

12/2/74

Imminence ~~Immanence~~

There is much argument in these days about the question of pretribulation rapture or posttribulation post-tribulation rapture. Unfortunately terms are not often used without much clarity or precision. It therefore would be good to think ~~through a little~~

the matter through a little in order to try to clarify the problem.

In a way it is similar to the division into ~~premillennialism~~ and premillennialists and postmillennialists and amillennialists. These three words do not really indicate what is meant. When one says he is a ~~pre~~ premillennialist he really means that he believes that after the coming of Christ there is to be a millennial reign upon this earth. When one says he is a postmillenn postmillennialist he means that whatever is meant by the millennium is something that will precede the return of Christ.

The term amillennialist is used for one who questions[†] the existence (bw?) of any /earthly reign of Christ, who denies the existence of any earthly reign of Christ. Thus the terms ^{"pre" and "post" millennial (?)} pre and postmillennial (how should that be written?) ^{at (nc)} put their stress on a point different from that where the doctrine really put puts ~~its~~ (?) its stress. A better term for "postmillennialist" " postmillennialist," except that it ~~could~~ could easily be misunderstood, would be "future perfectionist," that is, one who believes that a period of perfection is to come on this earth while things still continue otherwise much as they are. A premillennialist is one who does not expect any such period of perfection on this earth prior to the return of Christ.

In the terms "pretribulation rapture" and "posttribulation rapture" the matter is similarly turned around. Both believe ~~that~~ the Scripture