

a very very bad Board. The other said, Yes that's a bad Board, why three-fourths of its members are premillennialists. The first said Yes, but not only are three-fourths of its members premillennialists but nearly half of them are dispensationalists.

Now that was about the first time I had heard that word dispensationalist used in that way. I went to a Christian college - one considered such anyway and there was a great great deal of Christian teaching there when I went there, I went to the Bible Institute of Los Angeles for a year. I went through Princeton Seminary. I had taught a number of years in theological seminary before I remember ever hearing this word, dispensationalists. But they said, Nearly half of those people are dispensationalists, and three fourths of them are premillennialists." Well, I was interested to know what they meant by dispensationalists. And I listened and they went through the list of the Board members, most of whom I knew pretty well. And they said, Look at this man, he's a premillennialist; he's not a dispensationalist though. Now this one is a premillennialist and a dispensationalist. This one is a dispensationalist. This one is just a premillennialist. The only way I could see they made a distinction was if a man really believed in premillennialism enough not just that he signed a creed, but that he preached on it once and a while, then they called him a dispensationalist. That was the only distinction I was able clearly to draw from the way they went through this list.

Well, as I said, that was about the first time I had heard this term dispensationalist used. During the years since I have often wondered just what it meant to be a dispensationalist. A premillennialist is clear enough, or it should be clear enough what it means. One who believes that our Lord Jesus when he comes back will establish a kingdom of righteousness and peace on this earth. I believe the Bible teaches this.

But what do they mean by a dispensationalist? Is it simply a shibboleth, or does it have a specific meaning to the word. I have had friends, earnest Christian people who thought if a man's a dispensationalist he's no good at all. I've had others who thought if you were a dispensationalist you were just outside the pale. Some times two of these people would stand so close to each other in just about every Christian doctrine and belief that I could not see where they drew the distinction. I think if you asked twenty people --- 20 intelligent, educated people to define dispensationalism - you would probably get at least 20 different answers. Well, you might get a number of different answers for premillennialism too because the

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z tendency is to take a term and make it stand for a whole difficult involved system. And for every little detail involved in them. And when you start making great involved systems, it is very easy for us to make mistakes because there are great essential things clearly taught but there are many details on which we can't be sure, and our tendency is to stamp our feet and yell when we're talking about something we're not so sure about. It's a natural human tendency. Starting about 1960 there came out a number of books - Backgrounds of Dispensationalism, The Errors of Dispensationalism, etc. And then shortly thereafter there began to come our books, Dispensationalism Today, Dispensationalism Defended. Titles like that.