

## Biblical Dispensationalism

Jim McGowan, MTS, Th.D.

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## What We've Covered So Far

**Sessions 1-3: Introduction to Biblical Dispensationalism**

- Important Assumptions and Prerequisites**
  - The Inspiration & Authority of Scripture
- Definition of Biblical Dispensationalism**

Biblical Dispensationalism is a *theological system* that emphasizes a **CONSISTENT literal interpretation** of the Bible, (including prophecy); recognizes a **distinction between Israel and the church**; and organizes the Bible into different **dispensations, administrations, or economies**.

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## What We've Covered So Far

**Sessions 4-7: History of Biblical Dispensationalism**

- The Early Church**
  - Justin Martyr – (A.D. 110–165)
  - Irenaeus – (A.D. 110–165)
  - Clement of Alexandria – (A.D. 150–220)
  - Augustine – (A.D. 354–430)
- The Alexandrian Abdication**
  - Two schools of opposing hermeneutical thought (*Antiochian and Alexandrian*) developed ~200 years after Christ, that greatly impacted the church for future generations.

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### What We've Covered So Far

#### Sessions 4-7: History of Biblical Dispensationalism

##### 3. The Dark Ages

- Lasted from the 4<sup>th</sup> to the 16<sup>th</sup> centuries (1200 yrs.)
- Obsolescence of prophetic studies
- Domination of Augustinian Amillennialism
- Only one church: Roman Catholicism
- The Bible is removed from the people
  - Illiteracy
  - Mass read in Latin
- Church in need of rescue

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### What We've Covered So Far

#### Sessions 4-7: History of Biblical Dispensationalism

##### 4. Positive Contributions of the Reformers

- Recovered the truth of the Five solas (Scripture Alone; Grace Alone; Faith Alone; Christ Alone; and To the Glory of God Alone).
- Emphasized a literal interpretation
- Denunciation of Allegorization
- Rejected church tradition as equal to Scripture
- Recovered the truth of the Priesthood of all believers
  - Bible translations
  - Literacy
- Rejection of celibacy of the priesthood

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### What We've Covered So Far

#### Sessions 4-7: History of Biblical Dispensationalism

##### 5. The Reformers' Incomplete Reforms

- Selective literalism
- "Irresponsibly" dealt with eschatology
- Retained and Perpetuated Augustinian Amillennialism
- Perpetuated Roman Catholicism's Errors
  - Wanted to 'reform' not leave the Church
  - Infant baptism / Consubstantiation
  - Church = the earthly kingdom / Anti-Semitism

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### What We've Covered So Far

#### Sessions 4-7: History of Biblical Dispensationalism

##### 6. Contemporary Reformation Theology

- Has frozen theological progress by erroneously assuming no further theological progress is to be made.
- Their Creeds and Confessions are ultimately more authoritative than Scripture.
- Augustinian Amillennialism fossilized into RT.
- Inconsistent literal hermeneutic.
- Eschatological texts are Commonly Allegorized (Zech. 14:4; Rev. 21-22; Ezek. 40-48)

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### What We've Covered So Far

#### Sessions 4-7: History of Biblical Dispensationalism

##### 7. Dispensationalism's Contribution

- Dispensational movement
  - Dispensational Systematized in 19<sup>th</sup> century
  - Key Dispensational Leaders
  - Took the Reformers' hermeneutic and applied it to the whole bible
  - Retrieved key doctrines: Chiliasm (*Millennialism*), Israel-Church distinction, Pretribulationism

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## Biblical Dispensationalism

### Session 8

#### False Charges Against Dispensationalism Part 1

<http://www.middletonbiblechurch.org/dispens/dispensa.htm>

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Session 8  
Outline

- 1) Dispensationalists Teach More Than One Way of Salvation.
- 2) Dispensationalists are Guilty of Antinomianism
- 3) Dispensationalists Teach that the Sermon on the Mount is Not for the Church Today – “TRUE” and “FALSE”!
- 4) Dispensationalists Teach that the Death of Christ was an Afterthought and that the Church is “Plan B” in God's program.
- 5) Dispensationalism is a ‘New’ doctrine.
- 6) Dispensationalism Teaches a ‘Secret Rapture’.
- 7) Dispensationalism falsely claims that God made a bona fide offer of the kingdom to Israel.
- 8) Dispensationalists revere C. I. Scofield but he was an immoral man, not qualified to be a spiritual leader.

