

To My Readers:

The courses on this website are the product of twenty years of teaching Biblical studies and theology in Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda, The Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Ethiopia. All of them have been taught in classes, some more than others. Many were taught at Uganda Bible Institute in Mbarara and years later at Westminster Theological College and Seminary in Kampala, Uganda. Others have been taught to South Sudanese believers living in Kiryandongo Refugee Camp in Uganda. The Lord has been pleased to give me considerable time for the preparation of my course lectures—as well as time to learn typing (although I am still “all thumbs” even after 20 years)—which has providentially resulted in textbooks for my students. Hopefully, thanks to my wife, Fran, who set up this website, I will be teaching African brothers and sisters long after I’m dead.

None of the notes have been formally edited, and most have not been edited at all; therefore, I request the reader to be restrained in his criticism of spelling, grammar, sentence structure, etc. In short, it *is* what it *is*, and the work will most likely never get edited. The important thing to me is whether or not the readers understand the content to the end that they and their congregations will be edified to the praise and glory of God.

The reader is given permission to reproduce all or any portion of the notes on this website or found in print under the following conditions:

(1) You must not reproduce these notes in any portion or form without my name on them as the author. God believes in the right to private property (Exodus 20: 15; Acts 5: 4a). You must not plagiarize when using the notes in **written** papers, including **written** sermons. Plagiarism in any form (presenting another writer’s thoughts and words as if they were your own) is stealing; and I should not have to tell you what God says about stealing. However, in the **oral preaching event**, you have my permission to use ideas from my notes without citing me as the source. This would be cumbersome to you and tiresome to your listeners who would not know me from Adam’s pet dog, so just say it without worrying about citation. But this is just me. Other writers may not appreciate your using their ideas even in sermon delivery without proper citation. On the other hand, **written** sermons reproduced for others should always cite sources, including me. Furthermore, do not attempt to “preach” my notes, for you will surely put your audience to sleep if you do. The preacher can milk a lot of cows, but he must make his own butter to be an effective preacher. Besides, preaching another person’s sermon is another form of plagiarism.

(2) When providing these notes to other readers either through digital copies or printed materials, do not charge more than the cost of reproduction. “Freely you received, freely give” (Matt. 10: 8b). My goal is for as many African (and developing-world) pastors and teachers as possible to benefit from these materials for only the cost of reproduction. Reproduction costs may also include the labor involved in translating these materials into another language. “The worker is worthy of his support” (Matt. 10: 10b). At the same time, when evaluating the value of your labor, do not think more highly of yourself than you ought to think (Rom. 12: 3).

(3) The reader may **not** edit or **alter** any portion of these notes. If you find errors in spelling, grammar, or theological content, leave them. This project is a work in progress; and as the Lord permits, I will be editing, adding content, deleting content, changing my mind, etc. until God takes me home, which at this point is probably sooner rather than later. I do not wish for you, the reader, to change my mind for me. If serious errors in content are discovered, feel free to contact me at mcneilldf@gmail.com so that I can correct them in future editions.

For your information:

Unless indicated otherwise, all citations of the Bible have been made from *BibleWorks8* or *BibleWorks10*. More than 95% of my quotations have been copied and pasted from some version of *BibleWorks*. The *BibleWorks10* program abbreviates the 1977 edition of the *New American Standard Bible* as NAS and the 1995 edition of the *New American Standard Bible* as NAU. The NAU abbreviation has been changed to NASB in my notes since most African readers would not recognize its reference to the 1995 NASB, and many reading this page will forget that NAU is the 1995 NASB. I have used NASB quotations because the NASB translation has historically attempted to follow the Greek and Hebrew languages more literally than others. Moreover, NASB Bibles are rarely used, sold, or donated in sub-Saharan Africa. Occasionally, I have quoted the *New International Version (NIV)*, *English Standard Version (ESV)*, *King James Version (KJV)*, *New King James Version (NKJ)*, or other translations; but I obviously prefer the 1995 NASB which is more modern than the 1977 NASB.

The reader will also notice words in parentheses () defining the word which appears before the parenthesis. I have often used more complicated words than necessary, and then defined them, in order to build the vocabulary of anyone who speaks English as a *second* language. My desire is to teach, not to impress anyone with my limited vocabulary. Other theological textbooks will not define words, so take some time to build your English vocabulary for future reading of these other books that are well worth reading. For those readers who already know the definitions of these words, please take no offense at my efforts in defining them. I am writing for a diverse audience with significant differences in educational backgrounds and opportunities.

Happy reading! Your mazungu brother in Christ,

Donald F. McNeill