Connect with the Bible online more than ever with these helpful tips to get the most out of God’s provision of technology and bring new insight into your Bible reading.

**Paper Bible vs. Electronic Bible**
Should I read the Bible online or on paper? The common answer is “you should read the one you will read” but we here at Christian Walk believe you can do better – read both!

**Paper Bible**
We personally recommend reading a hard copy Bible that also contains devotionals, meditations, or other thought provoking insight alongside scripture. This version will guide you in reflecting on scripture and applying it to your life.

**Parallel Online Bible**
While you've got your Bible open, pull up the Bible online as well! We recommend opening up two types of Bible websites. The first is a website where you can read multiple versions of the Bible parallel to each other. This allows you to compare and contrast translations, grasp nuances of scripture, reduce translation bias, and understand difficult passages more easily. When selecting your Bible versions to read it is best to choose versions in different areas of the translation continuum, ideally selecting a thought-for-thought paraphrase, balanced thought/word version, and a more literal word-for-word translation. It can also be helpful to select translations from different Christian denominations.

For example, the following website link will take you to four parallel versions of Matthew 1 on Bible Gateway’s website. The versions include The Message, New International Version, New Revised Standard Version, and the English Standard Version – all falling in different places on the translation continuum. Once you are on this page we recommend selecting the versions you want to read from, closing any extra slots, and then setting this page as a bookmark in your browser. Once bookmarked, the next time you want to read the Bible follow your bookmark and perform a search for the book or chapter you want to read and it will appear with all of the parallel versions you bookmarked.

http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=matthew+1&version=MSG;NIV;NRSV;ESV

**Parallel Online Commentary**
The second type of website we recommend is a parallel Bible commentary website. For a greater level of detail a parallel Bible verse commentary website is recommended. While a reflective Bible helps you think about and apply the Bible to your life, a parallel Bible website allows you to consider the breadth of translations and word meanings, a parallel verse study site allows you to firmly understand the historical, cultural, and scholarly meaning of verses. A website having
parallel commentaries, commentaries from multiple authors, allows you to gain insight from many sources in order to eliminate possible interpretation error. This is the main reason we recommend against using a commentary Bible, because with a commentary Bible you will be receiving the viewpoint and perspective of one person instead of many.

An example website to use is Bible Hub. The link below will take you to a page with multiple translations of Matthew 1:1 and multiple parallel commentaries of the verse. We recommend bookmarking this page also and when you want to study a passage just click your bookmark, enter the verse reference, and click search.

http://biblehub.com/matthew/1-1.htm