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# A Festschrift for Dr. James L. Boyer

PROFESSOR EMERITUS

Grace Theological Seminary

This issue of the *Grace Theological Journal* is dedicated to Dr. James L. Boyer in honor of his seventieth birthday on July 3, 1981. During the course of its preparation it was also discovered that the same date marked the fiftieth wedding anniversary for him and his wife Velma, and that this fall will be the final semester of his distinguished teaching career. The conjunction of these events has made this festschrift in his honor unusually appropriate.

Dr. Boyer's positive influence with his students during his thirty years of teaching is evidenced by the fact that it was a student group which first suggested the idea of a festschrift in his honor. In 1979, Mr. David Dockery (M. Div., '79), as a student representative, presented the plan to me in my office. My subsequent recommendation to the seminary administration was wholeheartedly endorsed. With the inauguration of the *Grace Theological Journal* in 1980, it was decided that this organ would provide the best possible vehicle for a wide distribution among those who have been most influenced by Dr. Boyer's life and ministry. Dr. Herman Hoyt, Professor Emeritus and long-time President of Grace, as well as a colleague and close friend for many years, was asked to write a brief account of Dr. Boyer's life. Dr. John Sproule, Dr. Boyer's successor as Chairman of the Department of New Testament Literature and Exegesis, was appointed as coordinator of the project and solicited articles from Dr. Boyer's colleagues and former students.

Dr. Boyer's influence as a professor at Grace Theological Seminary for thirty years may best be assessed by noting a few statistics: (1) Approximately one thousand of his former students are involved in pastoral ministries, with more than three hundred of these serving within the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches; (2) Approximately two hundred of his students are missionaries whose ministries span the globe, with about seventy-five of these serving with the Foreign Missionary Society of the Brethren Church; (3) More than two hundred of his students are employed as professors or administrators in more than one hundred Christian colleges and seminaries.

In addition to his teaching and preaching ministries, Dr. Boyer has had an effective writing ministry which has extended his influence far beyond his personal contacts. The following list of publications is ample demonstration of this fact.

- 1951 The Glory of His Intercessory Work. *Brethren Missionary Herald* (August 25) p. 598.
- 1952a God Has Spoken, Part I. *Brethren Missionary Herald* (October 11) p. 644.
- 1952b God Has Spoken, Part II. *Brethren Missionary Herald* (October 18) p. 667.
- 1953 Inconsistencies in the RSV New Testament. *Brethren Missionary Herald* (February 28) p. 142.
- 1954a Trouble? Problems? Confusion? *Brethren Missionary Herald* (August 28) p. 563.
- 1954b The Errors of Mormonism. *Brethren Missionary Herald* (December 4) p. 777.
- 1956 Are There Contentions? *Brethren Missionary Herald* (February 25) p. 127.
- 1958 The Spirit of Modern Israel. *Brethren Missionary Herald* (October 25) p. 677.
- 1960a The Office of the Prophet in New Testament Times *Grace Journal* 1 (Spring) 13-20.
- 1960b Love Everybody—Except! *Brethren Missionary Herald* (May 28) p. 341.
- 1962a *Chart of the Period Between the Testaments*. Winona Lake: BMH Books.
- 1962b *New Testament Chronological Chart*. Winona Lake: BMH Books.
- 1962c Semantics in Biblical Interpretation. *Grace Journal* 3 (Spring) 25-34.
- 1962d The Incarnate Son of God. *Brethren Missionary Herald* (December 22) p. 783.
- 1963 The Holy Land and Holy Places. *Brethren Missionary Herald* (October 19) p. 508.
- 1967 Is Worldliness Changing? *Brethren Missionary Herald* (March 25) p. 30.
- 1968 Is the United States in Prophecy? *Brethren Missionary Herald* (November 16) pp. 25-27.
- 1971 *For a World Like Ours: Studies in First Corinthians*. Grand Rapids: Baker. 153 pp.
- 1972 *Manual of Greek Forms*. Winona Lake: BMH Books. 65 pp.
- 1973 *Prophecy: Things to Come*. Winona Lake: BMH Books. 130 pp.

