

These latter books spoke defending dispensationalism against what they called Covenant theology. Now anybody who is a real Christian believes in dispensations. It is absolutely clear there are dispensations. Every theology I know of tells about dispensations. And every real Christian believes in covenants. This term covenant theology is unfortunately used in three or four different senses. Just like dispensationalism is used in different senses. But every true Christian believes in dispensations, and every true Christian believes in covenants. This particular term seems to me has come to be sort of a Shibboleth. A term which becomes a rallying point either for attack or for defense, but which covers a great variety of suggested ideas. I believe we should look at details, particular points in the Scripture, and where the Scripture is clear we should stand absolutely clear and strong. Where we are making guesses I believe we should label them as guesses.

I believe this making of shibboleths and standing for or against something divides Christians in a way it should not. We should divide on the matters of inerrancy. We should divide on the great doctrines but I believe when it comes to some of these shibboleths we should be tolerant, frinedly, we should give other people the right to disagree. We should go to Scripture and quietly and carefully study them and see what is there. Premillennialism is not a whole great system. Premillennialism is two or three great facts, and other details related to them pppo people have different view. And the term dispensationalism is a term which every Christian is a dispensationalist. And there are ways in which no Christian is a dispensationalist. Every Christian is a covenant theologian, and there are uses of the term sometimes in which no Christian is a covenant theologian.

Let us pray. Our Father, we thank you that there have been those through the ages who have stood for the great doctrines of the Word of God. We pray you will enable us here to lead souls to Jesus Christ and to enable Christians to grow in grace and in the knowledge of the Lord. To help in the careful study of the Scripture. To see exactly what it means and stand upon it. But O our God help us to avoid making system with many details in which there many be may be great doubt and uncertainty. Help us to avoid making shibboleths that will made unnecessary divisions and antagonisms and do great harm to the ch rch of Christ. We ask it in His Name. Amen.