

"THE PREMILLENNIAL THEORY vs THE WORD OF GOD"

Let us turn to the Galatian letter, chapter 1:8-9 and ##### notice Paul's teaching to the brethren in Galatia.

"But tho we, or an angel from heaven, should preach unto you any Gospel other than that which we preached unto you, let him be accursed." "As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be acursed."

Keeping in mind what the apostle Paul has said we would be afraid to preach anything that would contridict the word of God. The best way to know if a thing is right or not is to compare it with the Word of God. If it contridicts the Word of God then it is without a shadow of a doubt wrong and we cannot preach it without endangering our souls.

(In the language of the poet we might say: *Someone had said*

"The best way to show that a stick is crooked is not to argue about it, ^{TIME} or spend your denouncing it, but to lay a straight stick alongside of it."

Evening
So this ~~morning~~ let us lay the Premillennial Theory alongside the Word Of God and see if the Word of God teaches it. If it does then we must accept it. If however it does not then we must of necessity reject it.

Evening
The title of our lesson this ~~morning~~ is ... *A.B.C.D.E*

First, what do we mean by Premillennialism? No two groups teach exactly the same thing or alike on this subject, but the theories generally run like this: that the kingdom of Old Testament prophecy has not been established, that we only have the "church phase" of it now; That God's promise to make of Abraham's seed a great nation, giving him certain land, have not been fulfilled; that Christ came to ^{that} set up a kingdom, but that the Jews refused Him, so He returned to Heaven placed the Church here instead, and will return later to establish the kingdom; that the Jews as a nation will then be converted and restored to Palestine; and that He will reign with the saints 1,000 years in Jerusalem on David's throne.

In this lesson, we propose to show certain scriptures that are flatly contradicted by these theories. If that be true, such theories are not "mere harmless guesses that can hurt no one." Nothing is harmless that contradicts what the Scriptures teach. He who says; Let premillennialism alone; don't preach against it," simply says, in effect, "Don't preach against a system that ~~contradicts~~ contradicts plain statements of scriptures."

And do not be deceived by that error which says that "if you let it alone, and don't preach against it, it will die anyway." That sentiment is anti-scriptural. If I see premillennialism contradicting scriptures and deceiving people, it would be anything but courageous for me to say nothing against it. Pilate or Gamaliel would follow that course, but not a Gospel preacher.

Radio preachers daily send these errors straight into the hearts of our homes. Practically all of the denominations are full of these teachings, while some bodies feature them, which means that Christians coming in contact with these people are daily exposed to the errors. Some groups keep men in the cities, and from town to town, going from house to house distributing free literature and talking these notions when people will listen. These three avenues are enough to flood churches of Christ with these teachings.

Now then for a comparative study of the theory with God's Word.

I. Premillennialism teaches that God has guaranteed to restore the Israelites to Palestine, and that not until then will the kingdom of the Old Testament prophecy be set up.

I. Josh. 21:43.

"So Jehovah gave unto Israel all the land which He swore to give unto their fathers; and they possessed it, and dwelt therein."

Premillennialism teaches that Israel never occupied all the land

which God promised, and therefore the kingdom of Old Testament prophecy will have to be restored, with the Jews in Palestine, in order to redeem God's promise. But the above verse ^{John 2:143} ~~###~~ says that they did receive the full promise.

2. In (Acts 10:34) Peter says:

"OF a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons."

But Premillennialism says that he has special favors in store for the Jews.

If so, He will be a respecter of persons. But the scripture says that is ~~not~~ so

(ROM.2:28-29). PAUL SAYS

"FOR he is not a Jew who is one outwardly...but he is ~~###~~
a Jew who is one inwardly."

again hear Paul (Gal.3:7;26-29).

