

Will We Still Read the Bible in 10 Years Time? How Technology Helps and Prevents Us from Understanding God's Word

Christians have always been quick to adopt new technology for the benefit of the spread of the Bible. With the current shift to electronic texts which we can no longer touch, feel, drop, smudge, throw, open at random, etc., we are entering uncharted territory when it comes to access to the Bible. How is new technology and the changing format of texts affecting our use and understanding of Scripture? Rather than starting yet another rant about people's lack of Bible knowledge, this seminar will attempt to think through the issues and provide an opportunity to develop solutions.

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- I. Introduction: Context determines 'everything'
 - A. Example: Rocky

- II. Historical overview of reading and writing Scripture
 - A. How people wrote in the days of the New Testament
 - B. Christians and the break with the synagogue tradition of writing Scripture
 - C. First revolution: from scroll to codex
 - D. Organising the text

- III. New Revolution: The digital text
 - A. The response of authors and publishers
 - B. Churches's response
 - 1. Questions about context
 - 2. Questions about esthetics
 - 3. The advantage of random access

4. What are we gaining, what are we losing?

IV. Some examples from modern Bibles

A. Title over 1 Corinthians 6:12

B. Red letter bibles

C. Verse numbering

V. Open questions