

June 17, 1971

Pastor Elwood Reeves
Box 463
Bloomsburg
Pennsylvania 17815

Dear Mr. Reeves:

It is always a joy to meet a friend of Herman Eckelmann, even if only by mail.

Thank you for your note regarding premillennialism and Calvinism. The questions that you have raised enter a large area. Perhaps my little booklet on the Millennial Kingdom of Christ would be of help. I have asked that one be mailed to you separately.

I read the enclosed letter from Dr. Benson with great interest. I agree with much of it, but a few of its statements seem to me to be based upon purely philosophical rather than Biblical grounds. I do not necessarily deny these; I merely think that they are somewhat questionable.

As to your first question I would say that soteriology and eschatology do not necessarily control one another. I believe that the Bible very clearly teaches that Christ will come for His saints and will return with them later on to set up His kingdom of righteousness and peace that will last for a thousand years. I also believe that it teaches the Reformed doctrine that God has foreordained all things that come to pass, and that the merits of Christ's death are sufficient for all, but efficient only for the elect. Soteriology and eschatology are in two different areas, just as one could have a large wooden house or a small wooden house, or a large stone house or a small stone house.

As to your second question I personally do not greatly like the word "dispensational," since it is used in so many different senses. In his Theology Charles Hodge has a section on the dispensations, and lists four different ones. Anyone who baptizes and observes the Lord's Supper instead of circumcising and observing the Passover recognizes that there has been a change of dispensation. Thus all Christians are dispensationalists in at least one sense. There are a few who go to the extreme of saying that God uses different methods of salvation in different dispensations, but all whom I know personally hold that this is not true, but that all who