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1) Dispensationalists Teach More  
Than One Way of Salvation.

“The different dispensations are different ways of God's administering His rule over the world. They are not different ways of salvation. Throughout history God has employed several dispensations but only one way of salvation. **Salvation has always been by the grace of God through faith in the Word of God, and God has based salvation on the work of Jesus Christ**”.



Dr. Renald Showers - *There Really is a Difference*, p. 31

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1) Dispensationalists Teach More  
Than One Way of Salvation.



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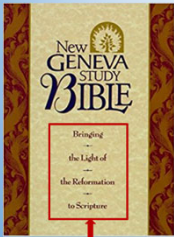
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## 2) Dispensationalists are Guilty of Antinomianism



*"Some dispensationalists have held that since Christians live under a dispensation of grace, not law, keeping the moral law is at no stage necessary for them" (New Geneva Study Bible, p. 1990).*

The argument is this: *If you are not under the law then you must be lawless.* The Bible, however, gives this answer:



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### Romans 7:4

"Therefore, my brethren, you also were made to die to the Law through the body of Christ, so that you might be joined to another, to Him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit for God."

\* θανατώ - aorist, passive, indicative, 2<sup>nd</sup>, plural – a past, completed, action

### Galatians 2:19

"For through the Law I died to the Law, so that I might live to God."



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### Romans 8:4

"so that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled\* in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit."

\* πληρώ - aorist, passive, subjunctive, 3<sup>rd</sup>, singular – a past, completed, action

### Romans 10:4

For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.



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**Galatians 5:22-23**

<sup>22</sup> But **the fruit of the Spirit** is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, self-control; **against such things there is no law.**

**Titus 2:11-12**

<sup>11</sup> For **THE GRACE OF GOD** has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, <sup>12</sup> **instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires** and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age,



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**2) Dispensationalists are Guilty of Antinomianism**



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**3) Dispensationalists Teach that the Sermon on the Mount is Not for the Church Today – “False!”**

- The original Scofield Reference Bible (1909) stated that the Sermon on the Mount “clearly has a beautiful moral application to the Christian” (p.1000).
- **Arno Gaebelein**, wrote, concerning the Beatitudes, “The blessings in themselves are most wonderful in their scope and inexhaustible in their meaning” (p. 112).
- **John Walvoord** – “The Sermon on the Mount is clearly intended to be a definitive statement of Christ’s teaching and should not be pushed aside lightly by unnecessary stricture which would relegate it to unimportant truth” (Matthew—Thy Kingdom Come, p. 45).

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False Charges Against Dispensationalism– Part 2  
02/26/2020

**3) Dispensationalists Teach that the Sermon on the Mount is Not for the Church Today – “False!”**

- Dispensationalists are known for \*exegetical and \*expository preaching of God’s Word, preaching through books of the Bible verse by verse (Matt. 4:4, Acts 20:27).
- All of God’s Word is important and is profitable for us (2 Tim. 3:16-17).

\***Exegetical preaching** – is an explanation of a text based on a careful, objective analysis which includes linguistics. Exegesis literally means “to lead out of.” The interpreter is led to his conclusions by following the text.

\***Expository preaching** involves a comprehensive explanation, of the Scripture; that is, the meaning and intent of a biblical text, providing commentary and examples to make the passage clear and understandable.

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**Matthew 4:4**

<sup>4</sup> But He answered and said, “It is written, ‘MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT ON EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD.’ ”

**Acts 20:27**

“For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God”

**2 Timothy 4:2**

“Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine”

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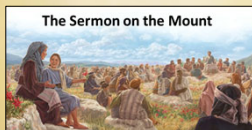
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**2 Tim. 3:16-17**

<sup>16</sup> All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; <sup>17</sup> so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.”



