

God's children. (Recall the famous "Peace Prayer" of St. Francis: 'Lord, make me an instrument of your peace...') They who stand up and endure persecution—if necessary to do what God requires—are inheritors of the Kingdom of heaven, Jesus teaches.

The formation of true disciples is at the heart of Jesus' blessings. Here He provides a glimpse of the requirements of His followers, for they are to be the light of a rather dim world.

## BIBLE HELPS

### Commentaries

A supplement to Bible study, commentaries interpret and help the reader understand the Bible text. They help clarify difficult thoughts and passages and suggest interpretations. They provide useful introductory notes, book outlines, important background information, and usually include a bibliography of books for further study. Commentaries may cover one or several biblical books and may be published as single volumes or in sets or series. They vary in length and amount of detail depending on their intended scope.

Recommended Bible Commentaries: Jerome Biblical Commentary; Interpreter's One Volume Commentary.

### Concordances

A concordance alphabetically arranges words from the Bible and lists passages where each word occurs, usually giving part of the verse as a context. Concordances are built around either the original languages of the Bible (primarily Hebrew and Greek) or a particular translation (RSV, KJV, GN, etc.). Concordances may also vary in completeness: some list every word every time it occurs, others are more selective. A topical Bible is also a kind of concordance which lists texts by biblical subjects instead of by specific words. Concordances can help in several ways. They help in finding a verse which is only partially remembered. They help in locating specific persons, events, sayings, and teachings in Scripture. They help in doing a word study in a particular part of the Bible. And they help in studying the use and development of a word or concept throughout the entire Bible.

Recommended Bible Concordance: Oxford Concise Concordance.

## BIBLE DICTIONARIES

These and Encyclopedias provide in-depth information on almost all biblically related topics: people, places, customs, events, histories, book contents and occasions, etc. The entries are arranged alphabetically, and the articles may vary from a short paragraph to a lengthy

essay with a bibliography. They help Bible study by clarifying terms, names, and concepts, as well as giving valuable background details.

Recommended Bible Dictionary: Zondervan Compact Bible Dictionary.

## BIBLES

There are many Bibles available in the marketplace today. Making a good choice in purchasing one depends on your Bible study/reading needs. The Bible most of us grew up with, the King James Version, makes for beautiful, poetic reading, but may not be the best choice for study. Among the modern English versions available, the Revised Standard Version is one of the best. Highly recommended as well is the Jerusalem Bible. The popular Good News Bible (Today's English Version) is liked for its easy reading level and line-drawing pictures. When buying a Good News Bible, be sure it includes the Deuterocanonicals/Apocrypha so that it contains all the books the Armenian Church recognizes. Most Bibles vary in price from inexpensive paperbacks to gold-edged hardcovers. Look for a sturdy product with large enough print to facilitate reading. Another suggestion is to find one with large margins for making notes of your own. Bookstores offer many varieties of each version.

## RELIGIONS OF THE WORLD

### The Mormons

This article about the Mormons recently appeared in the May 2, 1984 issue of *The Christian Century*:

#### Mormon Gains

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latterday Saints (Mormon) grew last year by 390,000 members, bringing its world membership total to 5.4 million. The church gained 190,000 new members through conversion in 1983, and another 181,000 through natural increase. The total of stakes (dioceses) was 1,458—an increase of 66 over the past year; local congregations numbered 15,000—an increase of 378. Mormons have church units in 90 countries and 17 territories, as well as 26,565 missionaries in 58 countries.

Mormons, who use the name of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ in their title, are often thought to be another branch of the Church. They are not Christians, even though they call themselves such.

Here are a few of their beliefs which separate them from the Christian Church:

- The Book of Mormon is also the Word of God, in addition to the Bible. Joseph Smith, the church's