"KNOW YE THEREFORE THAT THEY WHICH ARE OF FAITH THE SAME ARE THE CHILDREN OF ABRAHAM.....FOR YE ARE THE CHILDREN OF GOD BY FAITH IN CHRIST JESUS. FOR AS MANY OF YOU AS HAVE BEEN BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST HAVE PUT ON CHRIST. THERE IS NEITHER JEW NOR GREEK, THERE IS NEITHER BOND NOR FREE, THERE IS NEITHER MALE NOR FEMALE: FOR YE ARE ALL ONE IN CHRIST JESUS. AND IF YE BE CHRIST'S THEN ARE YE ABRAHAM'S SEED, AND HEIRS ACCORDING TO THE PROMISE."

SO then we see that the Word of God teaches that under the Gospel the distinction between Jew and Gentiles ~~###~~ have ceased, that the Church is the Israel of God.

But Premillennialism says that "fleshly decedents of Abraham through Jacob are sons of Abraham. The passages of scripture just read deny that.

II. Most Premillennialists teach that Jesus intended to set up his kingdom while He was on earth, but that the Jews would not allow him to do so. Therefore, the theory says, He returned to the Father, set up the Church here instead, as a substitute, and when the jews get ready He will then establish the kingdom originally purposed.

(I). Jno.6:15...

"Jesus therefore perceiving that they were about to come and take him by force, to make him king, withdrew ~~#####~~
again into the mountain himself alone."

John says that the Jews wanted to crown Jesus King. But the theory denies this.

(2) Eph. 3:10-11: "To the intent that now unto the principalities and the powers in heavenly places might be made known through the church the manifold wisdom of God according to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Thus, the church was in the "eternal purpose of God." Premillennialism denies this, saying that the church would not have been set up if the Jews had received the kingdom.

III. Premillennialism teaches that the righteous dead will be raised when Christ returns and that the unrighteous dead will be raised at the end of His reign at least 1,000 years later.

(1) John 5:28+29: "Marvel not at this, for the hour cometh, in which all that are in the tombs shall hear his voice and shall come forth."

Christ says that they will all hear and all come forth when "the hour cometh". But premillennialists say that some will hear and come forth first, and the rest will hear and come forth 1,000 years later.

(2) Matt. 25:31-32: "But when the Son of man shall come in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then shall He sit on the throne of His glory; and before Him shall be gathered all the nations, and He shall separate them one from another as the shepherd separateth the sheep from the goats."

Thus, Christ says that the good and bad are judged at the same time. But premillennialism says that there will be two judgments, and at least 1,000 years apart.

(3) Premillennialism says that "the nations" of Matt. 25:31-32 refers only to the Gentiles and never to the Jews, and that the judgment of Matt 25:32 does not therefore include all in one judgment. But, in Matt. 28:19 Jesus commissioned the apostles to go and "teach all nations" If the theory is true, then Jesus only sent the apostles to the Gentiles

and not to the Jews. You can see how that theory tries to patch up its contradiction of one passage, and winds up by contradicting another. So it is with false doctrine always.

(4) Rev. 1:7: "Behold, he cometh with the clouds; and every eye shall see him..." Premillennialism says that when he returneth in the clouds only the righteous dead shall see him at first, and the unrighteous dead later. But this verse says that every eye shall see him when he cometh with the clouds.

IV. Premillennialism teaches that after His second coming, Christ will with His saints reign over all the earth 1,000 years.

(1) Premillennialist read in Rev. 20 ^{of Christ's} thousand years' reign. I do not propose to unravel the mystery of this passage, but consider this: the advocates of these theories know that there are expressions in this chapter which are figurative, symbolical, and which cannot be taken literally. This they do not deny. But they insist on taking the thousand years literally, and will not take some of the other expressions in the same way. T

The theory advocates read into this passage some things not there. The passage does not mention: (a) the second coming of Christ; (b) it does not specify a reign on earth; (c) a bodily resurrection; (d) it does not mention all the righteous; John saw "the souls of them that were beheaded" --the martyrs: (e) it does not locate Christ on earth. When theorists read into passages things not there, they are adding to the Word of God, and must be dealt with accordingly. I do not propose to know to what time Rev. 20 refers, but I can see that the passage does not contain that which premillennialists read into it.

(2) I Thess. 4:17

"Then we that are alive, that are left, shall

together with them be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so shall we ever be with the Lord."

