

Guide to  
**Lewis Sperry Chafer Selected Correspondence**

1922-1951 and undated

.46 linear feet

Accession Number: 2005-05

Collection Number: CN 009

Prepared by Lolana Thompson  
June 2005

**Abstract: Selected correspondence containing Lewis Sperry Chafer's opinions on a variety of theological subjects.**

**Preferred Citation:**

[Identification of the Item], Lewis Sperry Chafer Selected Correspondence, CN 009, Box [number], Folder [number], Archives, Dallas Theological Seminary.

**Archives, Dallas Theological Seminary, 3909 Swiss Ave., Dallas, TX 75204**

**Biographical Sketch:** Lewis Sperry Chafer was born on February 27, 1871 in Rock Creek, Ohio. He was the youngest of Thomas and Lomira Chafer's three children. Thomas was a parson and died when Lewis was 11. To support the family, Lewis' mother taught school, then later kept boarders in their home, and the children earned what they could at odd jobs. Lewis met Ella Loraine Case at Oberlin College, and they married on April 22, 1896. Lewis' early training was in music, but he became convinced that God was calling him to preach. He was ordained by the Congregational Church. Through his involvement with conference ministry, Chafer heard many national and international preachers and Bible teachers. Cyrus I. Scofield had a special impact on him and became Chafer's mentor. In 1923, Lewis succeeded Scofield as pastor of the First Congregational Church of Dallas, which was renamed Scofield Memorial Church. From 1923 to 1925, Chafer also served as general secretary of the Central American Mission, which had been founded by Scofield. Chafer's dream of starting a seminary with curriculum centered on the Bible was realized in the Fall of 1924, when the Evangelical Theological College opened with thirteen students. The seminary was renamed Dallas Theological Seminary in 1936. Chafer served as president and professor of systematic theology of the seminary until his death in August 1952. Despite his responsibilities at the seminary, he continued to speak at conferences throughout the U.S. Mrs. Chafer died in 1944 after a long illness. L. S. Chafer wrote many articles and books, but the title with the most impact was his eight volume *Systematic Theology*, originally published 1947-1948. This work incorporated much of the teachings of Scofield and other Bible conference speakers, and was considered the first dispensational systematic theology.

**References:**

Blaising, Craig A. "Lewis Sperry Chafer," in *Handbook of Theological Theologians*, ed. Walter A. Elwell, 83- 96. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1993.

Hannah, John D. *The Early Years of Lewis Sperry Chafer*. Dallas: Dallas Theological Seminary, undated.

**System of Arrangement:** This collection has one series. Only one copy of each letter was included in the collection. Letters with more than one subject assigned to them were filed in one location, and "see" or "see also" references were noted to refer researchers to the appropriate file.

**Series I. Subject Files, 1922-1951 and undated**                      **.46 linear feet**                      (173 files)  
Arranged alphabetically. Letters from L. S. Chafer to lay people and ministers.

**Scope and Content Note:** This is an artificial collection compiled of selected correspondence photocopied from the Lewis Sperry Chafer Papers in about 1998 by Dr. John A. Witmer. The copies are housed in two gray letter size boxes. The letters were chosen from the correspondence Chafer had with lay people and ministers discussing a wide variety of subjects. Many files contain only one letter.

**Selected Search Terms:**

Bible - Theology  
 Chafer, Lewis Sperry, 1871-1952  
 Christian Life  
 Eschatology  
 Jesus Christ  
 Salvation

**Donor/Source:** Photocopied from correspondence in the Archives of Dallas Theological Seminary.

**Custodial History:** The photocopies were created by Archives staff and have remained in the Archives. The file may have been created to collect quotes for a daily calendar that was not published.

**Literary Rights:**

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**Related Material:**

Lewis Sperry Chafer Papers

**Processing Information:** The letters are filed by subjects assigned by Dr. John Witmer. Lolana Thompson and Linda Buai modified some subject headings in an attempt to make them more uniform.

