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Wiersbe Nt Commentary

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Exploring the Wiersbe NT Commentary: A Comprehensive Guide for Bible Students

For decades, the **Wiersbe NT Commentary**has stood as a trusted resource for pastors, teachers, and everyday readers of Scripture. Written by Warren W. Wiersbe, a prolific author and respected Bible expositor, this commentary series offers a unique blend of scholarly depth and practical application. Unlike many academic commentaries that can feel distant or overly complex, Wiersbe's work is designed to make the New Testament accessible, relevant, and life-changing. In this article, we'll dive deep into what makes the Wiersbe New Testament Commentary so valuable, its structure, its strengths, and how you can use it to enrich your study of God's Word.

Who Was Warren W. Wiersbe?

Warren W. Wiersbe (1929–2019) was a renowned pastor, author, and conference speaker. He served as the pastor of Moody Church in Chicago and later as a professor and writer. His greatest legacy, however, is his extensive collection of Bible commentaries, especially the "Be" series that covers both the Old and New Testaments. The **Wiersbe NT Commentary**is often regarded as the distillation of a lifetime of preaching and teaching. Wiersbe had a gift for explaining difficult passages in plain language while never sacrificing theological accuracy. His emphasis on the "big picture" of each book—its historical context, its message, and its application—makes his commentaries indispensable for anyone who wants to understand the Bible more deeply.

What Is the Wiersbe NT Commentary?

The term **Wiersbe NT Commentary** typically refers to his complete set of New Testament commentaries, often published as individual volumes or as a single 2-volume set titled *The Bible Exposition Commentary*. This series covers every book from Matthew to Revelation. Each volume combines verse-by-verse exposition with practical insights, often punctuated with memorable illustrations and outlines. Wiersbe's style is conversational and warm, making readers feel as though they are sitting under his teaching rather than reading a dry textbook.

Key Features of the Commentary

- Verse-by-Verse Exposition: The commentary walks through each passage methodically, explaining the meaning of key words, phrases, and theological concepts.
- Practical Application: Wiersbe constantly asks, "What does this mean for my life today?" He bridges the gap between the first-century text and modern readers.
- Clear Outlines: Each book is sectioned into logical divisions, making it easy to follow the flow of thought.
- Historical and Cultural Background: Brief but helpful notes on first-century customs, geography, and politics enrich the reading.

- Illustrations and Quotes: Wiersbe peppers his commentary with stories, quotes from Christian leaders, and analogies that illuminate the text.
- Application-Oriented Summaries: At the end of major sections, he often provides a summary of key lessons.

Why the Wiersbe NT Commentary Stands Out

There are many New Testament commentaries available, from technical scholarly works to devotional guides. The **Wiersbe NT Commentary**occupies a unique middle ground. It is substantial enough for serious study yet simple enough for a new believer. Here are several reasons why this series continues to be a go-to resource:

1. Pastoral Heart

Wiersbe wrote as a pastor who loved his congregation. Every page reflects a deep care for the spiritual growth of the reader. He doesn't just explain the Greek; he exhorts, encourages, and sometimes even challenges. This pastoral tone sets the Wiersbe NT Commentary apart from many other expositional works that can feel cold or purely intellectual.

2. Christ-Centered Focus

Throughout the series, Wiersbe consistently points to Jesus Christ as the center of Scripture. Whether he is commenting on the Gospels, the Epistles, or Revelation, he shows how each passage reveals something about the person and work of Christ. This makes the commentary especially valuable for those who want to preach Christ from every text.

3. Accessibility for All Levels

You do not need a seminary degree to benefit from the **Wiersbe NT Commentary**. The language is straightforward, and technical terms are explained when necessary. At the same time, seasoned pastors will find fresh insights and sermon ideas. This wide appeal is one reason why the series has sold millions of copies.

4. Emphasis on the "Big Picture"

Wiersbe believed that context is king. He frequently steps back to show how a particular verse fits into the broader narrative of the book or even the entire Bible. This big-picture approach helps readers avoid the common error of taking verses out of context.

5. Practical Homiletical Helps

For preachers and teachers, the **Wiersbe NT Commentary**is a goldmine of sermon outlines, introduction ideas, and application points. Many pastors have used it as a primary resource for sermon series on New Testament books. The clear structure makes it easy to develop a series of messages that flow naturally through a book.

How to Use the Wiersbe NT Commentary Effectively

Whether you are a seasoned Bible teacher or a new Christian eager to grow, the **Wiersbe NT Commentary** can be used in several ways:

Personal Devotional Study

Read a passage from the New Testament, then turn to Wiersbe's commentary to gain deeper understanding. His illustrations often bring the text to life in surprising ways. Use the commentary as a devotional guide—read a short section each day, ponder the application, and pray over the truths you've learned.

Small Group or Bible Study Preparation

If you lead a small group, the **Wiersbe NT Commentary**can help you prepare lessons. The outlines provide

natural discussion points, and the application questions (often implicit in the text) can be turned into group discussion prompts. You can also use his summaries to craft a closing challenge.