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**3) Dispensationalists Teach that the Sermon on the Mount is Not for the Church Today – “False!”**

- The SOM is precious and valuable in that it provides believers rich secondary spiritual applications. For example, in:
  - the Beatitudes (5:1-12),
  - the ‘Disciple’s’ [Lord’s] prayer (6:9-15),
  - the passage on needless anxiety (6:25-34)
  - the parable of the two builders (7:24-27)

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**3) Dispensationalists Teach that the Sermon on the Mount is Not for the Church Today – “False!”**

- Dispensationalism teaches that believers of all dispensations:
  - are to recognize their own spiritual bankruptcy (5:3).
  - are to rejoice in spite of adverse circumstances (5:10-12).
  - are to abound in good works (5:16).
  - struggle with lust (5:28).
  - need to pray in secret (6:6).



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**3) Dispensationalists Teach that the Sermon on the Mount is Not for the Church Today – “False!”**

- The SOM embraces principles for all saints of all times.
  - Believers of all dispensations need to pray, “Thy will be done” (6:10).
  - Believers of all dispensations need to lay up treasures in heaven (6:20).
  - Believers of all dispensations struggle with the sin of worry (6:25-34).
  - Believers of all dispensations need to put God first (6:33).
  - Believers of all dispensations need to build their lives upon God’s Word (7:24-27).

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**3) Dispensationalists Teach that the Sermon on the Mount is Not for the Church Today – “False!”**

- The SOM contains trans-dispensational truths for all dispensations.
  - Those who hunger and thirst after righteousness will be filled (5:6).
  - God shines and showers His goodness on all men (5:45).
  - God sees what is done in secret (6:1-6).
  - God knows the needs of His believers (6:8,32).
  - What a man treasures reveals his heart (6:21).
  - No man can serve two masters (6:24).

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**3) Dispensationalists Teach that the Sermon on the Mount is Not for the Church Today – “False!”**

- The SOM contains trans-dispensational truths for all dispensations. (cont'd)
  - Those who honor God will be honored by God (6:33).
  - Before we can righteously judge, we must first judge ourselves (7:1-5).
  - Those who truly seek will truly find (7:7).
  - Men are evil and depraved (7:11).
  - The majority are headed for destruction; few will be saved (7:13-14).

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**3) Dispensationalists Teach that the Sermon on the Mount is Not for the Church Today – “False!”**

- The SOM contains trans-dispensational truths for all dispensations. (cont'd)
  - A tree is known by its fruit (7:17-20).
  - Mere profession does not necessarily mean true possession (7:21-23).
  - Our lives need to be built on a rock solid foundation (7:24-27).

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**Theological Bias?**  
*'Reformed Theology' teaches that the SOM is for the Church Today!*

**Reformed Doctrine:**

-  the Sermon was delivered to the Church.
-  the Church is made up of the saints of all ages.
-  the Church existed in the Old Testament and during our Lord's earthly ministry.
-  there is but one people of God, and therefore that the Sermon applies equally to the one people of God no matter when they live on earth.

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**3) Dispensationalists Teach that the Sermon on the Mount is Not for the Church Today – “False!”**



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**3) Dispensationalists Teach that the Sermon on the Mount is Not for the Church Today – “TRUE!”**

- The Lord gave this sermon to the Jews, not to the Church. The Church was not even in existence at the time this sermon was given. The SOM was a pre-cross message given to Jews who were told that the kingdom was near (Matthew 4:17).
- The Sermon DOES NOT set forth distinctive Church truth.
- The Sermon on the Mount is TOTALLY SILENT concerning truths revealed to the Church by the Apostles and N.T. Prophets because the Church was a mystery!
- The purpose of the Sermon was primarily legal in character and condemnatory in effect.