**Container List****Series I. Subject Files, 1922-1951 and undated**Box 1Folder #      Description

1. Abiding in Christ, 1931
2. Animal Sacrifice, 1938  
     Apostles Forgiving Sins - see file for Judas Iscariot
3. Apostles vs. Disciples, 1927
4. Atonement, 1924, 1934, 1937 and undated
5. Baptism, 1944 - see also file for Unpardonable Sin
6. Baptism and Salvation, 1934, 1941 - see also file for Confession and Salvation
7. Baptism, Meaning of, 1926, 1944
8. Baptism, Water, 1932, 1939
9. Believer's Responsibility, 1933  
     Believing and Accepting - see file for Holy Spirit in Salvation
10. Believing in Christ, 1949
11. Bible. N.T. - 1 Corinthians 6:9-10, 1937

**Container List****Series I. Subject Files, 1922-1951 and undated**Box 1 (continued)Folder #      Description

12. Bible. N.T. - 1 Corinthians 7:29, 1938
13. Bible. N.T. - 1 Corinthians 9:26, 1933  
Bible. N.T. - 1 Corinthians 10:32 - see file for Believer's Responsibility
14. Bible. N.T. - 1 John 1:8-10, 1940  
Bible. N.T. - 1 John 2:15 - see file for World  
Bible. N.T. - 1 John 3:4-10 - see file for Bible. N.T. - 1 John 1:8-10
15. Bible. N.T. - 1 John 5:16 - see also file for Bible. N.T. - 1 Corinthians 9:26, 1937  
Bible. N.T. - 2 Peter 2:18-22 - see file for Bible. N.T. - Heb. 6:1-9  
Bible. N.T. - 1 Peter 3:18-20 - see file for Capital Punishment
16. Bible. N.T. - 2 Thessalonians 2:11-12, 1930
17. Bible. N.T. - Hebrews 2:14, 1929
18. Bible. N.T. - Hebrews 6:1-9, 1943  
Bible. N.T. - Hebrews 6:4-9 - see file for Bible. N.T. - 1 Corinthians 9:26
19. Bible. N.T. - Hebrews 10:22, 1946
20. Bible. N.T. - John 3:3-6, 1938
21. Bible. N.T. - John 15:2, 6, 1940  
Bible. N.T. - Luke 10:28 - see file for Salvation-Judaism
22. Bible. N.T. - Luke 16:9, 1937  
Bible. N.T. - Matthew 5:17-18 - see file for Legalism
23. Bible. N.T. - Matthew 5:34-37, 1935
24. Bible. N.T. - Matthew 5:38, 1939  
Bible. N.T. - Matthew 6:13 - see file for Temptation and Testing  
Bible. N.T. - Matthew 24:3, 15 - see file for Dispensationalism
25. Bible. N.T. - Matthew 24-25, 1944
26. Bible. N.T. - Revelation 2 & 3, 1932
27. Bible. N.T. - Revelation 5:6-10, 1931  
Bible. N.T. - Romans 10:9-10 - see file for Evangelism Methods  
Bible. N.T. - Romans 5:12 - see file for Bible. N.T. - 1 Corinthians 9:26
28. Bible. O.T. - Ezekiel 3:17-18, 1943
29. Bible. O.T. - Genesis 1-4, 1929  
Bible. O.T. - Genesis 6:4 - see file for Mankind, Age of
30. Bible. O.T. - Psalm 23, 1928  
Biblical Psychology - see file for Man, Nature of and Behaviorism
31. Brethren Movement, 1929
32. British Israelism, 1926
33. Buchmanism, 1931
34. Bullingerism, 1930-1931

