

PREFACE

The present monograph represents a considerable abridgement and some rearrangement of my original manuscript. Naturally the work had to be made to conform to the guidelines of the NIV Commentary Series. We hope that sometime in the future the entire manuscript may be published.

The book is aimed at both college students and the interested Christian reader. Teachers may wish to give assignments from C.K. Barrett, *The New Testament Background (NTB)* to supplement the understanding of the New Testament environment. To this end, suggested readings have been added in many of the bibliographies.

The idea for this book began in a series of lessons delivered on Sunday evenings at the Grape Grove Church of Christ in Jamestown, Ohio where I minister. It has truly been a blessing to share in this community of believers and especially to write this book in such a fellowship of faith and love. I wish to express my gratitude to the Grape Grove congregation for their support and encouragement.

To three very important people in my life, my wife, Molly, and my daughters, Amanda and Jeannie, I say thank you for being you.

Finally I thank God for giving me the opportunity to write and preach about our Lord, Jesus Christ.

David A. Fiensy
December 1993