Paul says here that some that are in the graves when Christ returns will be caught up together with the saved of those alive then to meet the Lord in the clouds, and will ever be thus with the Lord. But premillennialists teach that they will stay up there a short while, return to reign on earth with the Lord 1,000 years, and then return above. But there is no place in Paul's language above for such a round trip. They meet the Lord in the air, "so shall we ever be with the Lord"--no place for a return here.

3. Zech. 6:12-13:

"Behold, the man whose name is the Branch; and He shall grow up out of His place; and He shall build the temple of Jehovah; and He shall bear the glory, and shall sit and rule upon His throne; and He shall be a priest upon his throne."

These verses say that He is to "sit and rule upon His throne" at the same time that He is to be a "priest upon his throne." Heb. 6:20 teaches that Christ is now a high priest. Then, if He is now a priest upon His throne, He is also ruling upon His throne.

But, now watch carefully: Heb. 7:13-14 and Heb. 8:4 declare that Christ could not be a priest on earth, not being of the tribe from which Jehovah ruled that priests were drawn. Thus, Christ can never be a priest upon the earth--He can serve in that capacity only in heaven. (Heb. 9:11-12. Since he is priest and king at the same time, if He cannot serve as priest on earth, He cannot serve on earth as king. Hence, His reign as king must be confined to heaven, and the premillennial theory of an earthly reign contradicts the foregoing scriptures.

4. II Cor. 5:16:

"Wherefore, we henceforth know no man after the flesh; even though we have known Christ after

after the flesh, yet now we know Him so no more."

Premillennialism says that Christ will reign in person, in the flesh, on earth. If so, we certainly will know Him after the flesh. But this verse says that we will not so know Him again. This one verse ruins the theory of the earthly reign of Christ, and will require considerable explaining away to get around.

(5) John 18:36:

"My kingdom is not of this world."

The New Testament clearly reveals that the Jews expected an earthly kingdom, with their Messiah reigning in the flesh on earth. This verse lets them know that they were mistaken in their notion of the nature of the kingdom. If the Jews' idea of an early kingdom contradicted this statement of Christ's, the statement also is contradicted by the theory of premillennialism today of an earthly kingdom.

(6) Acts 2:17:

"And it shall be in the last days..."

Peter here teaches that the events of that Pentecost day--preaching of the gospel, establishment of the church--ushered in the period known as "the last days," the gospel dispensation. So, the gospel age, from Acts 2 to the coming of Christ, is "the last days." But premillennialism contradicts this, saying that another age of 1,000 years will follow this.

These are not all, but some of the more glaring instances of premillennialism contradicting scriptures. We do not propose to speculate on what the millennial reign is, but we can see the heresies involved in the theories named herein. Christ is now reigning on David's throne Isa. 9:6-7;

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon

his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.
7: Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

Lk. 1:31-33:

"And behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom shall be no end.

Acts 2:29-36:

"Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day. Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne; He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption. This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses. Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear. For David is not ascended into the heavens: but he saith himself, The Lord said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, Until I make thy foes thy footstool. Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.

I Tim. 6:15:

"Which in his times he shall shew, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords;"

Christ is now reigning over His kingdom, the church, His body.

Col:1:13,18,24:

"Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son.

18: And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the pre-eminence.

24: Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body's sake, which is the Church:

When he returns, death having been abolished by the resurrection of all (John 5:28-29), His reign then will cease, He will judge all men (Mt:16:27), and hand the saved part of the kingdom back to the Father to dwell there forever.

(I Cor. 15:24-28:

"Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the Kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power.

For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet.

The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death. For he hath put all things under his feet. But when he saith all things are put under him, it is manifest that he is excepted, which did put all things under him, ~~the Father~~.

And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God ~~may~~ be all in all.

Then, do not be deceived by the speculative, materialistic, Christ-de-throning, scriptures--contradicting theories of future kingdom advocates, but in the Lord's Church serve Him now, so as to be prepared for the judgment hereafter.

We invite you to attend the services of the Church of Christ in ~~your neighborhood today~~. There you will hear the gospel in word and in song, and I assure you that you will be no stranger there.