the best commentaries for each book of the Bible. Chapter one discusses “Building a ‘Must-Have’ Personal Reference Library.”

This is the 11th ed. of the previous work, but only devoted to the New Testament. “Subsequent volumes will address the Old Testament and theological resources.” Discusses the resources in the following chapters: Building a “Must-Have” personal reference library; On commentary series; New Testament introduction, survey, and theology; Jesus and the Gospels; New Testament Commentaries; New Testament background; Jewish background; Popular references; General references; New Testament Greek resources; Exegesis, interpretation, and hermeneutics; and the Ultimate N.T. commentary collection. Lists numerous resources in each chapter with recommended purchases in shaded print. The major section (51-240) lists N.T. commentaries in canonical order under two headings: Technical,
Semitechnical and Exposition and in each category ranks them either good, better, or best. In the last chapter on “The Ultimate N.T. Commentary Collection” recommends the best technical commentary and the best expositional commentary for each biblical book.

USED BOOK DEALERS

Cornerstone Books, P.O. Box 28224, Santa Ana, CA 92799; 714-668-1718; (e-mail: info@cornerstonebooks.org; website: www.cornerstonebooks.org)

Windows Booksellers, 150 West Broadway, Eugene, OR 97401; 800-779-1701; (e-mail: windowsbk@academicbooks.com; website: http://windowsbooks.com)
The best source for used biblical and theological books. Publishes a new arrivals catalog almost each book on their website.

The following are good used book websites: http://www.abebooks.com; http://www.bookfinder.com; http://www.alibris.com

Amazon also carries used books, but sometimes the price reduction from a new title is offset by shipping costs.

CATALOGING AND CLASSIFICATION


LENDING SERVICES FOR MINISTERS

Kesler Circulating Library (http://www.library.vanderbilt.edu/divinity/visitors/kesler/)
A service of Vanderbilt University Library for any person engaged in ministry in the U.S or Canada without access to theological resources through other means. Provides materials held by the Vanderbilt Divinity library. Limited to four books at one time. The only cost to the patron is return postage. Will copy articles and chapters from books at .10 per page. “The intent. . . is to provide materials for continuing education and ministry preparation, not to support academic progress toward a degree.” “By agreeing to become a Kesler member, you are affirming that the library’s resources will be used primarily to support your ministry, rather than your academic work.”