

The Bible is a long book. The great truths of salvation are so clearly taught in it that a wayfaring man, though a fool, need not err therein. Yet it also deals with a multitude of other matters. These matters are often difficult to understand. We need to study them carefully. They do not affect our salvation, but may be important in connection with the advance of our Christian life.

If this were not the case there would never have been any need of the issuance of a Scofield Bible. Dr Scofield studied the writings of great men of God who had carefully studied the Scriptures, and gathered from them a great deal of extremely valuable material that would not be obvious to the average reader. He put this material in footnotes and marginal notes, in order to help Christian people understand what the Word of God means. Dr Scofield issued the first edition of his valuable work in 1909 and by 1917 he had found enough points at which the statements could be clarified or improved to lead him to issue a second edition of the work, which he called a "New and Improved Edition."

In subsequent years many people have devoted a great amount of study to the Scofield Bible, and God has truly blessed the advancement of His truth. Yet, as scholars studied it, they had the same experiences that Dr Scofield had in 1917. They found that the notes of the Scofield Bible, like all other human works, can be improved with further study. Dr Scofield did an excellent work, but like all human beings, he sometimes made mistakes.

Occasionally a contradiction crept in between his note in one place and that in another. Sometimes in his zeal to express one clear truth, he spoke a little too strongly in one direction and thus unintentionally denied another aspect of truth. If Dr Scofield were living today, I am sure that he would be anxious to issue a third edition of his reference Bible embodying the results of thought and investigation by godly people during the years that have passed since his second edition was issued.

Ever since 1954, I have been meeting twice a year with a group of men who have devoted many years to the study and presentation of the truths of Christianity, and who have made extensive use of the Scofield Bible. Every one of them is a servant of the Lord who is anxious to do His will and to follow the teachings of His Word. On the primary points of interpretation, I find myself very closely in agreement with most of them, though