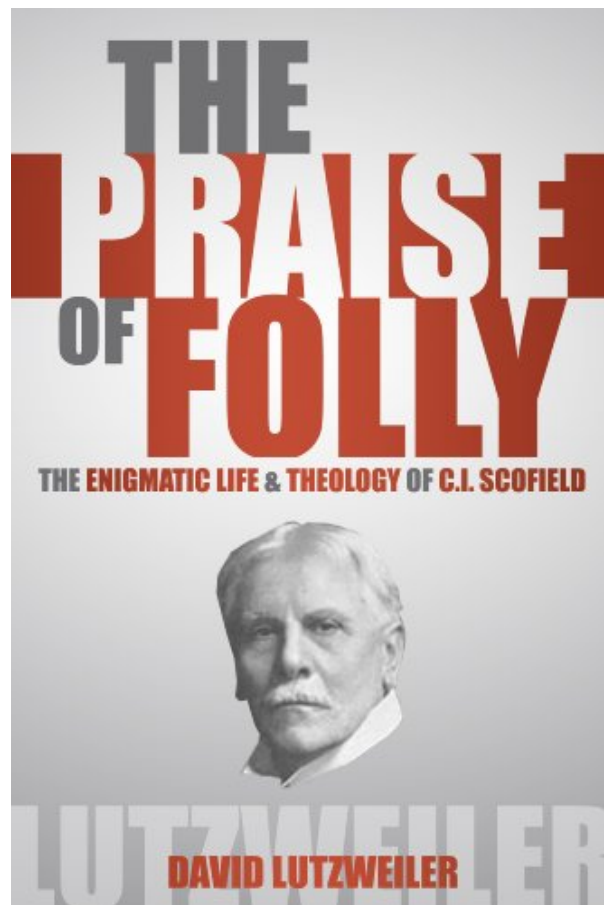
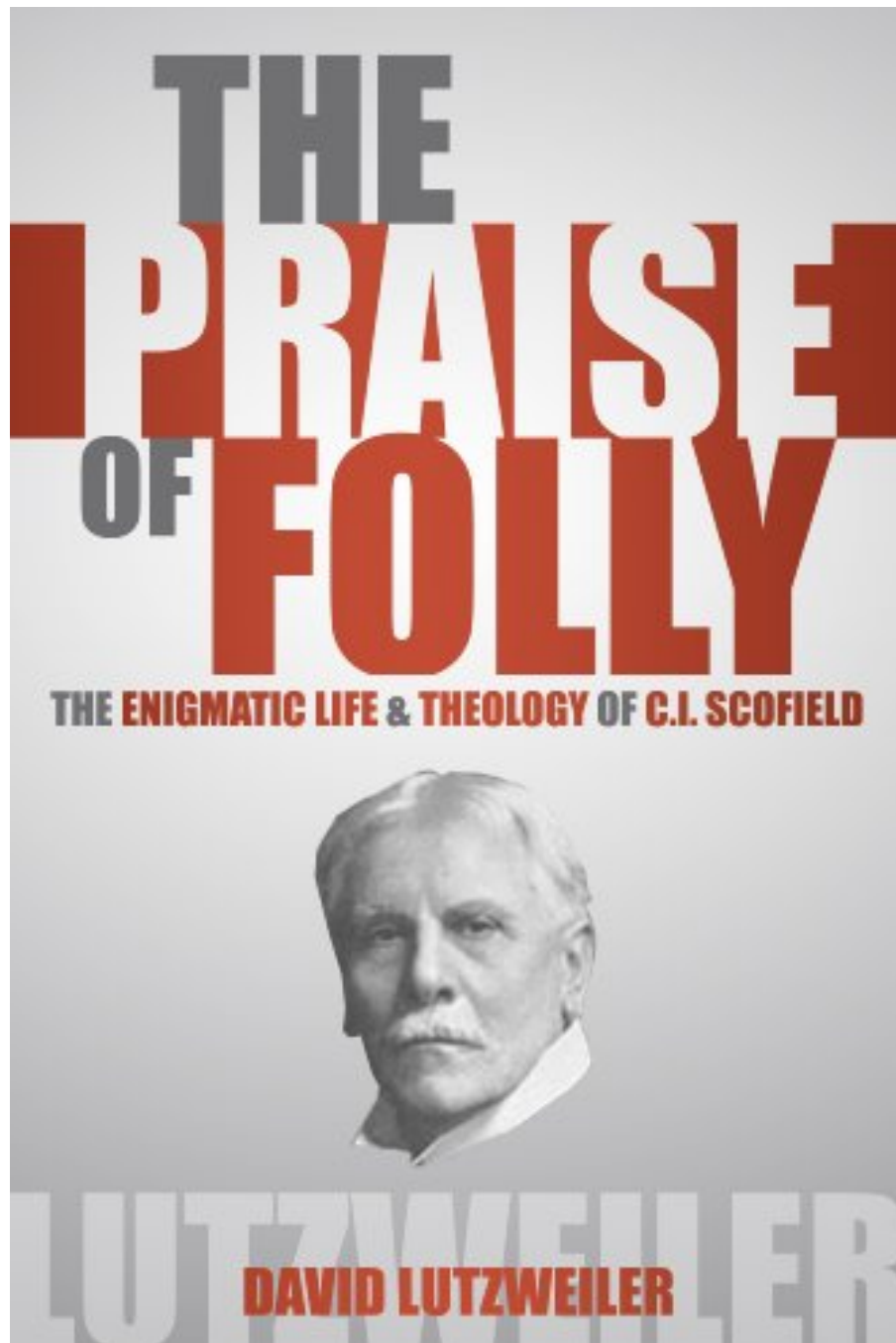


