
BIBLIOTHECA SACRA

One Hundred and First Year

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In addition to the contributions by the regular staff, three notable articles are included in this issue. The writers are Henry A. Ironside, D.D., Litt.D., Pastor of The Moody Church, Chicago, Carl Armerding, D.D., of the Extension Staff of The Moody Bible Institute, and Wilbur M. Smith, D.D., Professor in The Moody Bible Institute and Editor of *Peloubet's Notes* on the International Sunday School lessons. Both Dr. Ironside and Dr. Armerding are regular lecturers on Bible Exposition in this Seminary.

The issues of *Bibliotheca Sacra* for the remainder of 1943, though resuming the educational character, will continue the centennial feature with special recognition given as far as space allows to the congratulations and felicitations that may be extended from other journals and individuals. An extra supply of the Centennial issue is printed and those subscribing may well begin with this issue.



DR. C. I. SCOFIELD It is of more than passing moment to hundreds of thousands that the year 1943 is the centennial of the birth of one of America's most worthy and effective Bible teachers—Dr. Cyrus Ingerson Scofield. The whole editorial staff of *Bibliotheca Sacra* unite in doing honor to this servant of God whose life and ministry grows more notable as time lends it added perspective. Three major achievements in addition to his untiring oral teaching and preaching ministry are accredited to him—the founding of the Central American Mission, the authorship of the incomparably Comprehensive Correspondence Course in the study of the Bible, and the preparation and editing of the notes of the Scofield Reference Bible, which has now sold beyond a million copies and has been deemed by many scholars to be God's gift to His Church in her last days. A history of the Reference Bible is being prepared by Dr. A. C. Gaebelein at the request of the Moody Bible Institute. It was the editor's privilege to contribute the following to the volume *And In Samaria*, written by Miss Mildred W. Spain, which is

a valuable history of the Central American Mission, with its headquarters in Dallas:

"It was my privilege to know Dr. Scofield intimately for twenty-two years as a son may know a father and as those are related who are associated in work. My candid impression is that he was one of the greatest Christians of his generation, a man who was free from all forms of cant, unreality, and pious pose. He knew God with an intimacy that I have never seen surpassed and this intimacy led to enjoyment of God and the freedom which enjoyment begets. Legalism is ruled out when one lives in the immediate fellowship of God. What pleases God becomes the dominating motive and all rules and measurements are forgotten in the power of companionship which determines every aspect of daily life. Dr. Scofield caught the missionary passion, not as a duty or as a hireling, but directly from the heart of God. It will not be overlooked that he was God's man for the time and circumstances and that he saw the appalling need of the Central American field but it will also be remembered that his heart turned to the field because his Father's heart had turned in that direction. From that moment on he manifested the passion of the heart of God for needy Central America. Life for Dr. Scofield was a reality. Though he responded to poetry and art with a most unusual sympathy, he was himself no mere dreamer. The ability to actualize everything into its full measure of importance or to see it as unimportant, as the case might be, was reflected in all that he did, but especially in his understanding and evaluation of the doctrines of the Bible. Many times I heard him in prayer, when but two of us were present, request of God that he might be enabled to hold truth in its right proportions; and that prayer was answered in his life in a wonderful way. His legal training entered much into his ability to go directly to the heart of a problem and to see what was vital in it. These natural characteristics were invaluable in his great work as an analyzer, a teacher of the Scriptures, and are reflected in his remarkable power of condensation which appears in every sentence he wrote. His clear mind and direct approach to things was

revealed in his conversion and early Christian work. His residence was in St. Louis and he had gained that degree of proficiency in his profession which secured his appointment as state's attorney for Missouri for two terms. At the age of thirty-six he became a Christian and this step was taken under characteristic circumstances. Mr. Thomas McPheeters, a Christian business man of St. Louis, called on Scofield one afternoon on a legal matter. Scofield was alone in the office. After the errand was completed McPheeters asked Scofield why he was not a Christian. To this Scofield replied: 'For one reason and only one; no one ever asked me to be.' It was then that he accepted Christ and put himself under the personal teaching of Dr. James H. Brookes, Pastor of the then Washington and Compton Avenues Presbyterian Church, now the Brookes Memorial Presbyterian Church, of St. Louis. During three years of study under Dr. Brookes—America's greatest Bible teacher of that generation—Scofield conducted a mission for railroad men and mechanics in East St. Louis. It was from that service that he was called to the First Congregational Church, of Dallas, Texas, in 1882, now the Scofield Memorial Church, which he served for many years and saw it grow from a very small membership to be in that day one of the largest and most vital churches in Texas. Dr. Scofield was Pastor of the East Northfield Congregational Church, of Northfield, Massachusetts, from 1895 to 1902, when he returned to the Dallas pastorate for two years before he resigned to give all his time to the editing of the notes of the Scofield Reference Bible. From then on to his death in 1921, he devoted his strength to writing and public teaching. When he was saved at the age of thirty-six he knew nothing of the Bible; when he died at the age of seventy-eight he was recognized throughout the world as an authority on Bible exposition. Dr. Scofield knew his strength and recognized his attainments, but he was always humble to a marked degree. He lived always in the immediate presence of God, and that is a certain cure for human pride. He never had to try to be great. When acting naturally he *was* great."

LEWIS SPERRY CHAFER.