

human

there is a tendency to ~~divide~~ make slogans and to stand upon them, to divide into factions, to ~~take~~ take particular doctrines of the Word and elevate them to positions of primary importance. There is one doctrine of primary importance, salvation by grace, deliverance from our sins through the shed blood of Jesus Christ on calvary's cross. ~~This~~ This is the central doctrine and the ~~central~~ our ~~purpose~~ central purpose is to lead people to come to Christ through this and then to give it more and more a position of centrality in their lives. Yet it is very easy for us to take our particular ideas on particular points of Scripture and make them a cause of ~~division~~ division. Our great central theme here at Biblical is the centrality of the Word of God. We should test all things by the Word, stand fast for that which is taught in the Word, be charitable toward those who differ from us on secondary points. It has been a great grief to me, <sup>often</sup> during my life to see close friends of mine/divided into two groups, one calling itself "Dispensational," and hating the ~~the~~ other which it sometimes calls "Covenant theologians." I have known people who glory in the name "Dispensationalist" and others who detest what they call ~~the~~ "Dispensationalism," who have held almost identical views in actuality. The names have become slogans. Dividing Christians unnecessarily and causing them to put energy into opposing other Chns° ~~whatsoever~~ that should be put into presenting the Word of God to a Godless world. In both groups I have found ~~extremists~~ extremists who take certain minor elements in chn° teaching and magnify into central points, sometimes going so far as hardly to deserve the name of Chn° at all, because of the ~~the~~ relatively secondary position that they give to the essential doctrine of the grace of God. Yet such individuals are ~~comparatively~~ comparatively rare. Most of those the true Chns° who might be designated by either name hold positions that are actually very close together. My good friend, Dr. Clarence Mason, with whom I shared many precious hours as a member of the committee of nine that who prepared the New S° R° B°, has recently written a book ~~pamph~~ issued a little book pamphlet called