



# THEOLOGY ESSENTIALS

“Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers, but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither.”

~ Psalm 1:1-3 ~



KNOWING

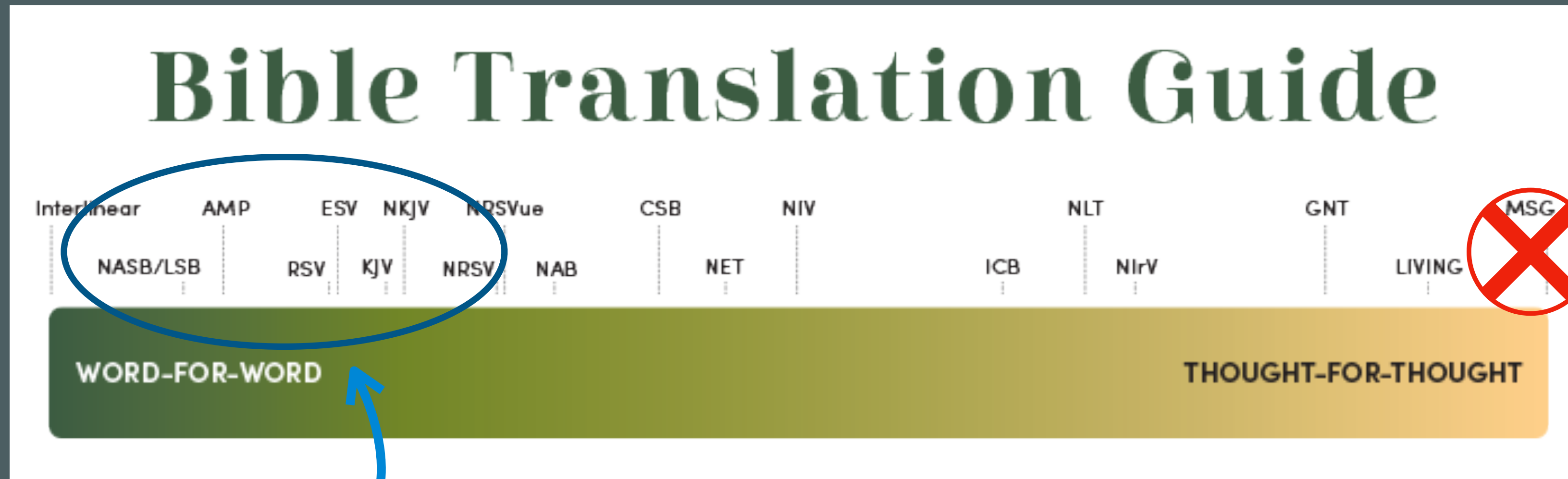
SCRIPTURE



THEOLOGY ESSENTIALS



# Chapter 6 - Practical Tools for Bible Study



**Best**

**Dangerous!!**



## Chapter 6 - Practical Tools for Bible Study

- **Formal Equivalence**

- Strengths: “seeks to follow the Greek (or Hebrew) text as closely as possible in a word-by-word pattern.. The Strong of such a method is obviously found in its verbal accuracy.”
- Weaknesses: Sometimes difficult to read
- Examples: NASB, ESV, NKJV



# Chapter 6 - Practical Tools for Bible Study

- **Functional Equivalence**

- Strengths: “Seeks a maximum of fluid reading style with a minimum of verbal distortion. Since words put together produce thought or concepts, the goal is to produce an accurate rendition of the thoughts or concepts of Scripture.”
- Weaknesses: Given the emphasis on communicating the thought of the text, more “commentary” is required from the translator.
- Examples: NRS, NIV



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- The Paraphrase or Free Translation
  - Strengths: very readable...
  - Weaknesses: Much **more “commentary”** required from the author!
  - Examples: NLT, Message



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- Advice on choosing a Bible translation
  - “The more a translation moves in the direction of paraphrase (or thought-for thought) the more manifest is the danger of distortion.”
  - A word on the KJV:

“But one fact concerning the KJV cannot and must be ignored: it is simply less accurate in its representation of the original writings of Scripture than most modern translations. There is a crucial historical reason for this. The Greek text from the KJV was translated (the Textus Receptus) is clearly inferior to more modern reconstructed Greek text. Many textual errors found in the KJV have been eliminated by more recent translations.”



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- Study Bibles
- “Commentary” and “study helps” found in “Study Bibles”
  1. Chapter and verse references
  2. Red letters
  3. Foot notes (indicating textual variances)
  4. Cross references
  5. Added words italicized
  6. Commentary notes



*Recommendation*



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- **Commentaries**
- Single Volume Commentaries — written by team of people
- Commentary Sets — Reformed Expository Commentary, Pillar New Testament, Calvin's Commentaries, Tyndale OT and NT Commentary Sets, Eerdmans NICOT and NICNT
- Recommendation:  
[bestcommentaries.com](http://bestcommentaries.com)  
[ligonier.com](http://ligonier.com) (top commentaries on every book)



## Chapter 6 - Practical Tools for Bible Study

- Concordances, Bible Dictionaries, and Atlases
- [blueletterbible.org](http://blueletterbible.org) and Strong's Concordance
- New Bible Dictionary
- ESV Atlases (most study bible have good selection of maps)



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- Greek and Hebrew
- Greek-English Lexicon (Bauer, 3rd ed)
- Reverse Interlinear (Mounce)
- Greek grammars (Mounce)
- Theological Dictionary of the New Testament
- The Hebrew English Interlinear OT ESV



## Chapter 6 - Practical Tools for Bible Study

- Software
- Logos
- Biblegateway (wide selection of translations, dictionaries, and sources... but be diligent and selective!!)
- Bible Reading Plans!!



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1689

Of the Holy Scriptures  
Chapter 1



## Chapter 6 - Practical Tools for Bible Study

*Questions ???*