



The Epistles of 2 Corinthians and 1 Peter: Newly Discovered Commentaries

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“The discovery and publication of previously unpublished commentaries on the New Testament by Joseph Barber Lightfoot is a highly significant event in the history of New Testament scholarship.”

– John M. G. Barclay,
Lightfoot Professor of Divinity,
University of Durham

Final Volume in Lightfoot Series Released

For the first time, *The Epistles of 2 Corinthians and 1 Peter* presents newly discovered notes and writings by renowned biblical scholar Joseph Barber Lightfoot (1828–1889) on these two important books of the Bible. This commentary is the third and final volume of The Lightfoot Legacy, a set of previously unpublished material from one of the great biblical scholars of the modern era.

In the spring of 2013, Ben Witherington III discovered hundreds of pages of biblical commentary by Lightfoot in the Durham Cathedral Library. The series was then launched with *The Acts of the Apostles* in the fall of 2014 to wide praise. “Here is a Lightfoot feast indeed,” said Peter Rodgers in *Religious Studies Review*. “Although long deceased, Lightfoot speaks new and afresh once again.” The second volume, *The Gospel of St. John*, followed in the fall of 2015.

Lightfoot was well known as a Pauline expert given his commentaries on Galatians, Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon, and from the fragments of his work on Romans, 1 Corinthians, Ephesians, and 1 and 2 Thessalonians, which were published posthumously. It is therefore a delight to have his notes on 2 Corinthians available for the first time. Lightfoot was also interested in the life and work of Peter. The introduction to his commentary on 1 Peter provides insightful analysis of the chronology and context of the epistle. Lightfoot seeks to demonstrate that Peter knew Paul’s work and that these two great apostles were in harmony regarding theology and ethics.

N. T. Wright, professor of New Testament at the University of St. Andrews and former Bishop of Durham, writes of the series: “The discovery of hitherto unknown exegetical works by J. B. Lightfoot is a rare gift, full of potential for fresh insight both about the man himself (acknowledged worldwide as the leading scholar of his day) and, as he would have wished, about texts which he knew so well and which themselves express the heart of the gospel. Hearty congratulations to finder, editor, and publisher on an unexpected and exciting addition to the core library of seminal biblical studies.”

The Lightfoot Legacy set is edited by Ben Witherington III and Todd D. Still. The first volume of the set is *The Acts of the Apostles*, a commentary on Acts 1–21. The second volume, *The Gospel of St. John*, contains Lightfoot’s commentary notes on John 1–12.

As Witherington III and Still elaborate in the introduction to *The Gospel of St. John*, Lightfoot’s writings remain relevant because of his “encyclopedic knowledge of early Greek literature,” appreciation of historical context, and prayerful approach to studying the New Testament.

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