

both in the mission board and at home as being an issue between pre-millennialism and the a-millennial view. It is really an issue between Christianity, whether pre-millennial or not, on the one side, and of naturalistic negation of all of Christianity on the other. Many things in that paragraph which I like very much, since I agree very strongly with him. But you notice the two criticisms that he gives here of chiliasm or of pre-millennialism. One of them is, that it is a false method of interpreting Scripture and that the prophecies of the Bible do not permit so definite a mapping out of future events. That is a phase which I do not think that Dr. Machen ever looked into personally. I don't think that he ever studied the prophecies of the Old Testament himself. And I don't think he ever studied the book of Revelation. He was very very good in the defense of the great doctrines of soteriology. He was very very good in that, and I don't think he ever went into these matters. (3 1/4) was a great scholar. He started giving a course in exegesis of the New Testament books. He was going through the books, book by book. And he died before he got through. And I had been looking forward to the time when he got to Revelation, because I was certain that with his absolute loyalty to the Scriptures, and determination to follow whatever he found in it, and with his clear logical mind, I would certain, when he came to Revelation, he would become in that way. I believe he would have if he would have gotten that far. I believe he would have if he had studied the prophecies of the Old Testament. But that particular criticism here is a general one. You see a ~~consideration~~ matter of the consideration of particular passages, and I do not believe that he had done it. But his other criticism here is the one that I am dealing with as the first criticism here. He says, the Lord will come again and it will be no mere spiritual coming in the modern sense. So much is clear but that so little will be accomplished by the present dispensation of the Holy Spirit, and so much will be left to be accomplished by the Lord in bodily presence, such a view we can not find to be justified by the words of Scripture. And so the first objection here that I am mentioning is number one, it is said to undervalue the power of the Holy Spirit. And that is the criticism which I used to hear a great deal when I was a student. We can not believe in pre-millennialism because we don't believe the Holy Spirit is unable to convert the world. We don't believe that it is impossible