**Container List****Series I. Subject Files, 1922-1951 and undated**Box 1 (continued)Folder #      Description

35. Bullinger's Doctrine, 1938
36. Capital Punishment, 1929  
Christ, see files for Jesus Christ ...
37. Christian Hope, 1945
38. Christian Schools, Need for, 1928  
Christian's Sin - see file for Unpardonable Sin
39. Church Beginning of, 1925, 1932
40. Church Membership, 1932
41. Church, The Lord's Teaching on, 1929
42. Communion Bread, 1942
43. Confession and Salvation, 1930
44. Cosmos, 1943
45. Crowns, The Christian's, 1932
46. Dallas Seminary and Wheaton College, 1944
47. Dancing and Christians, 1942
48. Daniel's Image, 1941
49. David's Throne in Kingdom, 1938
50. Death for the Christian, 1933, 1943
51. Death, Location of Saved at, 1930  
Decrees of God and Human Will - see file for Scofield Reference Bible
52. Demon Possession of a Christian, 1951
53. Dispensationalism, 1932, 1936, 1943-1944
54. Divine Healing, 1929, 1951 - see also file for Holy Spirit, Gifts of  
Divorce and Remarriage - see file for Foot Washing
55. Doctrinal Stand, Safeguards to Preserve, 1928
56. Election, Verifying Our, 1939
57. End Times, 1949
58. Evangelism Methods, 1943
59. Financial Crises, 1930-1931
60. Foot-washing, 1939, 1944
61. Foreign Missions, undated
62. Glorification of the Christian, 1940
63. God, Nature of, 1951
64. God's Care for His Own, 1932
65. God's Grace, 1930
66. God's Power, 1929
67. God's Providence, 1930

**Container List****Series I. Subject Files, 1922-1951 and undated**Box 1 (continued)Folder #      Description

68. God's Provision, 1930
69. God's Purposes, 1930
70. God's Sovereignty, 1943 - see also file for Salvation, God's Sovereignty in
71. God's Sustaining Strength, 1932
72. God's Will, Finding, 1931
73. Gog and Magog, 1939
74. Government and the Christian, 1940 - see also file for War, Character of  
Hades - see file for Death, Location of Saved at
75. Healing in the Atonement, 1931
76. Heathen, Condition of the, 1940
77. Heaven for Christians, 1930
78. Heaven, Knowing Loved Ones are in, 1932
79. Holocaust, Jewish, 1943
80. Holy Spirit, 1940
81. Holy Spirit, Gifts of, 1950
82. Holy Spirit in Salvation, 1943
83. Holy Spirit, Indwelling of, 1930
84. Holy Spirit, Leading of, 1945
85. Holy Spirit, Person of in the Resurrection, 1930
86. Holy Spirit, Quenching of, 1943
87. Holy Spirit's Ministries, 1926-1927
88. Infant Salvation, 1933  
Israel and the Church - see file for Salvation - Judaism
89. Israel's Future, 1943, 1948

Box 2Folder #      Description

1. Jesus Christ, Identification with, 1933
2. Jesus Christ, Impeccability of, 1949
3. Jesus Christ, Person of, 1930, 1932
4. Jesus Christ, Pictures of, 1933
5. Jesus Christ's Ancestry, 1944
6. Jesus Christ's Death, 1935, 1950
7. Jesus Christ's Life, Significance of, 1931
8. Jesus Christ's Return, 1929

**Container List****Series I. Subject Files, 1922-1951 and undated**Box 2 (continued)Folder #      Description

- Jesus Christ's Statement on the Cross – see file for Mankind, Age of
9. Jewish Sacrifices, Restored, 1930
  10. Jews, Future of, 1938
  11. John's Baptism, 1931
  12. Judaism, 1944
  13. Judaism and Christianity, 1941
  14. Judaism's Future, 1938
  15. Judas Iscariot, 1937
    - Judgment Seat of Christ – see file for Bible. N.T. – Revelation 2 and 3
    - Justification before God and Men – see file for Bible. N.T. – Revelation 2 and 3
  16. Kenosis of Christ, 1950
    - Kingdom of God, Kingdom of Heaven – see file for Bible. N.T. –  
1 Corinthians 6:9-10
    - Laodicean Age – see file for Millennium
  17. Last Day, 1933
  18. Law and Grace, 1937
  19. Law, Christians and the, 1944
  20. Legalism, 1924
  21. Lodge Membership, 1930
  22. Lord's Prayer, 1931
    - Lord's Return – see file for Church, The Lord's Teaching on
  23. Lust of the Flesh, 1932
  24. Man, Nature of and Behaviorism, 1929
  25. Mankind, Age of, 1931
  26. Mercies and Blessings, 1941
  27. Millennial Kingdom, Conditions in, 1931
  28. Millennial Views, 1924
  29. Millennium, 1951
  30. Ministry of Christian, 1951
  31. Missionary Work, 1930, 1932
  32. Old Testament Saints, God's Sovereignty, 1932
  33. Oxford Group Movement, 1933, 1937
  34. Paul's Journey to Jerusalem, 1928
  35. Paul's Doctrine of Church, 1933
  36. Paul's Vision of Third Heaven, 1934
  37. Position in Christ, 1931, 1944-1945
  38. Post-tribulationalism, 1940

