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## **Tribute to Professor James H. Charlesworth**

I would like to congratulate Professor Charlesworth on his well-deserved retirement.

I came to know Prof. Charlesworth in 1991-1992 when I was a student at Princeton. Professor Charlesworth was my supervisor in the MTh program, and I studied Coptic, the Dead Sea Scrolls, and the Gospel of John with him.

A few years ago, I also joined Professor Charlesworth on an archaeological study tour in Israel. It was a privilege to study under such an extraordinary scholar and teacher. Professor Charlesworth's scholarly breadth and erudition in languages, biblical studies, and Judaism are remarkable, the result of a lifetime of research and reflection.

But even more inspiring than his erudition was Professor Charlesworth's passion for the study of ancient scriptures, which always became very much alive under his penetrating analysis. "My eyes were enlightened, and my face received the dew; and my breath was refreshed by the pleasant fragrance of the Lord" (*Odes of Solomon* 11).

My time at Princeton was one of the most transformative periods of my life. Professor Charlesworth is not only a great scholar but has always been very caring and supportive of his students after graduating from Princeton. So too, it has been wonderful for me over the years to stay in touch, our lifelong friendship has been very precious. Many wonderful memories and blessings will accompany me beyond death and into eternity.

Retirement will surely offer Professor Charlesworth new opportunities; I hope he embraces them and enjoys them all. May God richly bless our distinguished professor in his retirement!

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