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Historian Paul Boyer notes that Scofield is "a towering figure in twentieth-century premillennialism." The Concise Dictionary of Christianity in America observes that "Scofield's influence on the evangelical / fundamentalist movement of the early twentieth century was enormous." But who was this man C. I. Scofield? What was the character of this evangelical giant? Does he deserve the adulation of millions of Christians? As Lyle W. Dorsett laments in his *A Passion for Souls: The Life of D. L. Moody*: "In many ways, Cyrus I. Scofield is an enigmatic figure." Even if you're familiar with C. I. Scofield and actually know what the "C" and the "I" stand for, and even if you own a dozen copies of the Scofield Reference Bible, you may still be Scofield-deficient. But not any more! In this work by former dispensationalist David Lutzweiler you will discover "the enigmatic life and theology of C. I. Scofield." Scofield's dominant role in evangelicalism renders a knowledge of his life essential for understanding our times. History, after all, is made by people. To understand it, then, one must know what its most influential people did, why they did it, how they did it, and the consequences - both intended and unintended - of their work. Come and join master detective David Lutzweiler in his historical research uncovering the enigmatic Scofield. The title of this book is taken from the satire by Desiderius Erasmus of Rotterdam (published in 1515). In that book he has the character Folly give an oration wherein he praises self-deception. Tragically, large portions of evangelicalism are engaged in praise of folly.

- Sales Rank: #2178989 in Books
- Published on: 2009
- Number of items: 1
- Binding: Paperback

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fascinating read - raises questions on Scofield's legacy & addresses theological concerns

By R. Hayton

"The Praise of Folly: The Enigmatic Life and Theology of C.I. Scofield" is a title that may raise some eyebrows. Scofield, of course, is most famous for his Scofield Reference Bible, with its doctrinal notes.

The book is a fascinating read, no matter what side of the dispensational-covenantal divide you find yourself on. Lutzweiler presents a well-researched, historical account of Scofield's life, and sprinkles in some thoughts on the rise of dispensationalism and its deficiencies as a theological system, to boot.

At times, I felt that Lutzweiler may have been encouraging his readers to jump to conclusions too quickly. And it is also quite true that even if Scofield is shown to be a dishonorable man, in certain respects (such as his treatment of his ex-wife and his children), still that should not necessarily invalidate the teaching of dispensationalism. Still at the end of the day, I think Lutzweiler's depiction of Scofield and the history of the Plymouth Brethren movement should give a reason to pause in one's evaluation of dispensational theology. A modernistic, self-centered, everyone-can-do-their-own-theology may be behind the rise of this system of

thought. And while ultimately the arguments have to go to Scripture, this nevertheless weakens the dispensational claims to historic support for their particular doctrinal emphases.

In any case, this book by Lutzweiler deserves to be read and considered. Note: there is also a DVD available based on this book: "C I Scofield: The Man, The Myth", also from Apologetics Media.

Disclaimer: This book was provided by Apologetics Media Group. I was under no obligation to offer a favorable review.

17 of 21 people found the following review helpful.

The best there is on this subject, but...

By Mr. G. N. Charmley

Cyrus I. Scofield is a mysterious figure. Despite his influence in the Christian world, the definitive biography of Scofield remains to be written - even after Lutzweiler's well-written and well-researched book. 'The Praise of Folly' represents the best work presently available on C.I. Scofield. This is not, however, an ordinary biography; Scofield made his name as the popularizer of a particular theology, that of Dispensationalism, and therefore any treatment of Scofield has to deal with his theology. Lutzweiler is openly critical of Dispensational theology, but for the most part he is able to differentiate between the man and his theology.

Lutzweiler has carefully researched the life of Scofield, and he has managed to fill in the 'missing years' between Scofield's resignation in disgrace from his post of District Attorney and his conversion. For this he ought to be thanked. Scofield was a complicated man, and his life includes a number of embarrassing factors, including the awkward question of where he got his 'D.D.', and why he did not properly provide for the children of his first marriage.

This is a book that rewards reading, though it does fall into the trap of conspiracy theories once or twice, despite attempts to avoid that pitfall. Perhaps also it will inspire the definitive biography that still waits to be written.

10 of 14 people found the following review helpful.

Folly foolishly presented

By Anson Cassel Mills

This personal critique masquerading as biography provides a good deal of helpful information about attempts of Scofield and his supporters to obfuscate Scofield's less-than-inspiring career. But Lutzweiler presents the material in such a disjointed manner that any serious student will be disappointed, if not totally frustrated. Lutzweiler's discussion of Scofield's theology is surprisingly limited, presumably because he believes readers already hold anti-dispensational views. Furthermore, the index is totally inaccurate; in fact, it is the most careless piece of work I've come across in a lifetime of reading. Certainly someone might taken the time to have checked a few citations before publication.

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