

## "HOW TO ATTAIN CHRISTIAN SCHOLARSHIP ON THE LAYMAN'S LEVEL"

### INTRODUCTION

The title of this subject is itself suggestive of certain considerations which should perhaps be made clear before we proceed further.

The words "HOW TO" suggest approach, procedures, methods.

The word "ATTAIN" suggests either (a) that laymen do not have the requisite qualifications, abilities, and skills at all; or (b) that laymen have achieved a certain level of proficiency, but need to go further; or (c) that laymen have abilities to certain areas, but do not have them, or need to go further, in certain other areas.

The term "CHRISTIAN SCHOLARSHIP" raises two questions: (a) What is scholarship; and (b) What makes Christian Scholarship specifically Christian?

The expression "ON THE LAYMAN'S LEVEL" would seem to suggest some limitation peculiar to being a layman. But what is this limitation? In what particulars does it lie? And does such an expression imply a level of scholarship in any way inferior to that, for instance, <sup>of</sup> a clergyman?

Now if there is any inferiority or limitation, in what does it lie?

- (1) In love for and dedication to God and His Word, the Bible?
- (2) In purity and godliness of character?
- (3) In a general knowledge of the Scriptures?
- (4) In intelligence?
- (5) In general educational background?
- (6) In training in sound, logical reasoning?
- (7) In a knowledge of sound principles of interpretation of Scripture?
- (8) In knowledge of theology?
- (9) In ability to translate Scripture from the original languages?