Logos Bible Software Series X: Scholar's Library Silver Edition.

One of the questions which I am most frequently asked by students is, "Can you give me some guidance in building my ministry library?" That question is now easier to answer than ever before. Consider purchasing the Logos Scholar's Library.

Six years ago when my family moved to Bucharest, Romania to serve as international missionaries, I faced a tough decision. We had limited funds for shipping items overseas and I could take only a fourth of my total library with me. I very carefully chose the volumes that would be shipped. My Greek tools, including lexica, grammars, and syntax texts, were necessary because I would teach New Testament and Greek in a university and seminary setting. I would also need as many solid commentaries as my crate would hold to assist me in preparing lectures and sermons. The crate space was quickly filled but hundreds of my prized books still sat on the shelves. Every few months I found it necessary to write family members, asking them to rummage through the stacks of boxes in the attic where the books were stored to locate particular volumes and ship them overseas to me at considerable expense. Now this struggle would be unnecessary. I can carry a library of nearly four-hundred volumes on my notebook computer just about anywhere I go.

The Scholar's Library Silver Edition has the equivalent of over $8,000.00 worth of printed volumes in its digital library. Try lugging that around in a briefcase! And these volumes are not merely the old public-domain works that are packed into some programs to impress consumers with a large number of titles, nor are they mere devotional works that are of little benefit for serious exposition. The library is filled with the tools that I most frequently use for intensive exegetical research.

The library contains an impressive array of tools for studying biblical words. Greek lexica include Louw and Nida's *Greek-English Lexicon Based on Semantic Domains*, the intermediate edition of Liddell and Scott (an excellent resource for studying the usage of Greek terms in both secular and biblical Greek), and even the massive ten volume *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament* which not only thoroughly discusses the most important New Testament words but also often contains substantial commentary on individual passages. The library also includes two works on NT syntax. You can add *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature* and Wallace's *Greek Grammar Beyond the Basics*.

These additional resources cost approximately the same as the printed volumes. However, they have distinct advantages over the printed volumes. For example, if you study text using the "exegetical guide," the program places links to the various lexica beside the Greek word. A click of the mouse quickly carries you to the lexical entry. The reference to the passage that you are studying is highlighted in the lexical entry so you can quickly determine the nuance of the term which, in the opinion of the authors, best fits the context of the passage. Similar links quickly transport the exegete to syntactical discussions. Although I tend to be a bit old-fashioned and like printed books, using the electronic library has several distinct advantages. The Bible student does not have to clutter his desk with a dozen open books at the same time or spend valuable time

flipping through a table of contents or index to locate the information that he needs. All of the pertinent discussions remain only a mouse click away.

Serious students recognize that an understanding of the form and structure of a passage can be as important to exegesis as the meaning of individual words. The library has a diagramming tool to assist students in mapping out the structure. Simply use the palette to insert the correct line style and then drag the Greek, Hebrew, or English text onto the line. The diagramming tool also allows one to insert syntactical labels in order to make the diagram even more helpful. The tool enables the exegete to construct a very detailed line diagram much more quickly than was possible than with the old approach using graph paper, pencil and ruler. As the student struggles through the diagramming process, he will likely gain new insights into the structure of the text which require him to revise the diagram. This is also fast and easy. Line diagramming is a time-consuming process even with computer aids. I still prefer Guthrie and Duvall's diagramming method which is considerably faster, equally precise, and enables one to preserve the original order of clauses in the diagram. However, some students have difficulty preparing and reading diagrams without lines. For them, the diagramming tool will be invaluable.

Simple searches of a single word or phrase are easily to perform. The program is also equipped for more complex searches based on grammatical forms, order of words, and proximity to other words. The result of the searches will only be as accurate as the query and sophisticated queries can be difficult to construct. However, most users will probably not run complex searches. The video reference guide can be an enormous help for the more difficult procedures, especially for users who are not especially computer-savvy.

The program has a nice new feature called "verb rivers" that plots the occurrences of a particular verb form through a passage or book. This feature allows the user to plot, for example, the shift from indicatives to imperatives in an epistle in order to demarcate the move from the theological section of the epistle to the ethical section.

The Scholar's Silver edition has an impressive array of other excellent Bible study tools including Donald Guthrie's *New Testament Introduction*, Tyndale's *Bible Dictionary*, a deluxe map set, a beautiful set of photographs of the holy land, thirty-two volumes of the *New American Commentary*, the Old Testament Commentaries by Keil and Delitzsch, and Lightfoot's works on the Pauline Epistles and many, many others. Scholars will be surprised to find three volumes of ancient Egyptian literature as well as the Amarna letters and the *Archaeological Encyclopedia of the Holy Land* in the bundle. Those who have the money can also add hundreds of additional volumes to the library including collections like the *Word Biblical Commentary*.

The program can tax the resources of your computer system. I would recommend running Logos Bible Software on a computer with a fast processor, extra memory, and plenty of hard-drive space. I initially loaded the program on an older machine and was never able to make it function properly, even with plenty of assistance from tech support and even though the computer exceeded the minimal specifications. The program functions well on my new low-grade notebook.

Logos presently offers seminary faculty and students a 50% discount on the program that is available for a limited time each year. For more information, call the Logos Academic Department at 800-878-4191. The savings are substantial and may go a long way toward the costs of upgrading the computer to make it ready for peak performance.

Charles L. Quarles
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary