

**A Book Recommendation:**  
**“How to Enjoy Your Bible” by John Blanchard**  
(BS 475.2 BLA), 159 pages

Dear brothers and sisters,

Do you know that we have an e-library. So this past week, I thought I check out our new e-library. Some of our library books are on the web - site because we are planning to move to another premise to worship. And the librarian seeing the importance of members reading good Christian books during this interim period, came out with a brilliant idea to have books available on the net. And if you place your order for books, the librarian will send you an email confirming your request by Friday. It works because I verified it. And on Sunday, I received my books from the librarian. This library ministers to needs of her members. So, search the website <http://cerclibrary.tripod.com>

I would heartily recommend this book for your reading. It is easy to read with a mere 159 pages and is targetted for the young Christian. Let me highlight a few sections from the book. I hope this will whet your appetite for more.

Selecting a Bible Version

In chapter 5, the author goes into the criteria for choosing a bible translation. I thought he gave good suggestions about choosing a bible version to read, though I disagree with his favourite choice of a bible translation! But, I would not fault the author for choosing the NIV! Who am I to fault him! He did not choose the better versions of NKJV and ESV because both came out later. But, if both versions came out before he wrote the book, I am sure he would have recommended it. I wonder why he did not choose the Authorised Version or the King James Versions.

What are the reasons why I don't recommend the NIV to Christians. First of all, if my memory does not fail me, the men who undertook the translation were less than honourable men, they chose inferior manuscripts and the method they used is called a “dynamic equivalence”, part literal and part paraphrase. The literal part is good but the other part is a interpretation rather than a translation.

In chapter 5, the author lists the following criteria:

- 1) Look out for the best men
- 2) Look out for the best manuscripts
- 3) Look out for the best method for translations

Another useful portion of the book is, approaching the Bible.

How should I approach the Bible?

This is found in chapter 7, entitled, “Angle of Approach”. In this chapter he answers the question, “How should I come to my Bible?”

- 1) Come to the it regularly
- 2) Come to it gratefully
- 3) Come to it diligently
- 4) Come to it dependently
- 5) Come to it prayerfully
- 6) Come to it submissively

I find this approach useful and edifying. It's important that we read the Bible regularly and come with the right spiritual frame of mind and preparedness. With a prayer in our hearts, a desire to understand God's Word and a holy dependence upon the Holy Spirit. The purpose of our reading is so that we can apply it in our hearts. This will go a long way in leading us to meeting the God of the Holy Scriptures.

Pastor Paul Goh