

## **Books in Review**

### ***How to Read the Bible for All its Worth***

by Gordon D. Fee and Douglas Stuart

Few people would disagree that the single most important principle for understanding the Bible is to read and read it so as to gain an overall knowledge of its content. In doing this the reader is able to gain a "feel" for its overall scope and message. However, the fact that many people through the centuries have endeavored to do this while still coming to widely divergent interpretations of many biblical topics should make us all seek further help in understanding the Bible. *How to Read the Bible for All its Worth* by Gordon Fee and Douglas Stuart is a book written specifically for this purpose.

The authors maintain that the fundamental "control" for all biblical studies must be the *original intent* of the biblical writers themselves. In addition, they stress that this is not only necessary for so-called "problem verses" but for *every* verse in the Bible. In short, they stress the importance of reading *each* section of scripture in the light of its historical, cultural and language background.

The chief emphasis in this book, however, is the necessity of reading each book or section of the Bible in the light of its literary *genre* - i.e., its literary form. Many examples are given of these literary forms (e.g. narrative, poetry, prophecy, apocalyptic, etc.) and the proper principles for reading and understanding them. In addition, the first two chapters of the

book: "The Need to Interpret"; and, "The Basic Tool: A Good Translation" are themselves more than worth the price of the book itself.

It is, of course, the application of biblical truth to life that is the ultimate goal of all biblical study. Because of this a great deal of time is spent in this book emphasizing the need to apply biblical principles in the light of their original intent. The authors emphasize that for a biblical principle to be applied today in exactly the same way as it was in biblical times the situations must be exactly comparable today. Otherwise, the principles must be applied, if at all, in new ways - according to the changes that have occurred both historically and culturally since that time.

This book is a "thinking-man's" book. It does not give instantaneous or magical solutions to every biblical problem. In addition, it may not fit in neatly or comfortably with many notions that have been nurtured in conservative or fundamentalist circles about how the Bible is supposed to be read and understood. Nevertheless, I would maintain that its approach is correct and that every serious student of the Bible could benefit from the insight offered by these authors. The methods for study and application as set forth in this book are the same methods that are widely agreed upon, and utilized, by most biblical scholars around the world today. I highly recommend this book to anyone seeking to better understand, and apply in their lives, the wonderful truths of the Bible. [[Click here](#) for a link to this book on Amazon.com]