

June 17, 1971

ever have been or will be saved are saved through the death of Christ. This again is a matter of soteriology and is in a different area from eschatology.

To my mind the most important factor in all fields of theology is the willingness to go to the Bible with an open mind and find what it teaches. I do not see how anyone can read the Book of Ephesians with an open mind and derive any other than a Calvinistic view from it. I do not see how anyone can read the prophetic passages of the Bible with an open mind and derive from them any other than a premillennial view. There are men of genuine consecration and of considerable scholarship who differ, but this is how it appears to me. Nothing is more important than belief in Christ as the only Saviour, and in His Word as entirely free from error. As I study it I try to determine what it teaches and to stand upon all that is clearly stated. From this viewpoint I believe both in Calvinism and in premillennialism.

Incidentally, as the letter from Dr. Benson pointed out, many leading Calvinists have been premillennialists.

It is not my impression that Calvin ever took a definite position on this point, but in his commentary on Isaiah 11 there are certain statements which seem quite inconsistent with any other than a premillennial view.

I understand that some of the leading members of the assembly that formulated the Westminster Confession were strong premillennialists, but that there were others who differed, and that consequently the Confession took no position on this matter. However, one of the statements in the Larger Catechism seems to me to be clearly consistent with premillennialism and quite inconsistent with any other view.

May the Lord lead you in your study of His Word and help you to find His truth. Above all, may He use you to lead precious souls to salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ and to help believers to grow in grace.

Sincerely yours in Christ,