



University of the
Highlands and Islands
Highland Theological
College

Oilthigh na Gàidhealtachd
agus nan Eilean
Colaiste Dhiadhachd
na Gàidhealtachd

20th Anniversary Event

F.F. Bruce: A Lay Christian in a Secular University

Dr Tim Grass, 28 August 2014

'F.F. Bruce'

1910: born, Elgin, 12 October

1928-32: MA in Classics, Aberdeen

1932-4: BA in Classics, Caius College, Cambridge

1934-5: postgraduate study, Vienna

1935-8: Assistant in Greek, Edinburgh

1938-47: Lecturer in Greek, Leeds

1947-59: Senior Lecturer, Department of Biblical History and Literature, Sheffield (Professor 1955)

1950-57: Editor, *Journal of the Transactions of the Victoria Institute*

1950-80: Editor, *Evangelical Quarterly*

1957: honorary D.D., Aberdeen

1957-71: Editor, *Palestine Exploration Quarterly*

1959-78: Rylands Professor of Biblical Criticism
and Exegesis, Manchester

1965: President, SOTS

1973: Fellow of the British Academy

1975: President, SNTS

1988: honorary D.Litt., Sheffield

1990: dies, Buxton, 11 September

'lay'

i. Not ordained

ii. Not formally trained in biblical studies

'Christian'

The basis of his faith

What it meant to be a scholar

Integrating the two

- Tyndale House and Tyndale Fellowship

A FAMOUS SON OF ELGIN

STUDENT and AUTHOR

F. F. BRUCE



Rylands Professor of Biblical Criticism and Exegesis at Manchester University
Editor of *The Palestine Exploration Quarterly* and *The Evangelical Quarterly*.
Professor Bruce has been described in an American commentary as the leading
conservative scholar in Britain.

- 1950s context: the 'Biblical Theology' movement, cultural conservatism

Bruce's scholarly methodology

- shaped by his classical training and marked by an inductive approach, i.e. seeking to start with the evidence rather than with a particular theory about its interpretation
- inductive doctrine of Scripture
- inductive apologetics

'secular university'

How did he justify the study of the Bible in a secular context? Three arguments:

1. The Bible formed a significant element of the matrix which had give rise to Western civilization.
2. All truth came from God; therefore all valid insights could be welcomed, from whatever source.
3. As all truth was from God, there was no need to restrict the student's freedom to study the Bible.

Bruce and academic freedom

Conclusion

How successful was he in integrating faith and critical scholarship?

Key Works

- 1943 *Are the New Testament Documents Reliable?*
- 1950 *The Books and the Parchments*
- 1951 *The Acts of the Apostles: The Greek Text with Introduction and Commentary*
- 1953 *The Spreading Flame*
- 1954 *Commentary on the Book of the Acts (NICNT)*
- 1956 *Second Thoughts on the Dead Sea Scrolls*
- 1959 *The Apostolic Defence of the Gospel*
- 1961 *The English Bible: A History of Translations*
- 1963 *The Epistle to the Romans (TNTC)*
- 1963 *Israel and the Nations*
- 1964 *The Epistle to the Hebrews (NICNT)*
- 1965 *Expanded Paraphrase of the Epistles of Paul*
- 1969 *New Testament History*
- 1970 *Tradition Old and New*
- 1970 *The Epistles of John*
- 1971 *1 and 2 Corinthians (NCB)*
- 1974 *Paul and Jesus*
- 1977 *Paul: Apostle of the Free Spirit*
- 1980 *In Retrospect: Remembrance of Things Past*
- 1982 *The Epistle of Paul to the Galatians (NIGTC)*
- 1982 *1 & 2 Thessalonians (WBC)*
- 1983 *The Gospel of John*
- 1984 *The Epistles to the Colossians, to Philemon and to the Ephesians (NICNT; Colossians first publ. 1957)*
- 1988 *The Canon of Scripture*
- 1990 *A Mind for what Matters*