

## **PREFACE**

The letters in this volume were not written with any thought of publication. Every one of them was composed in response to a letter asking for clarification on some point of biblical interpretation, Christian belief or activity. The idea that a wider group of Christian readers might benefit from seeing them had not occurred to me when Dr Quek Swee Hwa, a distinguished scholar from Singapore, suggested publishing such a volume.

He had come as a Visiting Professor to Biblical Theological Seminary, of which I was then President, and he was teaching a course on the Greek exegesis of Mark's Gospel. In addition to giving his course of lectures, Dr Quek showed his pastoral spirit by interviewing each student to give him personal advice and assistance. One day he asked my permission to examine the file of letters I had written in response to inquiries about a wide range of biblical and theological subjects. After his last day of teaching Dr Quek spent the entire night before his departure looking over the letters he had singled out and arranging them in logical order. On a later visit he made copies of the letters, added some pamphlets and began to prepare them for publication.

Dr Quek made the selection of letters to be included in this volume. I alone, of course, bear the entire responsibility for their contents.

I am grateful to Dr Quek for having suggested that these letters might be of value to a larger readership, and for his great assistance in preparing them for publication.