It is hard to imagine that we are already a couple of months into the year 2018. As always, God is good and never ceases to amaze us here at Blue Letter Bible with all that He accomplishes through the power of His Word. As we were closing out 2017 and heading into the New Year, I took some time to review some of the wonderful things God has done at BLB. According to Google Analytics, last year we had over 12 million unique users from over 200 different countries visit our websites! That means God’s Word is being studied all throughout the world, and it is humbling to know God is using BLB to reach people who may not otherwise have access to His Word and in-depth study tools.

On that note, I would like to remind you of the Live Map feature we have on the website. What a joy it is to be able to see multiple thousands of people accessing Blue Letter Bible at the same time, for the same purpose—to read and study His Word, in order to understand our Lord in a more intimate way.

I hope you are immensely blessed of the Word that remains the same. Of course, a pastor’s heart for studying God’s Word has not changed over the centuries, but his heart and purpose for studying the Word remains the same.

Our staff tip is brought to you by one of our newest team members, Cameron. He brings to life that I have dedicated to Jesus, King of kings and Lord of lords! “To study is to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needs not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Truth” (2 Timothy 2:15). And BLB certainly helps me do this! Hallelujah! — Dr. Hugo, Malaysia

To tell us your story, go to BlueLetterBible.org/YourStory

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In the past, a pastor’s library would have included: Hebrew, Greek, German, Latin and the King’s English. There were yellowed devotionals and study notes, original language text, and then watch their expression as they realized that many resources like these are now available online, in the palm of their hand, if they wish. The way a pastor studies may have changed over the years, but his heart and purpose for studying the Word remains the same.

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Time and again, ministry workers were in awe at the 1690 collection of pastoral study resources. Naturally, this afforded us the opportunity to share the time-saving benefits of having Blue Letter Bible’s study tools at your fingertips.

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One very enthusiastic Canadian pastor told us he loves BLB because he can stream with our improved audio player or download for your personal listening convenience. Finally, there is a variety of new audio messages from Pastor Peter Hubbard, of North Hills Church in South Carolina, which you can stream with our improved audio player or download for your personal listening convenience.

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Please continue to share about BLB and rejoice with us as the number of users grow. BLB.org/livemap

Blue Letter Bible... Invested in Spreading the Word

Cover Story (continued from page 1)

The Parsing Tool

STAFF TIP

One of the best ways to use the full power of BLB is to dig into the rich set of Greek and Hebrew tools. One of my personal favorites is the Greek parse tool. In this example, I did a search for Philippians 4:6 (ESV).

Once you are at your selected passage, click "Tools" (1). Then, make sure that the blue Interlinear tab (2) is selected. From there, you’ll be presented with the original Greek. Choose the "Interlinear" tab (3) again and you’ll see the English on the right. From there, you’ll see the "Parse" button (4).

The word in Greek for "be anxious" is μεριμνάω (merimnao). To really gain more of an understanding of how Paul is using the word, you can click the "Parse" button on the right. You get all sorts of additional information like the part of speech (in this case a verb) and also additional information on the "Parsing"—2nd Person Plural Present (tense) Active (voice) Imperative (mood).

From the parsing data we can see:
- 2nd person plural signifies that Paul is talking to more than one person—likely the church at Philippi.
- Present imperative signifies that Paul is commanding the church to not be anxious. This is not a command for tomorrow, but a command for today. Be not anxious, but be reminded of all that God has done for you with a thankful heart.
- You can get so much more meaning through the words when using this incredible tool. Try it out the next time you would like to learn more about a word you are studying!

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Dr. J Vernon McGee's Guidelines for Understanding the Scriptures

Dr. J Vernon McGee's, Guidelines for Understanding the Scriptures, includes all 66 books of the Bible. Additionally, we added over 100 of his topical articles with Scripture links. McGee once said, "The Bible is the only Book to face life with today, and it is the Book which furnishes the only sure route through this world and on into the next world." We encourage you to utilize these deeply insightful Bible study resources.

Pastor Bill Acton's Acts of the Apostles Sermon Outlines

We also invite you to check out Pastor Bill Acton's Sermon Outlines, Acts of the Apostles. These outlines have links to every Bible verse he references, for your quick reading access. You will walk along the paths of the Apostles and first-century followers of Christ, learning how weak humans can be used for divine purposes, as they respond to the grace of God.

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T-Shirts

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In our cover story, you will read about the recent opportunity that BLB had to share with hundreds of pastors and church leaders what it was like for a pastor to study in the 17th century. What a joy it was to see these pastors pouring over hundreds of pages of text, and then watch their expression as they realized that many resources like these are now available online, in the palm of their hand, if they wish. The way a pastor studies may have changed over the years, but his heart and purpose for studying the Word remains the same.

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