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**2 Corinthians 3:6–9**

<sup>6</sup> [God] also made us adequate *as* servants of a new covenant, not of the letter **[Mosaic Covenant]** but of the Spirit; for **THE LETTER KILLS [Mosaic Covenant]**, but the Spirit gives life. <sup>7</sup> But if **THE MINISTRY OF DEATH**, in letters engraved on stones **[Mosaic Covenant]**, came with glory, so that the sons of Israel could not look intently at the face of Moses because of the glory of his face, fading *as* it was, <sup>8</sup> how will the ministry of the Spirit fail to be even more with glory? <sup>9</sup> For if **THE MINISTRY OF CONDEMNATION [Mosaic Covenant]** has glory, much more does the ministry of righteousness abound in glory. (cf. Rom. 7:3)



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**3) Dispensationalists Teach that the Sermon on the Mount is Not for the Church Today – “**TRUE**”!**



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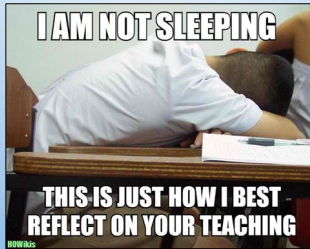
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**END OF REVIEW**



**FINALLY**

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## Biblical Dispensationalism

### Session 9 False Charges Against Dispensationalism Part 2

<http://www.middletownbiblechurch.org/dispens/dispensa.htm>

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### Session 9 Outline

- 1) Dispensationalists Teach More Than One Way of Salvation.
- 2) Dispensationalists are Guilty of Antinomianism
- 3) Dispensationalists Teach that the Sermon on the Mount is Not for the Church Today – "YES" and "NO"!
- 4) Dispensationalists Teach that the Death of Christ was an Afterthought and that the Church is "Plan B" in God's program.
- 5) Dispensationalism is a 'New' doctrine.
- 6) Dispensationalism Teaches a 'Secret Rapture'.
- 7) Dispensationalism falsely claims that God made a bona fide offer of the kingdom to Israel.
- 8) Dispensationalists revere C. I. Scofield but he was an immoral man, not qualified to be a spiritual leader.

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### 4) Dispensationalists Teach that the Death of Christ was an Afterthought...the Church is "Plan B" in God's program.



• **Philip Mauro** – "When we press the vital question, what, in case the offer had been accepted, would have become of the Cross of Calvary and the atonement for the sins of the world?" (*The Gospel of the Kingdom with an Examination of Modern Dispensationalism*, p. 23).



• **O.T. Allis** – "If the Jews had accepted the kingdom would there have been any place, any necessity for the cross?" (*Prophecy and the Church*, p. 75).



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**4) Dispensationalists Teach that the Death of Christ was an Afterthought...the Church is "Plan B" in God's program.**

- The Reformed System Theology – teaches that the underlying purpose of God in the world is Christological! Salvation is all.
- The Dispensational System – teaches that the underlying purpose of God in the world is Doxological!
  - “Scripture is not man-centered as though salvation were the main theme, but it is God-centered because His glory is the center....The larger purpose of God is the manifestation of His own glory.”

Ryrie, Dispensationalism, pg. 48

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**4) Dispensationalists Teach that the Death of Christ was an Afterthought...the Church is "Plan B" in God's program.**

**Dispensationalists know and teach that:**

- the cross of Christ is central and is the focal point of all history.
- Christ was the sacrifice Lamb. (John 1:29; Rev. 13:8).
- the centrality of the cross of our Savior and that we should glory or boast in nothing else (Gal. 6:14; 1 Cor. 2:2).



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**John 1:29**

The next day [John the Baptist] saw Jesus coming to him and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

**Revelation 13:8**

All who dwell on the earth will worship him, *everyone* whose name has not been written from the foundation of the world, in the book of life of the Lamb who has been slain.





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**Galatians 6:14**

<sup>14</sup> But may it never be that I would boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

**1 Corinthians 2:22**

For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.



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**4) Dispensationalists Teach that the Death of Christ was an Afterthought...the Church is "Plan B" in God's program.**



- R.C. Sproul Jr. – *"We're not dispensationalists here... We believe that the church is essentially Israel. We believe that the answer to, 'What about the Jews?' is, 'Here we are.' We deny that the church is God's 'plan B.' We deny that we are living in God's redemptive parenthesis, and that sometime in the next three, no two, no eight, no seven years, He'll get back to His real work, dealing with the Jews" (Table Talk magazine, published by Ligonier Ministries, Spring of 1999).*



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**4) Dispensationalists Teach that the Death of Christ was an Afterthought...the Church is "Plan B" in God's program.**



- Jewish bible teacher Dr. Arnold G. Fruchtenbaum responded to Sproul's outlandish statement with this piercing riposte: *"Too bad you were not declaring this on the streets of Berlin around 1941."*



Andrew D. Robinson, author of *Israel Betrayed*, quoted in the Summer 2018 edition of the Ariel Ministries Magazine, Cover Story entitled, "A Doctrine of Demons" pgs. 10-13

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4) Dispensationalists Teach that the Death of Christ was an Afterthought...the Church is "Plan B" in God's program.

