

(Appendix I) Introduction to the Expository Series

Edited by Caleb Huang

Over the past two millennia, countless expository works have been produced in China and abroad; each possesses its own merits and offers valuable resources for Christian Bible study. However, it is difficult for the average person to browse or explore them extensively. Furthermore, since most of these books follow the author's predetermined themes and lines of reasoning, they often suffer from certain limitations: some over-interpret details, while others fail to integrate diverse perspectives—resulting in missed insights—so that readers often do not receive the comprehensive help they seek. The launch of the "Christian Digest" expository series aims to address these shortcomings by distilling the strengths of various scholars into a concise format, thereby providing readers with comprehensive annotations.

This series employs a unique editorial approach, drawing upon the works of renowned Christian scholars—both past and present, domestic and international—to select and present the very best insights. As the content often captures only the core meaning—sometimes excerpting just a sentence or a brief passage, and frequently editing the text for coherence—it is not feasible to cite the specific source for every single point. Instead, a detailed "Bibliography" is provided at the end of the book to acknowledge the sources used.

Regarding the editorial structure, each volume is divided into three main sections: "Overview," "Chapter-by-Chapter Commentary," and "Summary of Spiritual Lessons." The "Chapter-by-Chapter Commentary" is further subdivided into "Content Outline," "Verse-by-Verse Exposition," and "Spiritual Lessons." Within the "Verse-by-Verse Exposition" section, in addition to the text from the Chinese Union Version (CUV), the following types of annotations are included as needed:

[Literal Translation from the Original Language]: When the Chinese Union Version differs slightly from the original text, the omitted details or a translation that is more faithful to the original meaning (prioritizing "faithfulness" over "fluency" or "elegance") are provided directly below the CUV text for the reader's reference. [Original Language Meaning] Notes on the meaning of the

original text are provided for significant biblical names of people and places, or for terms in the Chinese Union Version that require clarification, serving as a reference for biblical interpretation.

[Background Notes] This section provides notes on historical allusions and geographical contexts when such information is essential for a full understanding of specific passages.

[Textual Notes] These notes explain the meaning the biblical author intended to convey at the "literal" level of the original text.

[Spiritual Notes] Many verses and terms carry spiritual applications beyond their literal meanings. For instance, the Apostle Paul interpreted the Old Testament practice of "circumcision" as "the circumcision performed by Christ, by which you put off the body of the flesh" (Colossians 2:11). Therefore, adhering to the principles of interpreting Scripture with Scripture and remaining faithful to biblical truth, notes on "spiritual interpretation" are included for the reader's reference.

[Clarifications] This section is included only for the occasional verse where the content might otherwise lead to reader misunderstanding.

[Light from the Word] This section gathers—as comprehensively as possible—the insights, reflections, and lessons inspired by the Scripture passage and its accompanying notes, encouraging readers to draw broader connections and applications. — Caleb Huang