

ALLAN A. MACRAE: AN APPRECIATION

The Late Francis A. Schaeffer

Dr Allan A. MacRae is one of the key people who opened a door for me in my life. His influence came at a very crucial time when I graduated from Hampden-Sydney College and entered Westminster Theological Seminary. In those days, of course, the school was located on Pine Street in Philadelphia. Edith and I had just been married and I walked each day from Green Street, where we had our little apartment, down to Pine Street, carrying along the lunch that Edith had made for me which I used to eat in the old library rooms.

One of the great questions before me at that time in my preparation for the ministry was the type of exegesis that one should apply to the whole of Scripture. It was here that Dr MacRae helped me lay a foundation which has been very important to me from that day to this.

He taught me the elements of Hebrew as well as other subjects. The courses that were especially important to me were his courses on the Old Testament Prophets. As the class studied through these it became very clear that the prophetic passages of Scripture were to be treated in the historical, grammatical form of exegesis and not in any spiritualised sense. This laid a foundation for my study of Scripture and for my approach to exegesis in all the years that followed.

Later in my other course work, this form of exegesis, so clearly biblical, was carried across into the New Testament. It gave me a firm foundation through all the years in my personal reading, preaching, teaching and writing. I became convinced that there is a uniform approach to exegesis for the whole of Scripture. With reference especially to eschatology, I was sure that prophetic passages should be exegeted in exactly the same way as the doctrinal and historical passages of Scripture. I cannot over-emphasise the importance of this in my personal life and outlook as well as in my teaching and work.

Then later, as Faith Theological Seminary was begun, in that first year of its existence, I was Dr MacRae's "assistant". This meant helping him with his filing, some reference work and so on. It also meant spending much time in his apartment in Wilmington, Delaware, and provided a friendship as well as stimulation which was exceedingly important for me at that time, an influence which lasted well into my subsequent life.

I am thankful for the contributions Dr Allan A. MacRae has made to the Christian world of our generation, and I would emphasise this includes his influence upon me personally.