- Dispensationalists **NEVER** speak of the church being "Plan B". *It is a straw man argument.* "Known unto God are all His works from the beginning of the world" (Acts 15:18), and this includes His distinct plans for Israel and the Church.
- The "one new man" (Eph. 2:15), the "body of Christ", "the Church", was a "mystery" not made known to man for ages and for generations (Ephesians 3:3-10; Colossians 1:26-27).



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Ephesians 2:13–15

<sup>13</sup> But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. <sup>14</sup> For He Himself is our peace, who made both *groups into* one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall, <sup>15</sup> by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, *which is* the Law of commandments contained in ordinances, so that in Himself He might make the two into one new man, thus establishing peace,



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Ephesians 3:3-10

<sup>3</sup> that by revelation there was made known to me the mystery, as I wrote before in brief. <sup>4</sup> By referring to this, when you read you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, <sup>5</sup> which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit; <sup>6</sup> to be specific, that the Gentiles are fellow heirs and fellow members of the body, and fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel, <sup>7</sup> of which I was made. . .



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**Ephesians 3:3-10**

... a minister, according to the gift of God's grace which was given to me according to the working of His power. <sup>8</sup> To me, the very least of all saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of Christ, <sup>9</sup> and to bring to light what is the administration of the mystery which for ages has been hidden in God who created all things; <sup>10</sup> so that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly places.



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**“Mystery” Defined**

“In the N.T, it [mystērion] denotes, not the mysterious (as with the Eng. word), but that which, being **outside the range of unassisted natural apprehension, can be made known only by Divine revelation**, and is made known in a manner and at a time appointed by God, and to those who are illumined by His Spirit.”

W. E. Vine, Merrill F. Unger, and William White, Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of the Old and New Testament Words (Nashville: Nelson, 1996), 424.

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**Origin of the Universal Church**

**BEFORE CHRIST'S ASCENSION**

- Matt 16:18 – future tense

**Matt 16:18**

“I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock **I will build My church**; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.

Οικοδομέω (oikodoméō) – **Future** Active Indicative,  
 - 1<sup>st</sup> person Singular - to build, construct



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### Origin of the Universal Church

#### **AFTER CHRIST'S ASCENSION**

- Eph 2:14-15; 3:9; Rom 16:25-26; Col 1:26-27 – mystery
- Eph 1:20-22 – Christ's headship over church
- Eph 4:7-11 – spiritual gifts after Ascension
- 1 Cor. 12:13 – Spirit's baptizing ministry
  - Acts 1:5 – to begin after Ascension
  - Acts 11:15-16 – began in the past
  - Acts 2 – only legitimate, biblical, place for beginning of Spirit's baptizing ministry

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#### **4) Dispensationalists Teach that the Death of Christ was an Afterthought...the Church is "Plan B" in God's program.**

**"In almost 35 years since I have become a dispensationalist, I have never heard nor read of a dispensationalist teaching a plan B scenario.** Yet opponents often present this straw man in their statement of what we supposedly believe. We believe that God's single plan has always included the Church, but He did not reveal the church age part of the plan in the Old Testament....Paul states specifically that the church age 'was in accordance with the eternal purpose which He carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord' (verse 11). This is why dispensationalists have never taught the so-called plan A and plan B theory that critics suppose we hold. Dispensationalists have always taught that there is a single plan carried out in stages."



Thomas Ice, "The Uniqueness of the Church," *Pre-Trib Perspectives* 8, no. 6 (September 2003): 4.



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#### **4) Dispensationalists Teach that the Death of Christ was an Afterthought...the Church is "Plan B" in God's program.**



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Jim McGowan, Th.D. - Session 9  
**False Charges Against Dispensationalism– Part 2**  
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**5) Dispensationalism is a 'New' doctrine.**

Students of church history all recognize that vital basic truths of God's Word were lost for almost 1500 years and had to be rediscovered and recovered.