- 1976a *Chronology of the Crucifixion and the Last Week.*  
Winona Lake: BMH Books.
- 1976b Faith is . . . . Grace Theological Seminary *Spire* (Fall)  
5-6.
- 1979a *A Grammatical Directory to the Greek New Testa-*  
*ment* (with Paul A. Miller). Bloomington, Ind.:  
Indiana University. 2 vols.
- 1979b At What Hour Was Jesus Crucified? Grace Theologi-  
cal Seminary *Spire* (Summer) 9-10.
- 1980a Love One Another. Grace Theological Seminary *Spire*  
(Winter) 11.
- 1980b Project Gramcord: A Report. *Grace Theological Jour-*  
*nal* 1 (Spring) 97-99.
- 1981 First Class Conditions: What Do They Mean? *Grace*  
*Theological Journal* 2 (Spring) 75-114.

In addition, Dr. Boyer will have an article titled "Second Class Conditions: What Do They Mean?" in the next issue of this *Journal*.

Throughout the years of his ministry Dr. Boyer has been known for his high level of scholarship and for his exemplification of Christian graces. If one were to challenge his students and colleagues to characterize him in one word, there is little doubt what that word would be—humble. All who know him will agree that here is a man whom God has graced with those qualities of character to which all Christians should aspire. In him the spiritual graces of "longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faithfulness, meekness, and temperance" have found fruition in extraordinary fulness.

It has been my personal privilege to be a close associate and confidant of Dr. Boyer for the past twelve years. For six of these years, my office was right down the hall from his and we enjoyed a great camaraderie in studying together and in challenging each other's thinking with regard to a wide variety of exegetical and theological issues. On a number of occasions in our offices we also shared in private times of prayer with regard to personal and family needs, and I was always grateful for his compassion and concern. His quiet demeanor and retiring nature have never fully revealed, especially to those who have only casual associations, how much he enjoys such opportunities for fellowship. Though he is anything but self-assertive, he is certainly not an introvert! I well remember travelling with him on one occasion, along with two other faculty members, when he so thoroughly enjoyed the theological discussion that he repeatedly stated that he wished that the trip did not have to come to an end. When he says he would love to spend time talking with you, he means it! But be forewarned, the favored topics will include tenses,

voices, moods, participles, conditional sentences, and other syntactical and exegetical considerations!

For a number of years Dr. Boyer has been plagued with eye problems. Though pain has been involved, this has not prevented him from spending many hours in poring over the Greek text of the NT in fully identifying all its forms for the "Gramcord" (Grammatical Concordance of the Greek New Testament) computer project. My personal contribution to this festschrift, the article titled "Errant Aorist Interpreters," was greatly aided by computer printouts of all forms of various aorist constructions—an aid that would not have been available apart from Dr. Boyer's tireless labors.

As this copy is being sent to press, Dr. Boyer is preparing to enter the hospital for surgery on his left eye. Previous surgery on the right eye has been beneficial. I know that he and his dear wife, Velma, would appreciate your prayers regarding the matter of his eyesight.

After the completion of this final semester of his teaching ministry at Grace, Dr. and Mrs. Boyer, as they have done for several years now, will be going to Florida for the winter. But they will be back in the spring and will continue to call Winona Lake home. Even though he will no longer be teaching at Grace, Dr. Boyer will not be inactive. He will be working on a number of projects—including a continuation of his study on conditional sentences and a study on participles. He also looks forward to occasionally preaching whenever possible.

I am confident that the entire Grace family, the editorial staff of the *Journal*, and all of his present and former students would like to join me in expressing appreciation to Dr. Boyer for his dedicated scholarship and his godly example, and in praying for God's richest blessings on all his endeavors. We will miss him at Grace.

CHARLES R. SMITH