

Missouri, to which place they had moved while he was in college. He taught a school for boys the first year after his affial, but gave it up when the Fayette Church called him to preach. He was ordained or set apart for this work by the laying on of the hands of T. M. Allen and Alexander Procter. After a year or two spent at Fayette, he accepted "a call" from the church at Dover, and spent the next nine years of his life there. He made extensive tours over the state while living at Dover, and also conducted five public debates.

In 1862, McGarvey became minister of the Main Street Christian church in Lexington, Kentucky. During his first year in Lexington, at the age of thirty-three, he published his great "Commentary on Acts," which remains to this day the greatest commentary on this book that has ever been written. In 1865, he was elected professor of sacred history in the College of the Bible, which had just been established in Lexington. After thirty years' service in this position, he was elected president of the college, which place he filled until his death sixteen years later, making forty-six years in all that he served this institution.

McGarvey was what we might call a "natural-born" teacher. He imparted information and aroused his pupils to study to acquire information. He was able to analyze, systematize, and simplify a subject. Following his graduation, he taught school in Missouri for two or three years, and then quit. During the next ten years he refused several important teaching positions until he was elected professor of sacred history in the College of the Bible. This place he accepted, and for the next forty-six years he continued to teach the Bible. He was clear and specific. No one was ever left in doubt as to what he meant. His knowledge of the Bible was remarkable. One of his pupils said that he "never heard him read a lesson in the classroom, either from the Old Testament or the New; he always recited the Scriptures." The London Times is quoted as saying: "In all probability John W. McGarvey is the ripest Bible scholar on earth."

As a preacher, McGarvey was one of the best. His sermons were not rhetorical, ornate, nor dramatic; but they were the very essence of simplicity, clear as crystal in unfolding the sacred word and flooding the minds of his hearers

with light divine. While, perhaps, not preaching as great sermons as Lard and some others occasionally, on the other hand, McGarvey never fell below a lofty level.

He was a copious writer. He began writing for the *Millennial Harbinger* soon after he was out of college. During the ten or twelve years he spent in Missouri he wrote many articles for the *American Christian Review*. He contributed many important essays to Lard's *Quarterly* during its existence. He was an editor of the *Apostolic Times* during the years from 1850 to 1865. He was editor of the *Apostolic Guide* in 1887-1888. Throughout the last nineteen years of his life he conducted the department of Biblical Criticism in the *Christian Standard*, and all along during this period he wrote articles for other papers.

McGarvey was not only a prolific and influential writer for the religious periodicals of his time, but he was also a great writer of books. Beginning with his "Commentary on Acts" in 1863, he wrote a "Commentary on Matthew and Mark," "Lands of the Bible," "Evidences of Christianity," "The Authorship of Deuteronomy," "Jesus and Jonah." In addition to these major works, there were a book of sermons, "A Guide to the Study of the Bible," and "Biblical Criticism." These books have had a powerful influence in strengthening and confirming the faith of men in the divine inspiration and infallibility of the Scriptures. In my judgment, his commentaries have few, if any, equals, and no superiors. It is probable that McGarvey's greatest contribution to Christianity was the books that he wrote.

McGarvey died October 6, 1911 and was buried in the beautiful cemetery at Lexington, Kentucky, near the grave of Henry Clay.