

*Do not panic at the length of this list!* It borders on being exhaustive, but primarily for reference purposes. Example lists of what you might actually purchase are given at various points. Further advice can be given.

- a) Essential reading for the unit is the **Bible**. The ACT recommends the use of the NRSV, RSV, NIV/TNIV or ESV. Ridley staff will teach from the NRSV, and a copy of the NRSV will be supplied in exams; it is a good version with which to become familiar.
- b) Readings will be frequently set from a **New Testament introduction or reference**. The following is both an excellent summary of many matters, as well as a stage-by-stage study of the *texts* involved. While advanced students may find it a little simple and prefer to focus on more technical works, most will find this helpful:
- Blomberg, Craig L. *From Pentecost to Patmos*. Leicester: Apollos, 2006.

Whether or not you purchase Blomberg, you would be well served to have regular access to *at least* one of the following. (These are ranked roughly from simplest to most complex. Feel free to seek advice about which one[s] might best suit you. You may already have one from first semester.)

- Wenham, David and Steve Walton. *Exploring the New Testament, Volume 1: A Guide to the Gospels and Acts*. 2nd ed. Leicester: IVP, 2011.
- Marshall, I. Howard, Stephen Travis and Ian Paul. *Exploring the New Testament, Volume 2: The Letters and Revelation*. 2nd ed. Leicester: IVP, 2011.
- Tenney, Merrill C. *New Testament Survey*. Rev. ed. Leicester: IVP, 1985.
- Achtemeier, Paul J., Joel B. Green and Marianne Meye Thompson. *Introducing the New Testament: Its Literature and Theology*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2001.
- Carson, D. A. and Douglas J. Moo. *An Introduction to the New Testament*. 2nd ed. Leicester: Apollos, 2005.
- deSilva, David A. *An Introduction to the New Testament: Context, Methods and Ministry Formation*. Leicester: IVP, 2004.
- Brown, Raymond E. *An Introduction to the New Testament*. New York: Doubleday, 1997.
- Guthrie, Donald. *New Testament Introduction*. 4th ed. Leicester: Apollos, 1990.

} [most students  
are about here]

- c) Regular access to one or two **commentaries on Acts** is essential. An exhaustive list, including works both lighter than heavier than these, is available in the matching commentary list. Most students will find themselves benefiting from the following more recent volumes (roughly simpler to harder):

- Marshall, I. Howard. *The Acts of the Apostles*. TNTC 5. Leicester: IVP, 1980.
- Barrett, C. K. *Acts: A Shorter Commentary*. Edinburgh: T&T Clark, 2002.
- Longenecker, Richard N. 'The Acts of the Apostles' in *Expositor's Bible Commentary*, 9:207–573. Grand Rapids: Regency, 1981.

Longenecker's volume is also available separately (Zondervan, 1995), and has now been lightly revised (Zondervan, 2007; 10:663–1102). The changes are sufficiently superficial that the older, more accessible volume(s) will suffice. Should you consider *buying* the *EBC* series, the revised edition (still in progress) is much more legible, and Acts is now joined by better companion works.

- Bruce, F. F. *The Book of the Acts*. NICNT. Rev. ed. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1988.
- David G. Peterson. *The Acts of the Apostles*. PNTC. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2009.
- Bock, Darrell L. *Acts*. BECNT 5. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2007.
- Witherington, Ben, III. *The Acts of the Apostles*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1998.

Ideally, you should consider *buying* (at least one of) the lighter and (at least one of) the more scholarly. The most ideal, complete, middle-of-the road *starting point* is probably Peterson.

- d) Other helpful studies of **Acts**, including matters of application today:
- Green, Chris. *The Word of His Grace: A guide to Teaching and Preaching from Acts*. IVP, 2005.
  - Green, Michael. *Thirty Years that Changed the World*. 2nd ed. Leicester: IVP, 2002.
  - Robinson, Anthony B., and Robert W. Wall. *Called to Be Church: The Book of Acts for a New Day*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2006.
  - Marshall, I. Howard, and David Peterson, eds. *Witness to the Gospel: The Theology of Acts*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1998.
- e) A **New Testament Theology** will hold many issues in perspective (more useful to less useful):
- Ladd, George E. *A Theology of the New Testament*. Rev. ed. Eerdmans, 1993.
  - Thielman, Frank. *Theology of the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2005.
  - Marshall, I. Howard. *New Testament Theology*. IVP, 2004.
  - Guthrie, Donald. *New Testament Theology*. IVP, 1981.
  - Morris, Leon L. *New Testament Theology*. Zondervan, 1985.
- f) Specific studies of **Pauline Theology** include:
- Bruce, F. F. *Paul: Apostle of the Free Spirit*. Rev. ed. Carlisle: Paternoster, 1980.
  - Schreiner, Thomas R. *Paul: Apostle of God's Glory in Christ*. Leicester: IVP, 2001.
  - Ridderbos, Herman. *Paul: An Outline of His Theology*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1992.
- g) An **introduction to hermeneutics** (biblical interpretation) is beneficial as a resource for years to come:
- Fee, Gordon D. and Douglas Stuart. *How To Read The Bible For All Its Worth*. 3rd ed. Zondervan, 2003. [almost essential]
  - Klein, William W., Craig L. Blomberg and Robert L. Hubbard. *Introduction to Biblical Interpretation*. Rev. ed. Thomas Nelson, 2004. [intermediate]
- h) **Other works** which will be useful, and regularly referred to, include:
- **DPL**: Hawthorne, Gerald F., Ralph P. Martin and Daniel G. Reid, eds. *Dictionary of Paul and his Letters*. Downers Grove: IVP, 1993.
  - **DLNT**: Martin, Ralph P., and Peter H. Davids, eds. *Dictionary of the Later New Testament & its Developments*. Downers Grove: IVP, 1997.
  - **NDBT**: Alexander, T. Desmond, and Brian S. Rosner, eds. *New Dictionary of Biblical Theology*. Leicester: IVP, 2000.
  - **NBD**: Marshall, I. Howard, et al, eds. *New Bible Dictionary*. 3rd ed. Leicester: IVP, 1996. [Much of the same text is found in earlier editions of the *NBD* and also in the *Illustrated Bible Dictionary*.]
  - **ISBE**: Bromiley, Geoffrey W., ed. *International Standard Bible Encyclopedia*. 4 vols. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1979–1988.
  - **DTIB**: Vanhoozer, Kevin J., et al, eds. *Dictionary for Theological Interpretation of the Bible*. London: SPCK, 2005.

A great many of these are now available, together, as *The Essential IVP Reference Collection* on CD-ROM.

- i) While we do not explore much depth in the remaining epistles of the NT, there are good commentaries available. These are listed in a matching PDF file.

## Summary

The ideal first-year library might develop *in roughly the following order* (ignoring commentaries on the wider epistles):

- Blomberg
- Carson & Moo or deSilva
- a commentary or two on Acts
- *DPL*, *DLNT* (again, the *IVP Reference Collection* is a very cost-effective library)
- a New Testament theology
- start to collect one or two good commentaries on each epistle
- more of each category above