

## EDITORIAL

Exegesis and interpretation of the Bible is the continual task challenging the scholar engaged in biblical studies. The research material available currently in linguistic studies, archaeological findings, historical research and other areas is so vast and increasing in such an unprecedented rate that no one individual can possibly integrate all the relevant material in his exposition of the scriptures.

For scholars who consider the Bible the basis for faith and practice and trustworthy in all its aspects, this task takes on a very meaningful significance that has far reaching implications. To him the Scriptures provide the basic guidance for this life and a hope for the life after death. For him the Bible offers words of eternal life. Consequently, he has a devout purpose in his scholarly endeavors to gain a more comprehensive understanding of God's Word provided in written form for man. In his devotion to God and his concern for his fellow men, he continually senses a responsibility to share the results of his efforts with others.

This motivation was the common concern of the scholars assembled in Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1949 that led to the organization of the Evangelical Theological Society. The purpose was succinctly stated:

To foster conservative Biblical scholarship by providing a medium for the oral and written expression of thought and research in the general field of the theological disciplines as centered in the Scripture.

The doctrinal basis was also expressed in conciseness and clarity:

The Bible alone, and the Bible in its entirety, is the Word of God written, and therefore inerrant in the autographs.

Subsequent to this organizational meeting, national and regional sessions have provided opportunities for sharing scholarly endeavors based on the Word of God. To provide a wider dissemination, the society has sponsored the publication of symposia, monographs, and the continuing volumes of the *Journal* issued four times a year.

Following the 20th annual meeting, a symposium was published under the title *New Perspectives on the Old Testament*. The forthcoming 25th meeting focuses attention upon the New Testament. A contract is already pending for the publication of a symposium consisting of a selection of papers read at this session.

The *Journal* offers continual opportunity for sharing research efforts based on the Bible. It is hoped that the articles appearing in the following

pages provide constructive insight in the understanding of God's Word. As each author makes his contribution from his particular perspective may stimulation be initiated that will result in further searching of the Scriptures for all who are concerned with God's written revelation to man. Since each of us approaches the exegesis and interpretation of the Bible within the limitation of our given perspectives in time and place may we constantly recognize that we see and understand only in part. Through interaction and sharing we have the opportunity to understand more fully and, as a society devoted to the communication of God's Word in the realm of scholarship, may we make God's written communication to man more fully known to this generation. Toward that end may the pages of this *Journal* make a continuing contribution.