Professor J. W. Roberts 1918-1973

Dr. J. W. Roberts of Abilene Christian College was the first editor of *Restoration Quarterly* and held that position until his death on April 15, 1973. At that time the *Quarterly* was in its fifteenth year. (No journals were imprinted 1964, though the volumes are numbered consecutively.) The first journal appeared in 1957 without an editor, under an editorial board. With the third quarter of Volume I, Dr. Roberts became editor. His remarks on taking up this position may be found in 1:3, page 98. Under the guidance of Professor Roberts the *Quarterly* attained its present status.

Restoration Quarterly opens its seventeenth year with a complete and indexed bibliography of the writings of Professor Roberts. Also in this quarter may be found certain shorter articles of Dr. Roberts published in popular religious periodicals, and representing the sort of publication in which he frequently engaged. Professor Roberts' writings over a thirty-year span add up to an impressive three hundred fifty items.

J. W. Roberts was born in Henderson County, Tennessee, August 28, 1918. He attended Freed-Hardeman College in Tennessee and received the bachelor's degree from Abilene Christian College in 1942, summa aim laude, graduating as valedictorian. He received the M.A. from the University of Wichita, attended Butler University in 1945-46, and received the Ph. D. in Classical Languages from the University of Texas in 1955. At the time of his death Dr. Roberts was Professor of Bible and Greek at Abilene Christian College. He became a member of the faculty at Abilene Christian in 1946 and continued until his death in 1973.

Professor Roberts was also active as a minister. He undertook his first work at Iraan, Texas, from 1938-1940. He then served Riverside, Wichita, Kansas, 1942-45; Brightwood, Indianapolis, Indiana, 1945-46; Taylor, Texas, 1951-53; and Perrin, Texas, 1954-60. He also lectured widely and filled Sunday preaching appointments.

Dr. Roberts served as director of graduate studies in Bible at Abilene Christian. He was also a long-time chairman of the athletic committee and when the Southland Athletic Conference was formed, served as its first president. He was on committees pertaining to the library and was honored by "Friends of the Library" in 1971. He was a deacon at the College Church of Christ, an outstanding Scout Master, and a member of the Key City Kiwanis Club. On June 2, 1942, Dr. Roberts was married to Delno Wheeler. Mrs. Roberts has been secretary for twenty-one years to the late Dr. Don H. Morris, president of Abilene Christian. She also serves as editorial assistant of the *Quarterly*. Their children are Jay Roberts, a drama professor at David Lipscomb College, Nashville, Tennessee, and Kathy Roberts Brown of Wolfe City, Texas, whose husband, James Brown is on leave from Abilene Christian, working on a doctorate at East Texas State University.

The bibliography of Professor Roberts has been prepared by R. L. Roberts, Assistant Professor of Library at Abilene Christian, and brother of the late Dr. Roberts. He has been assisted by Mrs. Delno Roberts and Jay. The bibliography is thought to be complete. For the periodical section please note the list of abbreviations in the table of contents. The periodical writings are arranged chronologically so that earlier and later writings may be easily distinguished. R. L. Roberts has prepared a detailed subject index which will facilitate the locating of materials on specific topics.

- I. BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS.
- II. LECTURES AND ARTICLES IN BOOKS.
- III. ARTICLES IN PERIODICALS.

The Bible Translator BibTChrC Christian Chronicle Christian Worker ChrW ExpTExpository Times Firm Foundation FirmF GospAGospel Advocate MinM Minister's Monthly Mission Mis PfTPower For Today Prec Preceptor RestQ Restoration Quarterly Star Magazine Star Teenage Christian TCh20th Century Christian 20thCC VoF Voice of Freedom

IV. REVIEWS.

- V. UNPUBLISHED WORKS.
- VI. WORKS EDITED.
- VII. SUBJECT INDEX TO THE J. W. ROBERTS BIBLIOGRAPHY.

J. W. ROBERTS: A BIBLIOGRAPHY R. L. Roberts and Delno Roberts Abilene Christian College

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The information in this document was taken from the *Restoration Quarterly*, Vol. 17, No. 1, First Quarter 1974. This volume was dedicated to the scholarship of Dr. J. W. Roberts. It included a short biographical note, a complete bibliography with Subject Index and several representative articles Dr. Roberts had published. I thought that students learning Greek with Dr. Roberts' 1958 *A Grammar of the Greek New Testament* might be interested in learning more about the author. Dr. Roberts passed away while I was a student at the Sunset School of Preaching (now Sunset International Bible Institute) in Lubbock, TX. Several of my instructors had been Greek students with Dr. Roberts. We used his commentaries in the Sweet series as textbooks in our classes. One of my instructors, Dr. Ian Fair, studied under Dr. Roberts and taught his *Grammar* in a Preacher Training school in South Africa. He agreed with my assessment that Dr. Roberts' *Grammar* remains the finest grammar for learning NT Greek.

I would like to express appreciation to two of Dr. Roberts' former Greek students: Wayne Price and David Singleton. Wayne is actually using my free Online edition of Dr. Robert's *Grammar* in his Greek classes in Oklahoma City. He and his students have been kind enough to send me any typos or other errors they find, helping me to offer the public an edition worthy of Dr. Robert's scholarship. David Singleton loaned me his personal copy of Dr. Roberts *Grammar*, which contains some class notes of things Dr. Roberts would have included if he could have published another edition.

Dr. Robert's *Grammar* has several unique features that recommend it to students of NT Greek. He uses lots of texts from the NT so the student is often reading real Greek. He starts early with the infinitive which allows students to generate and read many sentences from the very start, the mi verbs are introduced much earlier than in most textbooks, again allowing students to read significant passages early in their studies. The translation exercises are logically grouped. The *Grammar* covers a good bit more than most first-year grammars. Students should be able to read most of the Greek New Testament with just a good lexicon at hand. The *Grammar* was originally published in 1958 by the Extension Department of Abilene Christian College (now University). The detailed explanations of the *Grammar* make the book especially good for self-study. It is not a quick or easy course. No one would ever misname it, *Learn NT Greek in 24 Hours*; yet with sufficient time and dedication, a student working alone should be able to master the basic of NT Greek without the help of a teacher. I will be making mp3 files to accompany each lesson, which should be of great assistance to the self-taught. Perhaps you will recall that Alexander Campbell insisted, "The self-taught scholar is the best taught scholars."

I recently read, "From 1958 on, he taught from his own mimeographed textbook, *A Grammar of the Greek New Testament for Beginners*. One of his great dreams (unfilled) was to have his material - which he considered the best "tested" method for teaching Koiné Greek - published." I am delighted to have been blessed by God to be able to help fulfill Dr. Robert's dream. 9/28/2014.