

will fulfill in ever greater measure its vocation of worship, service, proclamation, teaching, and mission to all the world.

FROM THE EDITORS: INTRODUCTION TO THE INAUGURAL ISSUE

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The editors are thrilled to celebrate this inaugural issue of *The Journal of Inductive Biblical Studies*. Actually, such a journal is long overdue. The journal intends to promote the hermeneutical approach to the study of the Scriptures generally known as Inductive Biblical Studies. By Inductive Biblical Study (IBS) we mean the movement initiated by William Rainey Harper and Wilbert Webster White that was embodied in the curriculum of The Biblical Seminary in New York founded in 1900. This approach had precursors in the history of interpretation reaching back to the early Church (and indeed within the Scriptures themselves) and has since the beginning of the twentieth century enjoyed widespread dissemination, being taught at such institutions as Princeton Theological Seminary, Columbia Theological Seminary, Union Theological Seminary in Virginia, Fuller Theological Seminary, Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminaries, Azusa Pacific University, and Asbury Theological Seminary, as well as hundreds of others institutions and organizations around the world. Several scholars of global reputation have been profoundly influenced by IBS.

Although IBS is often associated with lay or campus endeavors and is consequently perceived by many to be simplistic and lacking in intellectual rigor, in reality IBS can be (and has been) applied as a sophisticated hermeneutic and a rigorous exegetical approach, one that stands in continuity with all other serious approaches to the study of the Bible, both pre-modern, modern, and post-modern. This journal, then, will not only present contributions relating to the emphases that are characteristic of the IBS movement in the narrow sense, but will also contain studies that belong to other hermeneutical or exegetical streams, although always with at least some serious connection to the principles and practices associated with IBS. We anticipate that the audience for this journal will include scholars, students, and informed ministers.

It is our prayer that God will, in the years to come, mightily use this journal to nurture his Church through his Word so that the Church