Sermon Preparation

Pastors can use the commentary as a starting point for sermon research. While it is not a critical Greek commentary, it offers a reliable exposition that can be supplemented with more technical resources. Many pastors appreciate Wiersbe's ability to distill complex truths into memorable phrases.

Teaching Sunday School or Adult Education

For teachers, the clear structure of the **Wiersbe NT Commentary**makes it easy to plan a series of lessons through a book like Romans or Hebrews. You can assign reading from the commentary to students as homework, then discuss it in class.

Reference and Quick Overview

When you need a quick summary of a New Testament book, Wiersbe's introductions are excellent. They provide historical context, authorship notes, and a broad outline. This is especially helpful when you are studying a book for the first time and need a bird's-eye view before diving in.

The "Be" Series vs. The Bible Exposition Commentary

Many readers encounter the **Wiersbe NT Commentary** under different titles. The individual volumes are part of the well-known "Be" series: *Be Real* (1 John), *Be Rich* (Ephesians), *Be Right* (Romans), *Be Joyful* (Philippians), and so on. These have been compiled into the two-volume set *The Bible Exposition Commentary*. The content is essentially the same, though the compilation may have minor edits. Whether you buy the individual "Be" books or the complete set, you are getting the same reliable exposition.

One advantage of the individual volumes is that they are portable and focus on one book. The complete set is a heavy reference but contains the entire New Testament. Many serious students own both forms—a full set for study at home and individual volumes for carrying to church or study groups.

Examples of the Commentary's Value

Let's look at a few examples of how the **Wiersbe NT Commentary** illuminates specific passages:

Example 1: The Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13)

Wiersbe does not simply parse the Greek verbs. He explains that the prayer is a pattern, not a mere recitation. He highlights the balance between worship ("Hallowed be Your name"), submission ("Your will be done"), dependence ("Give us this day our daily bread"), confession ("Forgive us our debts"), and protection ("Deliver us from evil"). He then draws application: how this prayer can shape our daily walk with God. For a busy pastor, this exposition provides a ready framework for a sermon series on prayer.

Example 2: The Faith Chapter (Hebrews 11)

In his commentary on Hebrews, Wiersbe weaves together the story of each hero of faith, showing not just what they did but why it pleases God. He notes that faith is not a blind leap but a confident trust based on God's promises. He also addresses the difficult concept of "the substance of things hoped for" by explaining that faith makes the future as real as the present. For someone struggling with doubt, this commentary can be a source of great encouragement.

Example 3: The Fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23)

Wiersbe explains that the fruit of the Spirit is not a list of virtues to manufacture through self-effort, but the natural outcome of a life yielded to the Holy Spirit. He contrasts the works of the flesh with the fruit of the Spirit,

showing that the Christian life is not about trying harder but about abiding in Christ. His application is both gentle and pointed, urging readers to examine their relationship with the Spirit.

Criticisms and Considerations

While the **Wiersbe NT Commentary**is highly regarded, it is not without limitations. Some advanced students may find it lacks the depth of critical commentaries that interact with Greek and Hebrew extensively. Wiersbe does not engage with every textual variant or go into long discussions of scholarly debates. Additionally, his interpretation is firmly within the evangelical, dispensational tradition, which may not appeal to readers from other theological backgrounds. However, for its intended audience—the general Christian reader and preacher—it remains an outstanding resource.

Another consideration is that the **Wiersbe NT Commentary**is now somewhat dated in terms of referencing newer scholarship. However, the essential truths of Scripture do not change, and Wiersbe's insights remain timeless. His commentary is more about spiritual nourishment than academic advancement.

Where to Find the Wiersbe NT Commentary

The **Wiersbe NT Commentary**is widely available in print and digital formats. Major Christian bookstores, online retailers like Amazon, and publishers such as David C. Cook and Victor Books (which originally published the "Be" series) offer the volumes. Digital editions are available for Kindle, Logos Bible Software, Olive Tree, and other platforms. Many libraries also carry the complete set. For those on a budget, used copies are often inexpensive.

If you are starting out, consider purchasing the complete *Bible Exposition Commentary*set (New Testament) in either print or electronic form. It is an investment that will serve you for a lifetime.

Conclusion

The **Wiersbe NT Commentary** is more than just a reference tool; it is a companion for your spiritual journey. Warren Wiersbe had a rare ability to open up the Scriptures in a way that both informs the mind and moves the heart. Whether you are preaching a sermon, leading a Bible study, or simply reading the New Testament for personal growth, this commentary will help you understand the text in its context and apply it in your life. Its clear explanations, pastoral warmth, and practical focus have earned it a lasting place in the library of countless Christians. If you have not yet explored the **Wiersbe NT Commentary**, you are missing out on one of the most accessible and edifying Bible study resources available. Pick up a volume today, and let Wiersbe guide you deeper into the riches of God's Word.

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