

and I have been reading and studying it all my life; but, as I was solely concerned with expounding the Scriptures, I have made almost no use whatever of it. Indeed, with the exception of an occasional sentence employed for the purpose of illustration, I have confined myself exclusively to my critical apparatus, having only in a general way referred to any technical treatise, ancient or modern, or quoted from any purely theological writer, living or dead.

In each chapter, I have sought merely to remove unscriptural ideas from the doctrine and to correct prevalent misconceptions concerning it; so that the work throughout, though critical, is uncontroversial. In short, it is both corrective and constructive on the basis of historical exegesis. Everything pertaining to the question has been deduced from the Scriptures and, so far as space permitted, demonstrated by them.

This is a book, therefore, for laymen as well as ministers. It is designed for all who wish to understand the richest practical subject in the Bible. I have tried to reduce the work to the smallest possible size, consistently with clearness and thoroughness. A few thoughts have been substantially repeated because of their great importance, and a few texts have been requoted because they have a particular significance in regard to different aspects of the doctrine.