

FOREWORD

Bruce Manning Metzger has already been lauded in various ways by several institutions as a renowned New Testament scholar and an exemplary man of the church. This eulogy from the southern tip of Africa represents a wholehearted identification with the world-wide respect and grateful appreciation that exists for the person, the life and the work of this God-gifted man.

He is known throughout the Christian theological world as a result of his publications, many of which have been translated into different languages and in turn has gained him a large number of student followers.

In South Africa Metzger also attained prominence. Here too it is his publications which have distinguished him among students from our own ranks. Recently this alliance has been considerably strengthened by the work on the new translation of the Bible into Afrikaans. Directly and indirectly Metzger has made a contribution and theologians in South Africa have once again realised the value and range of his work. His highly esteemed *A textual commentary on the Greek New Testament* provided a unique motivation for the choice of texts for specific editions of the Greek New Testament which were used.

Bruce Metzger is one of the five members of the United Bible Societies' international panel revising the Greek text of the New Testament. All this was indispensable material for the translators, as I also, in all humility experienced.

It is widely known that Metzger is a first-rate, precise and productive student, academic and teacher. The painstakingly neat person, the dignified gentleman enjoys the respect and reverence of his students. Metzger, the gifted, is known among his students as the "walking encyclopaedia". Despite all these things for which he is revered and respected the most important has not been mentioned.

Bruce Metzger is honoured and revered above all for his outstanding academic and professional skill which has not been the actual goal. In everything he maintains a consistent humbleness for which he is particularly revered and which makes him a welcome friend.

We dedicate this volume to the gentle, modest and humble person with great appreciation - to Bruce Metzger! May the world and the church of Christ still have him in health and strength to serve for many years.

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