

LETTER 81
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**PREMILLENNIALISM
AND ORDINATION
TO THE CHRISTIAN MINISTRY**

Christ established His church for two purposes, so that it might be His instrument to reach individuals with the message of salvation through Christ, and so that its members might help one another to grow in grace and become more and more conformed to the image of the Saviour. It makes me very sad when divisions occur over matters on which equally sincere Christians may differ. Particular views about the details of God's plan for the future are not in themselves as important as the effect that these views may have upon the present activities of those who hold them.

1. My observation has been that premillennialists show more zeal in winning souls for Christ than most of those who hold other views. Most of the great evangelists and missionary leaders of the past hundred years have been premillennialists. There is something about this doctrine, which I believe to be taught in Scripture, that seems to stimulate earnest desire to serve God effectively. I do not wish to make unnecessary lines between myself and other Christians, but I do desire that the zeal and ardor for Christian service that so generally characterizes premillennialists be found within our churches.
2. What study I have made of writings on eschatology has led me to the opinion that attempts to get rid of the clear statements about the millennium at many places in the Old Testament, and to explain away its clear presentation at one place in the New Testament, generally result in carrying the idea of figurative language to such a point that the same methods could get rid of almost any biblical doctrine. If a person who opposes premillennialism professes to have spent time studying the passages involved, I would like to see his methods of dealing with other subjects thoroughly examined to determine whether