

## **Recommendations for PCUSA New Testament Ordination Exam Ephesians**

### **To prepare for the exam:**

1. Read Ephesians in its entirety two or three times.
  - Takes notes on themes and ideas repeated in the letter. What words seem to characterize it? What are the big ideas? The purpose?
2. Read two or three introductions to Ephesians in various study Bibles. I recommend the following (all hyperlinked):
  - [The Jewish Annotated New Testament \(edited by Amy-Jill Levine and Marc Zvi Brettler\)](#)
  - [The New Oxford Annotated Study Bible \(edited by Coogan et al.\)](#)
  - [The Catholic Study Bible \(edited by Donald Senior\)](#)
  - [The HarperCollins Study Bible \(edited by Harold W. Attridge et al.\)](#)
  - [ESV Study Bible](#)
  - [CEB Study Bible \(edited by Joel B. Green\)](#)
3. Read the chapter on Ephesians in an introductory New Testament textbook, like the ones you used in the New Testament course.
4. Acquire/read several commentaries.
  - Below I have listed several different commentaries. As a general rule, newer commentaries will be looked upon more favorably than older commentaries.
  - If you have any questions about commentaries please feel free to e-mail Dr. Elder ([nelder@dbq.edu](mailto:nelder@dbq.edu)) **even if you did not take a New Testament exegesis course with him.**
5. Peruse the introductions in the commentaries that you have acquired, taking notes on the themes that seem to show up in several different commentaries.

### **Almost every PCUSA Exegesis Exam will ask about the following:**

1. Establishing the text
2. Literary context
3. Historical context
4. Canonical Context
5. Theology and application

Nearly every commentary will address numbers 2 and 3 fairly extensively. However, commentaries differ when it comes to numbers 1, 3, 5. Generally speaking, more technical commentaries (like Anchor and Hermeneia) will be stronger on number 1, but will not address numbers 4 and 5. More theologically oriented commentaries (like Sacra Pagina and the Zondervan Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament) will be stronger on numbers 4 and 5, and will not address number 1 as extensively. For this reason it is best practice to have access to a variety of commentaries.

Also with respect to number 1, Bruce Metzger's [A Textual Commentary on the Greek New Testament](#) does an excellent job explaining the textual variants in given New Testament passages. If you are asked a textual criticism question and are having difficulty understanding the apparatus in your Greek New Testament, you should look to this resource.

Name of Author	Year Published	Series	Establishing the Text	Literary Context	Historical Context	Canonical Context	Theology and Application	Ebook through Library
Margaret Y. MacDonald	2000	Sacra Pagina		X	X	X		
Andrew T. Lincoln	1990	Word	X	X	X		X	
Constantine Campbell	2023	Pillar		X	X		X	
Darrell L. Bock	2019	Tyndale New Testament Commentary		X	X	X	X	<u>X</u>
Elisabeth Schüssler Fiorenza	2017	Wisdom		X	X	X	X	
Allen Verhey and Joseph S. Harvard	2011	Belief				X	X	<u>X</u>
Stephen E. Fowl	2012	New Testament Library		X	X	X	X	
Clinton E. Arnold	2010	Zondervan Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament	X	X	X	X	X	
Lynn H. Cohick	2020	New International Commentary on the New Testament	X	X	X			
Ralph P. Martin	2012	Interpretation		X	X	X	X	<u>X</u>

Name of Author	Year Published	Series	Establishing the Text	Literary Context	Historical Context	Canonical Context	Theology and Application	Ebook through Library
Frank Thielman	2010	Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament	X	X	X			<u>X</u>
PHEME PERKINS	1997	Abingdon New Testament Commentaries		X	X	X	X	<u>X</u>
Thomas B. Slater	2012	Smith & Helwys Bible Commentary		X	X	X	X	
Markus Barth	1974	Anchor	X	X	X			
Charles H. Talbert	2007	Paideia	X	X	X		X	<u>X</u>

### Two Things to Remember:

1. Close down tabs of ebook commentaries from the library so that other students will be able to access these.
2. Cite commentaries liberally. Not only does this show that you are engaging with quality biblical scholarship, but failing to cite ideas that are not your own is academically dishonest. If you are citing an e-version with no page numbers you should indicate as much by writing something like “ebook edition” in the citation.