

The Interfaith Dialogue by William Milne by the First Chinese Study Bible

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Abstract : The study Bible was published in 1825 after Milne's death, containing large amounts of paraphrasing, exhortations, notes, and commentaries to facilitate readers' scripture engagement. The methodologies employed include text analysis and discourse analysis. This study shows that to enable Chinese readers, uninitiated in the Gospel and deeply influenced by Confucian ethics and paganism, to understand the Bible and apply it to their daily living, Milne not only paraphrased the verses but also used metaphors and rhetorical techniques for explaining the background information of the Bible, teaching biblical doctrine, combating paganism, and exhorting readers to believe in the Gospel. Moreover, Milne also tries to clarify the scripture in the context of Chinese culture, giving the readers a clear way to put the scripture into practice in their daily living. His exposition had successfully made a breakthrough from the British and Foreign Bible Society's "Without Note or Comment" principle and showed a useful instrument for promoting interfaith dialogue.

Keywords : interfaith dialogue, William Milne, Chinese study Bible, exposition, "Without Note or Comment" principle

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