

A CRITICAL LEXICON AND CONCORDANCE TO THE ENGLISH AND GREEK NEW TESTAMENT

E. W. Bullinger's *Critical Lexicon and Concordance* contains a wealth of insight into the Biblical meanings of many Greek words in the New Testament. No knowledge of Greek is required to utilize this book. The greatest benefit of this book is the accuracy of its definitions of Greek words. These were developed by Dr. Bullinger, who had great respect for the integrity of God's Word and whose research was usually very accurate. In places where several Greek words were translated by one English word, the definitions discuss the shades of meaning that the various Greek words represent, which is very useful in gaining a more detailed and specific understanding of the Scripture.

The *Critical Lexicon and Concordance* lists in alphabetical order most English words in the New Testament. Below each word is a list of all the Greek words which were translated by that English word. Beside each Greek word is a definition. Next, there is a list of passages where the English word occurs and, when needed, a reference to indicate which Greek word it was translated from. The book includes several additional sections: an index that shows the different ways each Greek word was translated into English, a list of variations in the Greek text, and a reference for Greek grammar.

Suppose you were studying II Timothy 3:16 and 17.

II Timothy 3:16 and 17:

All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

"Given" looks like an interesting word to look up. Since the lexicon is alphabetical by English words, it is easy to find "give" on page 319. Below the list of sixteen Greek words with their definitions is a list of scriptures where "give" occurs. The number on the left side of the scripture reference corresponds to the numbered Greek words that were translated "give." Reading down the list, you come to II Timothy 3:16, but there is no number to refer you to a Greek word. Instead there is a note, "see inspiration." So you proceed to page 414 where you find the heading "inspiration of God (given by)." "Given by inspiration of God" is a case where one Greek word, θεόπνευστος, was translated by several English words. It is great that the lexicon is cross-referenced to help you figure out situations such as this. The meaning given for this one Greek word is "God-breathed, God-inspired." Now we have a more expanded understanding for this verse: all Scripture is God-breathed, God-inspired.

Next look up "perfect" from verse 17. It is on page 579. There are several different listings for "perfect." Below each are one or more Greek words and then the scriptures where each word occurs. The "perfect" we are looking for is included in the first listing, "perfect. [adj.]" There are four Greek words listed with their definitions. From the list of scriptures we can see that II Timothy 3:17 is word number 3. The definition for word number 3, ἄρτιος, is "complete in all parts and proportions, *with special reference to the adaptation of the parts, and special aptitude for any given uses, (non occ.).*"¹

¹To learn what "non occ." means, look it up in the "Explanation of Abbreviations, etc." in the front of the book. There you will find it "denotes that the word does *not occur* elsewhere."

Now look up “thoroughly furnished.” “Thoroughly” is found on page 800 and has only one scripture listed, II Corinthians 11:6. At the bottom of the box though, it says, “See also, furnish, purge.” We need to look under “furnish,” which is on page 313. There in the list for “furnish” is “furnish (thoroughly.)” and our scripture, II Timothy 3:17. The definition is “to fit out *or* equip fully, to be put in perfect readiness for, complete.”

With these Greek words more fully defined, we now have a greater appreciation of what God is endeavoring to communicate in these scriptures. Enjoy using the *Critical Lexicon and Concordance* to enhance your study of God’s wonderful Word.