

if they held that men had been saved by keeping the law at one period, while at other periods salvation was by grace. I have never met a dispensationalist teacher who held such a view although sometimes it was possible to misinterpret some of his statements and to gain this impression--an impression that is probably held by many untrained people.

On the other hand it is impossible to read the Scripture without seeing repeated evidence that God is a covenant-keeping God Who carries out the promises that He has made, and shows His mercy to succeeding generations of believers. Those who consider this view as false and unscriptural, often speak as if covenant theology meant a belief that people are automatically saved without need of personal regeneration. I have known many fine Bible teachers who would be classed as covenant theologians, but I have never known one, if questioned, who has not claimed that personal acceptance of Christ and individual regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely necessary to salvation.

While many untrained people think of these as two opposite poles of Scriptural interpretation, and some teachers lay such stress on one aspect as to cause many of their followers to get a false view of the other aspects of Truth, there is no independent teacher who actually holds such an extreme attitude in either direction. This conclusion might seem to be false if one listened only to one or two messages or to a few discussions, but on careful examination and discussion of the view held it quickly becomes apparent that independent trained Christian leaders all really hold to many emphases of both types. Neither extreme is a caricature and not a Scriptural view.

To know exactly how much of each emphasis to adopt and which false exaggerations to avoid, requires a scholarly theological training, including ability to examine the important passages in the original languages. Before one has had this training, he is ~~is~~ not in a position to make a fair judgment on the many detailed aspects that are involved.