- God used the Reformation to recover justification by faith, the supreme authority of the Bible and the priesthood of every believer, but this didn't happen until the 16<sup>th</sup> century!
- Regrettably, however, the Reformers failed to make a clean break from other Roman Catholic errors such as:
  - 1) an allegorical approach to O.T. prophecies (Origin) &
  - 2) the Church is the Kingdom (Augustine).

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**5) Dispensationalism is a 'New' doctrine.**

- Given the facts of church history, it should not be deemed inconceivable that New Testament mystery truths, relating to: 1) the nature of the Church and 2) God's dual program and purpose for this present age, were not rediscovered and recovered until the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.
- Moreover, if Dispensationalism can be attacked for being 'new', then Covenant Theology, an outgrowth of the Reformation, not formally systematized until the 17<sup>th</sup> century by Johannes Cocceius, *has the same weakness.*



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Jim McGowan, Th.D. - Session 9  
False Charges Against Dispensationalism– Part 2  
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**Charles Ryrie**  
*Dispensationalism*, pgs. 215, 218

"Systematized Covenant theology is recent. It was not the expressed doctrine of the early church. It was never taught by church leaders in the Middle Ages. It was not even mentioned by the primary leaders of the Reformation. Indeed, Covenant theology as a system is only a little older than dispensationalism....Covenant theology does not appear in the writings of Luther, Zwingli, Calvin, or Melancthon,... They had every opportunity to incorporate the covenant idea, but they did not. There were no references to Covenant theology in any of the great confessions of faith until the Westminster Confession in 1647, and even then Covenant theology was not as fully developed as it was later by Reformed theologians....Covenant theology is a . . .

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**Charles Ryrie**  
*Dispensationalism*, pgs. 215, 218 (Cont'd)

...post-Reformation development in doctrine....Covenant theology is a refinement, and the refining did not antedate Darby by many years. Covenant theology cannot claim much more antiquity than dispensationalism....If lack of antiquity is detrimental and refinement is disallowed for dispensationalism, then by the same two criteria Covenant theology is discredited."



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5) Dispensationalism is a 'New' doctrine.

- *The real issue is not whether a system of theology is new or ancient, but whether it is Biblical.*



- BTW, *"The charge of newness was leveled long ago at the doctrine of the Reformers."* (Ryrie, *Dispensationalism*, p. 71).

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5) Dispensationalism is a 'New' doctrine.



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Session 9  
Outline

- 1) Dispensationalists Teach More Than One Way of Salvation.
- 2) Dispensationalists are Guilty of Antinomianism
- 3) Dispensationalists Teach that the Sermon on the Mount is Not for the Church Today – "YES" and "NO"!
- 4) Dispensationalists Teach that the Death of Christ was an Afterthought and that the Church is "Plan B" in God's program.
- 5) Dispensationalism is a 'New' doctrine.
- 6) Dispensationalism Teaches a 'Secret Rapture'.
- 7) Dispensationalism falsely claims that God made a bona fide offer of the kingdom to Israel.
- 8) Dispensationalists revere C. I. Scofield but he was an immoral man, not qualified to be a spiritual leader.

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6) Dispensationalism Teaches a 'Secret Rapture'.

What is the so-called "secret rapture"?

- It is the idea that Christ will come to take believers out of the world before His return with them at the Second Coming – usually just called the Rapture of the church:

"Secret rapture" is stereotypically used as a pejorative (expressing contempt and disapproval) by those who deny that the Rapture of the Church is separate from the Second Coming of Christ.

