

only me?

BIBLICAL AIDS: THE WORD STUDY NT (edd. Ralph D. and Roberta H. Winter, Wm. Carey Library and Tyndale House/78) + THE WORD STUDY CONCORDANCE (edd. Geo. V. Wigram and Ralph D. Winter, same pub./78).....Elliott #1272

Occasionally a publication lifts me near ecstasy, for it seems to meet both a public need and my private study needs. This set is an instance. Let me shape two questions, one for each audience of public need, then one for my own:

If I don't know the biblical languages, am I cut off from the great reference works on the Bible? Not as much as you were before the publication of this set, which came into existence more for you than for biblical-language users and scholars....If I "had" Greek but have forgotten so much of it that it's tough even to use the reference works, has anybody come out with anything that simplifies my access to the Greek NT? Yes, this set is for amnesiacs as well as ignorants [no slight intended on either category: in various departments of human knowledge, we're all ignorants and amnesiacs]....While I'm "current" on the biblical languages and handle them easily, is there a way to "crack" the reference works faster than my current laborious skewering of a whole shelf? Yes! The set functions as a convergent index of page-references in the major NT-Greek reference-works.

1. By "convergent index," I mean specifically this: The number-system of Strong's *Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible* keys together the major works. My course in THE ROOTS OF THE ROOTS teaches the student how to use this number-system, without knowing Greek, to get at the Greek roots. Heretofore, there was no way this student could go beyond Strong. Now, using the Strong number, the "English" [meaning Greek-ignorant] student can move out into all the great Greek-based reference works! I can't wait to teach the course again! Before, it was like leading "English" students into a small clearing in the woods: now it will be like leading them up onto a sunlit plateau.

2. What works does this student now need in addition to the 2-vol. set? Strong's is not needed for NT work; but it is still the only way "English" students can get at biblical Hebrew. (I hope that before long, somebody will come out with a parallel 2-vol. set on OT. Ralph Winter, the primary scholar on the NT set, is highly competent in Hebrew as well as Greek, and has a PhD in structural linguistics....maybe he's already at it.)

Arndt and Gingrich, *A GREEK LEXICON OF THE NT AND OTHER EARLY CHRISTIAN LITERATURE*
Moulton and Geden, *THE CONCORDANCE OF THE GREEK NT*. The 1978 edition carries the Strong number-system. Which reminds me: The first thing published by the Wm. Carey Library was *THE NEW ENGLISHMAN'S GREEK CONCORDANCE*, "new" meaning that to this old work, which I was using early in the 1930s before I learned Greek, was added the Strong number-system; so the present 2-vol. work is a lineal extension of that publishing event. And while I'm on this, "Wm. Carey" was of course the English cobbler who in 1812, going to Burma, began the modern missionary movement. This press aims to provide technical biblical materials in forms available to the public in general but particularly to missionaries (the Winters were missionaries in Guatemala, whence came the theological-education-by-extension movement--from Ralph's and others' experimentation in redesigning theological education; incidentally, Ralph's openness I think of in connection with his getting the Fuller Seminary faculty to get me to have a conference with them arising out of the brouhaha arising out of my 1966 NCC debate with Billy Graham: Ralph was strongly on my side).

Kittel and Friedrich, *THEOLOGICAL DICTIONARY OF THE NT*. Alan Richardson's *THEOLOGICAL WORD BOOK OF THE NT* is the best 1-vol. work of this sort in English; but Kittel-Friedrich is the comprehensive classic, in 10 vols. (vol.10, the index, using the Strong numbers). English-language publishers are coming out with vols. of clusters of Kittel articles; but without Greek you can understand almost everything in the 10 vols., so why bother with a batch of cluster-article books?

3. You can buy just THE WORD STUDY NT; but I recommend also THE WORD STUDY CONCORDANCE because (viii WSNT) context-reading is "the most important basis of understanding the meaning of the Greek word."

OVER

SAMPLE EXERCISE

Now let's see how it work--how, even if you know no Greek, you can use the best NT Greek resources in print, and have some confidence that you know what you're talking about (instead of beginning lamely, "I don't know Greek, but....").... Put WSNT in the middle of your workspace (as here it's in the middle of the page), and open to Gal.3.23 [p.611]. The code-key number under "faith" throws you onto p.624 of WSC for the concordance article inclusive of all the NT reff. to "faith" (the ref. + Eng.tr.); for the numbers following the code-key number above this article, see the explanation on pp.viii of the same book: here, I've visualized your consequent use of this information [the reff. vols. as described on the other p. of this thinksheet].

STRONG'S
CONCORDANCE

A-G
GREEK
LEXICON

GALATIA
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M-G
GREEK
CONCORDANCE

p. xxi:
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root (+ their
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p. 1079:
variant readings
from various texts
of the Greek NT

54pp. of
Bultmann
on "faith"
in the NT!

K-F
THEOL.
DICTIONARY
OF THE
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