



New Content:
Portraits of Christ
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A NEWSLETTER DEDICATED TO MAGNIFYING THE
"For You have magnified Your Word above all Your Name."

WORD OF GOD
Psalm 138:2

SUMMER | 2017

BLUE LETTER BIBLE

MAGNIFYING GOD'S WORD

The Light of God's Word

No one lights a lamp and puts it under a basket, but rather on a lampstand, and it gives light for all who are in the house.
(Matthew 5:15)



We received one of the dearest testimonies from a veteran Blue Letter Bible user, Dr. Glenn Craft. He told us our website is the only Bible study resource he ever uses. Whether he is ministering to his family, coordinating his church's mission ministry, serving at Christian Veterinary Mission, or running his Animal Hospital, he is *always* conscious of the need to be a faithful witness of the Gospel light.

Dr. Craft stressed the importance of being in God's Word every day. He uses the BLB Daily Reading Plan, which allows him to do additional research, as well as link to God-exalting hymns relative to the passage he is studying. Because his days are so busy, he said—

"I have grown to rely heavily on the instant accessibility

of BLB on my computer, laptop, and cell phone. And with the mobile app at my fingertips, I can rapidly search for Scriptures."

Then we learned that two years ago, the Craft family experienced a medical crisis that turned their world upside down. Dr. Craft's wife, Lisa, was diagnosed with a rare form of cancer. In July of 2015, they began journaling prayer requests, medical updates, and praise reports on CaringBridge. They both drew spiritual strength from the Bible to help them through this life-threatening trial.

Dr. Craft told us—

"During that time, it was most important to Lisa that people knew it was God's grace and her faith that sustained her. In our weakest moments as

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The Light of God's Word

Cover Story (continued from page 1)


Christians, the Word of God remained our greatest source of strength."

During many long months of tests, a heroic 7-hour surgery, and then 35 days of Proton Therapy, the Crafts were communicating with hundreds of people about Lisa's physical progress and how God was ministering to them through the Scriptures.

Dr. Craft said—

"Blue Letter Bible made it so easy for me to include God's Word in all of our social media communications from those lonely and isolated hospital waiting rooms."

Although there were many dark hours spent at City of Hope hospital, the Craft family did not hide their faith, but openly promoted the Gospel by letting the light of Christ shine for all to witness His presence and healing power.

Today, all of us at BLB rejoice with the Craft family as they continue rearing their two young children *and* ministering to others! We are also grateful that God continues to use Blue Letter Bible to help shine forth the "Light of the World." (John 8:12) 




STAFF TIP

Preventing Distraction



Alaina Puckett

As a worship leader at my church, one of the biggest blessings I have come to appreciate on BLB is the copy and paste feature. Our church has incorporated a congregational Scripture reading during worship, so our focus is sure to remain on Who and why we worship. When I am preparing my materials in the days leading up to Sunday morning, I use the copy/paste feature to make sure the Scriptures are laid out on the slides as they are on my own sheet of paper, and most importantly that they are word-for-word. Many times I am doing multiple verses in a passage, so it is nice to be able to choose the formatting, check the boxes next to the verses, and then paste them into the documents I need. It takes away any concern I may have regarding typos in the slides, because unfortunately I had a situation a few years back where one of the typos I had in a slide caused a bit of distraction. And the last thing I want as a worship leader is to have people distracted as they are trying to worship. 



PORTRAITS OF CHRIST IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

STUDY GUIDES BY DON SMITH




Nourishing New Content from BLB's Library of Teaching Pastors

—Bill Foote, David Guzik, Kevin Otsuji, & Don Smith

We are so thankful that God has allowed us to continue providing new content and study tools to aid you in your knowledge of the Word.

We are pleased to offer Pastor Don Smith's study guides entitled "Portraits of Christ." Pastor Smith has thoroughly outlined the Old Testament's prophetic "types" and "shadows" of the coming Messiah, from Genesis through Malachi. It is through the lens of the Holy Scriptures, you will clearly see "portraits" of the Savior, and God's magnificent plan of salvation.

Also recently added is Pastor Kevin Otsuji's entire sermon series through the Gospel of John, as well as an intimate reflection from Pastor David Guzik on Psalm 116 that he presented in-house to our staff. And finally, we have an extensive selection of new sermon series from Pastor Bill Foote for your spiritual enrichment. We pray you will be blessed by these excellent new resources. 



Pastor Bille Foote



Pastor David Guzik



Pastor Kevin Otsuji



Pastor Don Smith



GOD'S WORD IS ALIVE & ACTIVE

Uncovering the Spiritual Truths of God's Word

It honestly does not seem like it has been an entire year since I was exhorting you to continue your daily disciplines in the Word of God as you head into summer. Were you able to dig a little deeper into the Bible last summer? If so, our prayer for you is that you are encouraged to do so again, and that God will uncover some rich spiritual treasures for you as you continue to diligently seek Him.

Dr. Glenn Craft shares the importance of seeking the Lord daily in His Word. Dr. Craft over the last few years has experienced no shortage of trials. During these trying times for him and his family, he clung to the cross and relied on the strength that only our Heavenly Father can provide when it seems all else is failing. He stressed the importance of being in the Word every day and was grateful for the reading plan BLB provides that gave him structure, and allowed for additional research into the Word.

I pray the new content we have added will be an encouragement to you. You will find that we have recently released new study guides from Pastor Don Smith covering prophetic portraits

of Christ within the Old Testament. Additionally, we have provided an entire sermon series through the Gospel of John from Pastor Kevin Otsuji, multiple sermon series from Pastor Bill Foote, and a Christ-centered devotion through Psalm 116 that Pastor David Guzik presented in-house to our staff.

Be sure to visit our home page to review our new content.

We thank God for the many faithful supporters He has led to partner with us. Today, more than ever, BLB depends on the support of its users. Our financial partners help make all we do possible.

May the Word of God continue to bless and guide you,

Jim Milligan
President/CEO



User Testimony

I am so thankful for Blue Letter Bible and the Blue Letter Bible Institute (BLBi). The past few years have been extremely difficult for me, and having to move all the time is really a hardship. About 3 years ago, a friend told me about BLB and the studies they offer for FREE. I was struggling with finding a church and because of my physical ailments (including a broken knee) was bedridden for quite some time. I missed church and the fellowship, and really eating the meat of the Word. When I was introduced to the different BLBi courses, it literally changed my life and

I can't stop studying now, even with my mended knee!!! I am back in a Bible-based church, but I still study with BLBi. Sometimes I'll wake-up at night with anxiety, but when I go online and read the Word it calms me down, and I am then able to apply it to my life. There is always something in the study that applies to my life and the particular trial I face within the study. It is amazing. Thank you, BLB for teaching me and helping me through this world with the Word of God. -Therese

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