

dispensation that is still future, that of the millennial reign of Christ. Evidence as to the exact number of dispensations is not clear in Scripture. Some hold to seven, some to a large number. There is a very active group of people who accept the teachings of Bullinger and consider nearly all the Scripture except the prison epistles of Paul as being meant for other dispensations and not applying to us today. I strongly reject such an approach. I am convinced that the entire Bible is meant for all of God's people at all times. Some of it may have more immediate relevance to one time than another, but all of it is important -- and all of it has meaning for believers in every age. Thus the question about "the dispensational interpretation of Scripture" is one which all Christians might be able to answer in the affirmative, and yet it is one which some Christians would understand in a way that I would consider definitely harmful.

LETTER 75
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DIVINE SOVEREIGNTY

The best and most comprehensive statement I have ever seen about divine sovereignty is in Section 1 of Chapter III of the Westminster Confession, which so clearly sets forth three important facts: 1) that "God from all eternity did ... freely and unchangeably ordain whatsoever comes to pass;" 2) "thereby neither is God the author of sin;" 3) "nor is violence offered to the will of the creatures, nor is the liberty or contingency of second causes taken away, but rather established." Perhaps when we are in heaven we will fully understand how these statements fit together. As long as we are on earth we must simply trust God and know that all three are true. If we neglect or downplay any of them our attitudes become distorted.