

**THE CAMBRIDGE BIBLE FOR
SCHOOLS AND COLLEDGES.
EPISTLES TO THE COLOSSIANS
AND TO PHILEMON**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649575695

The Cambridge Bible for Schools and Colledges. Epistles to the Colossians and to Philemon by
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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

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PHILEMON.

London: C. J. CLAY AND SONS,
CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS WAREHOUSE,
AVE MARIA LANE.
Glasgow: 203, ARGYLE STREET.



Leipzig: F. A. BROCKHAUS.
New York: THE MACMILLAN COMPANY.
Bombay: E. SEYMOUR HALE.

Bible. N.T. Colossians. English. Authorized. 1898.

**The Cambridge Bible for Schools
and Colleges.**

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BISHOP OF WORCESTER.

THE EPISTLES TO THE
COLOSSIANS
AND TO
PHILEMON

WITH INTRODUCTION AND NOTES

BY

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CAMBRIDGE.

STEREOTYPED EDITION.

CAMBRIDGE:
AT THE UNIVERSITY PRESS.

1898

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V. 43
1898

PREFACE
BY THE GENERAL EDITOR.

THE General Editor of *The Cambridge Bible for Schools* thinks it right to say that he does not hold himself responsible either for the interpretation of particular passages which the Editors of the several Books have adopted, or for any opinion on points of doctrine that they may have expressed. In the New Testament more especially questions arise of the deepest theological import, on which the ablest and most conscientious interpreters have differed and always will differ. His aim has been in all such cases to leave each Contributor to the unfettered exercise of his own judgment, only taking care that mere controversy should as far as possible be avoided. He has contented himself chiefly with a careful revision of the notes, with pointing out omissions, with

suggesting occasionally a reconsideration of some question, or a fuller treatment of difficult passages, and the like.

Beyond this he has not attempted to interfere, feeling it better that each Commentary should have its own individual character, and being convinced that freshness and variety of treatment are more than a compensation for any lack of uniformity in the Series.

PREFATORY NOTE.

THE Editor takes occasion to express his thanks for valuable assistance given him in the course of his work; particularly to Dr E. C. Clark, Regius Professor of Laws in the University of Cambridge, to the Rev. Dr Sinkler, Librarian of Trinity College, and to the Rev. G. A. Schneider, M.A., Vice-Principal of Ridley Hall.

Prof. W. M. Ramsay's *Church in the Roman Empire* was published only when the revised proofs were in the press; the Editor regrets that he was unable to use these Lectures sooner. Prof. Ramsay speaks with the authority of a special student and a geographical explorer on the early history of Christianity in Asia Minor.

As a devotional Commentary, the work of the Jansenist Father, Pasquier Quesnel (*Le N. T. en François, avec des Reflexions etc.*, Paris, 1705), is often quoted in this book. Its short notes are everywhere rich in spiritual suggestion.

One critical Exposition has been always before the Editor; Bishop Lightfoot's *Epistles to the Colossians and to Philemon*. Here and there the Editor has ventured to express a doubt, or difference of opinion, regarding some

detail of the Bishop's work. But every hour's use of the Commentary has deepened his sense of the great Commentator's infinite diligence, vastness of knowledge, wisdom in its application, luminous clearness of thought and expression, and devout reverence of Christian faith. For the Editor this is no impression left only by the book; for thirty years he knew the admirable man, since the first days of student-life at Cambridge, when in Mr Lightfoot's lecture-room, or in his private study, he listened to consummate explanations of Herodotus or Æschylus, and enjoyed the benefit of such a College Tutor's counsels on life and reading. Debts such as these are impossible to calculate, but they must be lovingly and reverently acknowledged,

τὸ γὰρ γέρας ἐστὶ θαρόντων.

CAMBRIDGE,

May 1893.

* * The page-references to Bishop Lightfoot's Commentary are adjusted to the First Edition, 1875.