

I believe this then because it is clearly taught in Scripture and therefore I believe we should put our stand on it. It is true. It is not just one word in one place. There are many places where it is brought out, but it is very clearly taught in these four places. I think that a second reason it is important is that if you get rid of these four places, if you reinterpret them to mean something else you introduce methods of interpretation of the Scripture which can mean anything mean anything. That's what Dean Alford said in his great commentary where he discussed the book of Revelation. You can make anything mean anything if you use the wrong methods of interpretation. We cannot build too much on one verse. We must compare Scripture with Scripture. But we must not explain away what is clearly taught there. The same methods that are used to get rid of the teachings of the millennium would get rid of the bodily resurrection of Christ and reduce it to the mere principle of the permanence of personality as some call it. I believe it is very important for this reason.

I believe it is important also because if you look over the history of the last century and a half and see the great evangelists who have done such a wonderful work in leading souls to Christ, see the great missionary movements that have opened up whole areas to the gospel and presented Christ in areas where he was previously unknown, you will find that the overwhelming majority of them were premillennialists. Now that does not prove it is true of course, but I believe that is a reason why it deserves careful consideration.

Fourthly, I cannot understand the great hatred toward premillennialism that I have come across time after time. I went to Princeton seminary when it was still a sound seminary, when all the professors there declared their belief that the entire Bible was true and inerrant. But I found in some of those professors such a hatred of premillennialism that they were constantly referring to it and attacking it and criticizing it. I've never been able to understand quite why the great hatred toward it. The only conclusion I've been able to draw is that Satan knows that upon this earth where he had his great victory, where he is even now the god of this world -- that Satan knows that upon this very earth his power is to be destroyed, and on this very earth a regime is to be established for a time which is absolutely contrary to his desires and viewpoint. Satan certainly hates the doctrine of the atonement of Christ worse than any other doctrine. But second to that he probably hates this and he's able even to lead sound Christian leaders into taking actions and attitudes that attack this doctrine. I've never been able to understand this.

Now suppose the millennium, suppose there isn't any. Suppose Christ comes back and that's the end. We know he's done wonderful things for us in either case. Why should people hate this doctrine so. The very fact I found so much hatred makes me investigate it more carefully, more closely and become more and more convinced it is a true thing. I find no basis for such an attitude. Now one time I was talking with two good friends of mine. They were good fellows. One was a professor in a theological seminary and they believed in the great essential doctrines very strongly. As they talked to each other and I happened to be along, they referred to a Board of a certain mission agency and one said, That's