<https://www.gotquestions.org/secret-rapture.html>



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Jim McGowan, Th.D. - Session 9  
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Rapture <u>Distinct</u> from Second Advent			
RAPTURE	PASSAGE	SECOND COMING	PASSAGE
Imminent	Titus 2:13 (1 Cor. 1:7; Phil. 3:20; 4:5)	Follows other end-times events	2 Thess. 2:1–4 (Matt. 24:15–30)
Before the Tribulation	1 Thess. 5:9 (1 Thess. 1:10)	After the Tribulation	Rev. 6–19
Christ comes in the air	1 Thess 4:16-17	Christ comes to the earth	Zech 14:4
For His saints	1 Thess 4:15-17	With His saints	Rev 19:14
Blessing (comfort)	1 Thess 4:18	Judgment	Rev 19:15
Effects only believers	1 Thess 4:15-17	Effects both believers and unbelievers	Rev 19:15
Invisible	1 Cor. 15:51-53 (1 Thess 4:16)	Visible to all	Rev 1:7
Announced by <u>one</u> archangel	1 Thess 4:16	Involves <u>myriads</u> of angels	Jude 14
Resurrection	1 Cor. 15: 51	No resurrection	-----
Rescue of the Church	1 Thess 1:10	Rescue of Israel	Matt 23:37-39

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### 6) Dispensationalism Teaches a ‘Secret Rapture’.

*In what sense is the rapture a secret?*

- In 1 Corinthians 15:51 the truth pertaining to the Rapture is called a “mystery.”

“In the N.T, it [mystērion] denotes,...that which, being outside the range of unassisted natural apprehension, can be made known only by Divine revelation, and is made known in a manner and at a time appointed by God, and to those who are illumined by His Spirit.”

W. E. Vine, Merrill F. Unger, and William White, Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of the Old and New Testament Words (Nashville: Nelson, 1996), 424.



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### 1 Cor. 15:51-52

<sup>51</sup> Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, <sup>52</sup> in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.



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**6) Dispensationalism Teaches a 'Secret Rapture'.**

*The "Secret Rapture" is no longer a secret!*

- God has made the rapture known to His saints. Paul said, "I tell you a **mystery**" (1 Cor. 15:51-52). In other words, it is a truth that has now been clearly revealed and is a secret no more!



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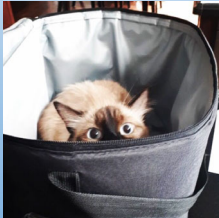
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**6) Dispensationalism Teaches a 'Secret Rapture'.**

- Bible believers should be making known the glorious truth that *"in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye"* living believers will be changed and those who have died 'in Christ' will be raised (1 Thess. 4:13-18).



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**1 Thess. 4:13-18**

<sup>13</sup> But *we do not want you to be uninformed*, brethren, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope. <sup>14</sup> For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. <sup>15</sup> For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. <sup>16</sup> For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of *the* archangel and. . .



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**1 Thess. 4:13-18**

... with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup> Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord. <sup>18</sup> Therefore *comfort one another with these words.*



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**6) Dispensationalism Teaches a 'Secret Rapture'.**

- It's no secret. It's a *promised, wonderful, life-changing truth*, that our living Lord expects us to believe and share!
- We should be looking *expectantly* for this blessed and comforting and purifying hope (Titus 2:13)!



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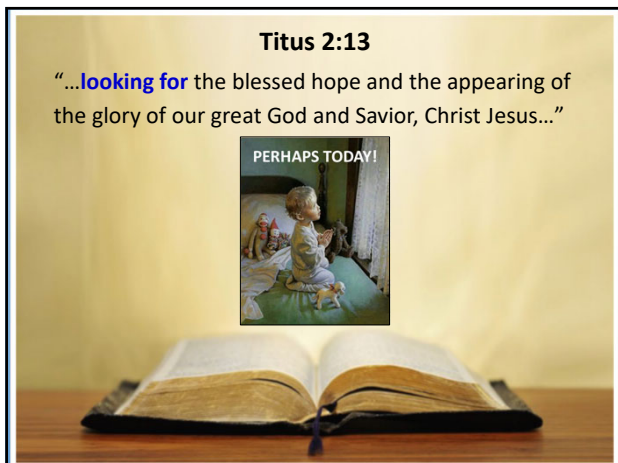
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**Titus 2:13**

"...*looking for* the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus..."

PERHAPS TODAY!



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6) Dispensationalism Teaches a 'Secret Rapture'.



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CONCLUSION

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**Sessions 8-9  
Outline**

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Jim McGowan, Th.D. - Session 9  
False Charges Against Dispensationalism– Part 2  
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