

Lindsell's recent book, the Battle for the Bible, shows clearly how this has happened in institutions after institutions, and in theological seminaries. He tells of one in which he himself taught where everyone who came there signed a creed that they believed in the inerrancy of Scripture. They believed in the premil. return of Christ. They believed in certain other doctrines. He said in a few years people were signing this and not meaning it at all. He said premillennialism disappeared very soon. He said, they just ignored that. Then after that people began to come in who denied inerrancy, and after a few years it got to where some of them left. You wonder how he stayed as long as he did. But he points out clearly the progress of apostasy and the way in which that institution moved. That is something that has happened in church after church, school after school. Inerrancy as he said is the watershed. We must hold the line here.

Now Lindsell said, They just dropped premillennialism very soon. They did not both about == bother about that. I do not say they could not have a great school that would do a great work for Christ without believing in premillennialism, but to sign a statement you believe in it and then just ignore it, that's the sort of thing which is utterly reprehensible. Why did they have such a statement in the first place. Did prophecy matter? We find Paul thought it mattered. In 1 Thess. 1 - in the very first epistle Paul wrote - he spoke of the Thess. Christians in two particular stands that they made. In vv.9-10, he says, They themselves show of us what manner of entering in we had unto you and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God and to wait for His Son from heaven whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivered us from the wrath to come. Two things the Thess. were taught -- they were serving the true and living God; they were waiting for His Son from heaven.

At the very end of Paul's life in his last epistle, which he wrote -- it is one of the two which were last, we are not sure whether this was the last he wrote -- in 2 Tim.4:8 Paul says, I have fought a good fight I have finished my course, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness which the Lord the righteous judge shall give me at that day, and not to be only but unto all them that love His appearing." Paul at the beginning and end of his ministry said, Our waiting for the Lord from heaven, or our loving his appearing, and looking forward to it is an important part of Christian life. I don't think Paul would have put it quite on the level of your being saved through faith in Christ and him alone and not through any works we do, but he gave it a very important place. I feel that premillennialism is very important. It is said there are some who emphasize prophecy too much. But for every one who emphasizes it too much I think there are a dozen who emphasize it too little. I feel it should have a vital place, our looking for, hastening unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. I think it is important because it is clearly taught in the Bible. The NT over and over speaks of how we should be looking for the coming of Christ. Four passages - Is. 4, Mic. 4, Isa.11, and Rev. 20 - in my opinion make it absolutely clear that when he comes back he will establish a kingdom in which there will be absolute freedom from external danger. And for a very long period of time he will establish such a regime of peace and happiness upon this earth as the world has never seen before.