

in the past. Now we have a new set of terms coming up. One we hear a lot about these days is the term dispensation. Someone was to speak in a church and they said you must sign a creed before you come and a creed said, I accept the dispensational interpretation of Scripture." I said, What does that mean?

Chas. Hodge has a section in his theology on the four dispensations. Every Christian believes that there was a dispensation before Christ and a dispensation after Christ. We are all dispensationalists. Some say there are two, some say there are four, some say there are seven. I don't think God wants us to fight about these things. I know people who hate anybody who is a dispensationalist. I know people who think nobody is any good unless he's a dispensationalist! Yet I've found people belonging to both groups who believe just about exactly the same thing.

I think there are as many definitions of dispensationalism as there are people who say they are, or say someone else was. Let's stand for everything that's clearly taught in Scripture. But let's keep our emphasis on the big central things our Lord stressed.

Another word I hear recently that I think is overdone is the word charismatic. Charismatic. What does it mean? If a person is a little bit enthusiastic and says, Hallelujah several times somebody will say, He's a charismatic. There are those who are a little enthusiastic like that and are called charismatic. There are others who yell so much you wonder how they can do any thinking. There is a real danger in what is spoken of as the charismatic movement. But there is also a danger in making charismatic a swearword in opposing anybody whom you think it can apply to.

I believe there is one word that is supremely important and that is Christian. I believe God wants us to spend our lives in such a way that we advance the body of Christ, and he wants us to remember the unity of the body of Christ.

This is a very vital problem for a student in seminary. Particularly a seminary like this. Fifty years ago there were many very fine Christian seminaries. Most of those that were 50 years ago are modernist today. But there were these very fine Christian seminaries each of which was connected with a denomination. A student went there, and took the particular denominational teachings given--his parents doubtless belonging to that denomination. He came out expecting to get a church in that denomination. If he had a few questions on a few particular doctrines or points, he didn't fuss about it much.. He knew where he was going to preach and what he was going to do.

Most of those seminaries are now taken over by unbelievers. Our students--a great many of them--became Christians in college