

the argument is not valid. Christ, in His resurrection body, spent forty days with His disciples in their natural bodies. No one can put limits on what God may choose to do. The only valid arguments are those based on clear scriptural teaching.

SPIRITUALIZATION

Most of those who deny premillennialism find it necessary to resort to so-called "spiritualization." This is simply a term for carrying the use of figures to an extreme, making all Old Testament references to external peace and safety become references to peace in the heart. It is true, of course, that the Bible, like all literature, contains figures of speech; but when the use of figures of speech is carried to an extreme, it causes language to lose all meaning.

Some apply this method only in a few chapters. Others apply it widely. It is not a matter of merely taking figurative language as figurative. Most writings contain figurative expressions. It is a matter of taking the entire framework of a passage figuratively, and passing beyond the bounds of any sane use of figures. A pinch of salt in a dish of soup is good. If one pours a quart of salt into a bucket of soup, the result is disagreeable and dangerous to health. If a man rejects premillennialism, let me plead with him to restrict his spiritualization to a few passages. One who applies it widely may easily approach the attitude of those who consider the bodily resurrection of Christ as merely "an expression of the permanence of personality."

IN CONCLUSION

Many Christians have found the teaching of Scripture about the premillennial return of Christ to establish His kingdom of universal righteousness on earth to be a constant inspiration to Christian service and godly Christian living. There seems to be something in this doctrine that results in increased purity of life and increased zeal or service. Most of the great evangelists of recent years have been strongly moved by this great hope. It has occupied a prominent place in the thoughts of most of the great missionary leaders of recent years. If one takes the whole Bible as God's Word, rather than only certain parts, I believe that it teaches the premillennial view of future events. God wishes us to