**Container List****Series I. Subject Files, 1922-1951 and undated**Box 2 (continued)Folder #      Description

- Prayer of Faith – see file for Restoration of Christian
39. Prayer, Unanswered, 1950
  40. Prayer, Value of in Financial Trials, 1933
  41. Premillennialism, 1928
  42. Pretribulationism, 1940
  43. Pyramid and the Bible, 1941
  44. Rapture of the Church, 1929, 1951
  45. Rapture, Situation after, 1931
  46. Rebaptism, 1951
  47. Redemption, Limited vs. Unlimited, 1937
  48. Reform Movements, 1928
  49. Repentance, 1938
  50. Restoration of Christian, 1935
  51. Restoration to Fellowship, 1932
  52. Restorationism, 1940, 1944
  - Sabbath vs. First Day of Week – see file for Believer's Responsibility
  53. Sabbath, Legislating a, 1927
  54. Salvation, 1938, 1941
  55. Salvation and Surrender, 1948
  56. Salvation by Faith Alone, 1928, 1930, 1932, 1938
  57. Salvation during Tribulation, 1930
  58. Salvation, God's Sovereignty in, 1932
  59. Salvation – Judaism, 1940, 1948
  - Salvation, Losing One's – see file for Unpardonable Sin
  60. Sanctification, 1947
  61. Scofield and Israel Bride Theory, 1928
  62. Scofield Reference Bible, 1924, 1928
  - Second Chance - see file for Rebaptism
  63. Security of Believer, 1925, 1940
  - Separationism – see file for Brethren Movement
  - Sermon on the Mount – see file for Millennial Kingdom, Conditions in
  64. Service after Sin, Christian, 1924
  65. Serving God, 1930-1931
  66. Signs of the Times, 1939
  67. Sin of a Christian, 1946
  68. Speaking in Tongues, 1929 - see also file for Holy Spirit, Gifts of

**Container List****Series I. Subject Files, 1922-1951 and undated**Box 2 (continued)Folder #      Description

- Speaking in Tongues, Modern - see file for Healing in the Atonement
- Spirit-led Living - see Spiritual Life
- 69. Spiritual Life, 1936
- 70. Sunday Laws, 1930
- 71. Sunday Observance, 1924
- 72. Temptation and Testing, 1936
- 73. Temptation, Meaning of, 1943
  - Ten Commandments - see file for Sabbath, Legislating a
- 74. Tithing and Christian Giving, 1922, 1945 - see also file for Legalism
- 75. Training for Ministry, 1932
  - Tribulation and the Church - see file for Millennium
- 76. Tribulation of Saints, 1924
  - Tribulation, Conditions of - see file for Jesus Christ, Pictures of
- 77. Trinity, The, 1940
- 78. Triune Immersion and Foot Washing, 1941
  - Trusting Christ as Savior, Process of - see file for Salvation by Faith Alone
- 79. Trusting God in Trials, 1933
- 80. Ultradispensationalism, 1937
- 81. Unpardonable Sin, 1927, 1933-1934, 1938-1940 - see also file for Bible. N.T. - 1
  - Corinthians 9:26
  - Walking in the Spirit - see file for God's Sustaining Strength
- 82. War and Christians
- 83. War, Character of, 1940 - see also file for Government and the Christian
  - Wesley's Doctrine - see file for Bullinger's Doctrine
- 84. World, 1929