

CORRECTING SCOFIELD

A DISPENSATIONAL CRITIQUE OF HIS POPULAR WORK

*"In [Paul's] writings alone we find
the doctrine, position, walk, and destiny of the church."*

~ Scofield Reference Bible, Notes on Ephesians 3:6

1. Scofield's Notes and Moody's Press

- a. Lightning rod ~*def.* Someone that takes all the criticism, though others are responsible
- b. Scofield's name and Reference Bible have become a lightning rod for critique.
- c. A bad argument against dispensational study: it is wrong because Scofield (or Darby)
 - i. Attacks usually come from covenant/Reformed, soft on Paul's gospel of grace.
 - ii. Ad hominem dissuades simple minds from truth rightly divided – Rom 16:17-18
 - iii. It is not wise to compare ourselves or read the tabloids -2 Cor 10:10-17
- d. Just as bad as discounting doctrine due to one man, is to give him too much credit
 - i. "My hope is built on nothing less than Scofield's notes and Moody's press"
 - ii. Fundamentalism/dispensational/Scofield excited Bible study in the uneducated

2. The Man and Dispensationalism

- a. CI Scofield has become synonymous with dispensational teaching. (Most never read)
- b. Saved at 36 (1879) after being estranged father, "drunkard", "wretch", and lawyer.
- c. Presided over the DL Moody's funeral, taught at his Northfield church and Dallas, TX.
- d. His Bible (1909, 1917) sold millions (so has the non-Dispy Thompson Chain 1908)
- e. Likely more copies of the booklet 'Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth' than His Bible.
- f. Dispensational study depends on Scofield as much as America on flags/Lee Greenwood.
- g. Popularity due to his preaching, correspondence courses, connections, and conferences.
- h. He was a product of the dispensational era: Darby, Brookes, Taylor, Gaebelein.
- i. He disclaimed originality in the introduction to His Bible (7 consulting editors)

3. Notable Mentions from His Bible

- a. It was unique in its notes on dispensations, prophecy, Bible themes,
- b. He called it the Bible Study Bible to encourage more study of Scripture. That it did.
- c. There is no note on 2 Tim 2:15, and only one mention of "rightly dividing" (Matt 4:1)
- d. Acts 3:20 – He recognizes Peter as appealing to the nation of Israel.
- e. Rom 9:6 – He does not include Gentiles, distinguishes natural and spiritual Israel
- f. Eph 2:15 – The new man is the church, not the individual (a changed life)
- g. Phi 2:6 – He defended Jesus Christ as exercising divine attributes
- h. Eph 3:6 – Mid-Acts stands on the principle stated in this note, "In Paul's writings alone"

4. Scofield Reference Bible Problems

- a. As popular, loved, and useful many notes are, they are not without need of correction
- b. We stand on prior dispensational study, but that allows us to see further.
- c. Bible correction: removes Mk 16:9, Act 8:37, 1Jo 5:7, in notes, "best authorities omit"
- d. Beginning: Gen 1:1-11 perpetuate gap theory (contrary to Ussher) days as long periods

- e. Gen 1:11: a dozen types of church just in Gen: moon, Eve, Enoch, Ararat, Asenath
- f. Gen 1:28: wrong definition of dispensation, tying it to a "period of time".
- g. Gen 9:1: racial prophecy does not age well talking of Ham, Shem, Japheth
- h. He taught Reformed predestination/election in Eph 1:5, 1 Pet 1:2
- i. When did it all begin? Paul? Eph 3:6, Cross? John 1:17, Pentecost? Heb 12:23
- j. Puts the rapture into Matt-John, Rev 4:1
- k. James 1:1 is writing to Chrisitan Jews of the dispersion
- l. Acts 2:17 – The last days for Israel are different than the last days for the church.
- m. Rom 4:2 – James 2:21 and Romans 4 are two aspects of one truth.
- n. Rev 14:6 – He has Paul teaching two gospels.
- o. Rev 19, 21:9 – The Lamb's wife is the church, the New Jerusalem
- p. More important than the man or his notes is always what the word of God says.
- q. In some ways we see further than he could. But we must clean up our own mess.

"The Editor disclaims originality. Other men have laboured, he has but entered into their labours. The results of the study of God's word by learned and spiritual men, in every division of the church and in every land, during the last fifty years, under the advantage of the perfected text, already form a vast literature, inaccessible to most Christian workers. The Editor has proposed to himself the modest if laborious task of summarizing, arranging, and condensing this mass of material. "

- Scofield Reference Bible, Introduction

Notes on Ephesians 3:6, Scofield Reference Bible

"That the Gentiles

That the Gentiles were to be saved was no mystery Romans 9:24-33; Romans 10:19-21. The mystery "hid in God" was the divine purpose to make of Jew and Gentile a wholly new thing--"the church, which is his Christ's body," formed by the baptism with the Holy Spirit 1Cor 12:12; 1Cor 12:13 and in which the earthly distinction of Jew and Gentile disappears ; Eph 2:14; Eph 2:15; Col 3:10; Col 3:11. The revelation of this mystery, which was foretold, but not explained by Christ Matthew 16:18 was committed to Paul. In his writings alone we find the doctrine, position, walk, and destiny of the church. "

Note on John 1:17,

"(2) As a dispensation, grace begins with the death and resurrection of Christ Romans 3:24-26 Rom 4:24; Rom 4:25....

(3) Grace has a twofold manifestation: in salvation Romans 3:24 and in the walk and service of the saved Romans 6:15."

Note on Hebrews 12:23,

"Church (true), Summary: The true church, composed of the whole number of regenerate persons from Pentecost to the first resurrection 1 Corinthians 15:52 united together and to Christ by the baptism with the Holy Spirit 1Cor 12:12; 1Cor 12:13 is the body of Christ of which He is the Head Eph 1:22; Eph 1:23. As such, it is a holy temple for the habitation of God through the Spirit Eph 2:21; Eph 2:22 is "one flesh" with Christ Eph 5:30; Eph 5:31 and espoused to Him as a chaste virgin to one husband 2 Corinthians 11:2-4."