Those notes would later be typed and studied for use in teaching a Bible class or preaching on that text. Thankfully (and due to previous training at the feet of the wise) this system did not yield a steady stream of error. I did not parrot what the commentaries said. Now, I leave the commentaries on the shelf. They have not been entirely eliminated from my study process, but they have a different place. I begin with the text. I do consult reference works (dictionaries, concordances, software resources), but commentaries have become something like a "last resort." First, I want to read the text and go directly to noting my observations. The use of commentaries is now near the end of the process, not near the beginning!