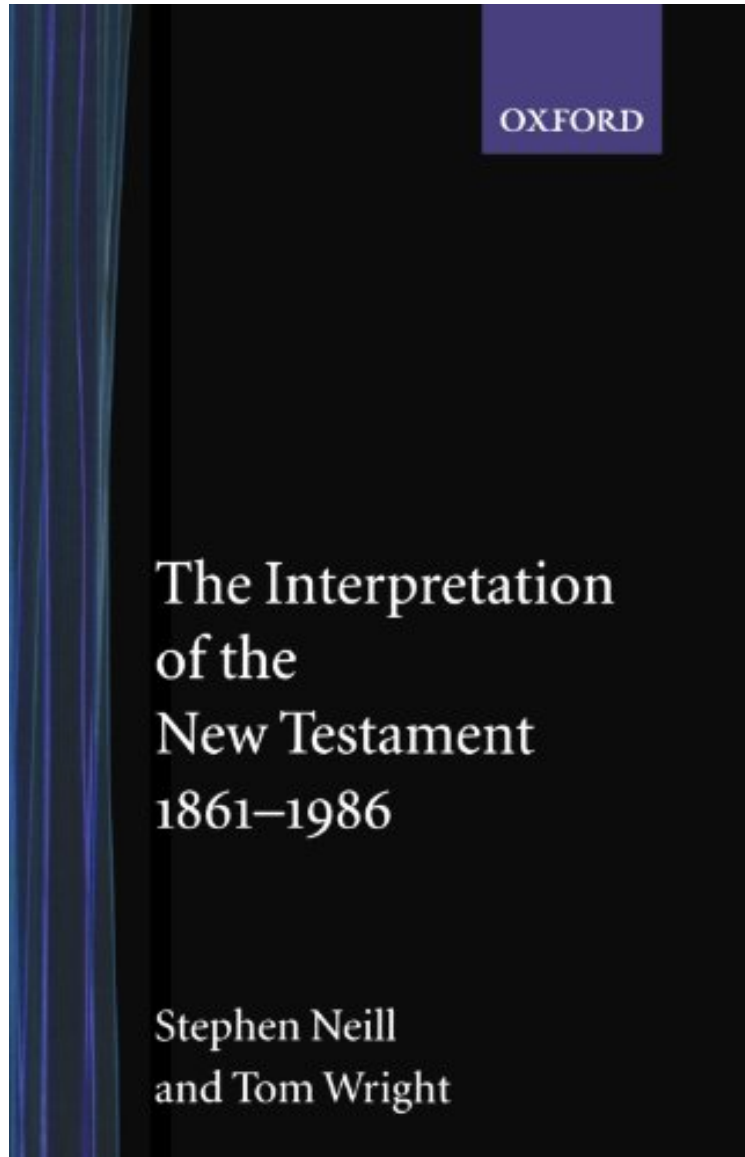


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## The Interpretation of the New Testament, 1861-1986

*Stephen Neill, Tom Wright*  
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Kilpatrick I enjoyed reading this cover to cover. I had already had some familiarity with New Testament scholarship so many of the individuals mentioned in this volume were familiar to me (Lightfoot, Westcott, Streeter, Bultmann, etc., etc.). If you don't have a similar background, I hope you would have the same delightful experience learning the "behind the scenes" of the body of New Testament scholarship from which we draw our current studies. Scholarship doesn't occur in a vacuum, but is influenced by the spirit of the times, various assumptions, institutional slants (e.g., who gets hired to fill open positions in university professorships) and the authors cover all of these factors. It's as if they take you up in an airplane and give you a bird's eye view of New Testament scholarship over the last 150 years. Without this information, we are like going through a maze of opinions, facts, and philosophies. While you will gain little understanding of the meaning of the New Testament itself, you will gain a tremendous understanding of the resources you will be using to understand the New Testament. Out of the 100+ books I've read in biblical studies (plus another 100-200 I've consulted by not read entirely), this is one of the top five most influential to me. It really puts things in perspective. If you're interested in New Testament scholarship, or make use of resources for understanding the New Testament (e.g., commentaries, dictionaries, lexicons, theological dictionaries, encyclopedias, and books on specific topics), get this and READ IT! I only hope that Tom Wright will update it to reflect the last 20 years of scholarship. I'd be the first to buy the updated edition! 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A British perspective

By John Nordin Neill and Wright review various movements and trends in the understanding of the NT over the last 100 years. It is written in the nuanced and elevated British style with a nice dose of droll wit ("[he] has, of course, his own eccentricity, such as must be allowed to learned men.") and so is a pleasure to read. You have to be able to handle sentences with more than one clause, and the authors resist easy bullet-point conclusions, but the reward is a fair survey of the various movements. To be sure, the work gives British scholars perhaps more than their fair share of space, but that is a useful counterweight to the Germanic-centric style of other works.

To bring this widely acclaimed book completely up to date, the late Bishop Neill's colleague N.T. Wright has revised and expanded the entire contents and added a new chapter covering New Testament scholarship of the last twenty-five years. This masterful survey describes the historical development of New Testament criticism, the contrasting personalities of scholars, and the permanent contributions made by various schools, ending with an assessment of the current status of the field.

"Updating a classic is not easy task. Tom Wright has done a superb job."--Joseph L. Trafton, Western Kentucky University "A delight for students and scholars....All that Neill says is of great value to anyone concerned with the understanding of the New Testament...[and] having Tom Wright's excellent up-dating for the last twenty years or so is an added bonus."--Faith and Freedom "It is probably his attention to the personalities of the scholars involved in the debate which makes Bishop Stephen Neill's history of a century of New Testament interpretations of such absorbing interest....His knowledge of the major works of New Testament criticism in five languages is astonishing....Altogether an excellent book."--Times Literary Supplement, on the first edition "I have no problem in seconding the judgment of the Times Literary Supplement that this is, indeed, 'an excellent book.'"--Toronto Journal of Theology "An excellent text."--G. Burge, North Park College

About the Author Stephen Neill is at Wycliffe Hall, Oxford. Tom Wright is at Worcester College, Oxford.