

From the Editor and Publishers

It was my privilege over the greater part of two years to invest my life in the process of editing, revising and writing the content of the *Fire Bible: Student Edition*. This was possible only because of the foundation laid by Don Stamps, who labored over a decade on the original *Full Life Study Bible*, which has already impacted millions around the world. Though I never knew this man of God, I've been blessed to pour over his work more intensely than perhaps anyone ever has. In doing so, I've been honored to share his uncompromising passion for Jesus and the Word of God. Undeniably, a significant portion of my life's work is inseparably bound to his.

All of those involved in the development of the *Fire Bible: Student Edition* trust that this resource will help many people to gain a greater love and appreciation for the deep, practical and unchanging truths of God's Word. We honor the Bible as the inspired Word of God (2Timothy 3:16-17; 2Peter 1:21), realizing that He chose those who would write his Word and guided them by his Holy Spirit to write exactly what he intended. God's Word in its original form is completely faultless, completely true and certain not to fail in any of its message or teaching. It is the only totally reliable standard upon which we can base our faith, conduct and entire lives. And since God himself does not change (James 1:17; Hebrews 13:8), we can be certain that his truth also remains the same--with enduring relevance for all people in all situations for all time. As God's direct revelation of his Person, his principles and his plans, God's Word is without question the most important part of the *Fire Bible: Student Edition*.

Notes, articles, book introductions, and other helps presented throughout the publication are written with acknowledgment that God's Word is the ultimate authority. The major purpose of the *Fire Bible: Student Edition* is to help readers develop an enduring faith in and dependence on God's Word. The content of the notes and study helps certainly does not rise to the level of insight and authority of God's inspired Word. For this reason--and because of cultural and perceptual differences--readers may not completely agree with the editorial interpretations and opinions expressed. It is our intention to continually lead people to learn from the Word itself.

In the spiritually challenging times ahead, students will need an in-depth, comprehensive, thoroughly biblical resource to enrich their understanding of God's Word and help answer their questions about moral, cultural and spiritual issues. Knowing God's Word will be crucial in avoiding deception in the last days before Jesus' return. But knowing the Word by no means indicates or ensures true and lasting devotion to God. We must not only learn the Word; we must love it and live it. If we really believe the Bible, we will build our lives on its foundational teachings and put its principles into practice.

God's Word, when understood and obeyed, will cause us to grow spiritually and become more like God's Son, Jesus Christ--the Living Word. God's Word also equips us to serve his purposes in the power of his Holy Spirit. The aim of the *Fire Bible: Student Edition*

is to inspire those who use it to experience God's presence and power in the same way as Christ's followers did throughout the New Testament. The sincere desire of all involved with the development of this study Bible is to help you discover the amazing fulfillment and power of God's Word as it is applied in your life.

Carey Huffman

Editor/Project Manager, *Fire Bible: Student Edition*