

from certain great teachings of Scripture; or if they, instead of standing on the teachings of main line Christianity as Presbyterianism historically does, take a position against some error of going to the opposite extreme in ~~some~~ ^{an} unbiblical way. Well, our heritage of Presbyterianism - I think I have mentioned most of the things that are characteristic of our Bible Presbyterian Church in the course of it and we ~~are~~ ^{have} seen ~~there~~ ^{them} in that light.

Well now there are some to say "No, you have departed from the heritage of Presbyterianism; you have become sectarian because you have elevated premillennialism to an important place in your church. And some will even say that is unPresbyterian; and that is erroneous. Presbyterianism has not historically stood for premillennialism - ~~yes~~ ^{yet}, but Presbyterianism has not historically stood against premillennialism. Practically every scholar of early church history recognizes that during the first two centuries of the church's history practically all Christians were premillennialists during that period. That is recognized by practically all scholars of early church history. And John Calvin was so interested in winning the lost to a knowledge of Christ ~~which~~ dealing with the central feature of the atonement and the centrality of the Bible that he did not ~~not~~ feel like taking time to think about eschatology and so some say because of his constant ~~stress~~ stress on these things that he would be against premillennialism. But we turn to Calvin's commentary on Isaiah 11 and we find that he clearly states there that Isaiah 11 describes a return to the condition before the fall and that that is going to come - that the restoration of a perfect state upon this earth is going to come. I would say Calvin there takes a clearly premillennial position, because how could such a thing happen unless the Lord Jesus Christ came to establish it. But then Calvin goes on to say, "However, more particularly we find from this passage the importance of changing people's characters so they are no longer like ~~wolves~~ ^{wolves} but they are more like ~~sheep~~ ^{sheep}." And of course his greatest interest was in the presentation of the Gospel now to win souls from darkness, but when he dealt with the passage he brought out clearly its teaching - a teaching which cannot be ~~clearly~~ understood except as a definite premillennial teaching. And at the Westminster Assembly that made the Westminster Confession, many