

7)) in Scripture which Presbyterianism emphasizes. Now on ~~some~~ ^{certain} of these points where we differ from our brethren in other historic Christian denominations, we do not put our great stress on these points, but our teaching is what we think we find in the Word and we think God has a blessing for us in them. But it has characteristic of Presbyterianism, right from the beginning, that its stress is on the great central issues of Christianity -- on the death of Christ for our sins and on the absolute dependability of the Word of God as the foundation of our faith.

Why a minister? It is a wonderful thing to set apart a young man as a minister of the Lord Jesus Christ. Praise God when any is so set apart. But, personally, I feel a little bit of an added thrill when one is set apart not merely as a minister ~~//by~~ of Jesus Christ -- that is wonderful -- but as a Presbyterian minister of the Lord Jesus Christ. That is what we are doing tonight, but there is a third element in it: a Bible Presbyterian minister. Now why isn't enough just to say a Presbyterian minister; why say a Bible Presbyterian Minister?

Well, the reason for that is certain developments that have taken place in the last few years, but these developments are by no means new. These developments are just part and parcel of a situation which has existed from the very beginning of the world's history. God put Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden and gave them a blessed environment, and gave them a wonderful opportunity to live happily in every way, with just one simple command -- not to eat of this particular tree. Satan came to Eve and said, Has God said this? Are you sure God said it? Are you sure you can trust God's word? And Eve followed Satan's doubts and soon misery came into the world. That has been the course all through history. There is in the world a spirit of evil; a spirit which is represented to some extent by its greatest individual representative, Satan, but a spirit which is widespread, a spirit which denies the Lord and tries to oppose Him and oppose His will. We find through the ages that this spirit has come in, even into the professing Church, and turned people aside. That is what John Calvin found.