

Definitions of Dispensationalism

Introduction—Preliminary Observations

- ✓ Dispensationalism represents biblical teaching taken at _____
- ✓ Most features of dispensationalism can be found in the _____
- ✓ Modern dispensationalism represents a rediscovery of the _____ of the Bible

Five Proposed Definitions of Dispensationalism

1. Dispensationalism as a theology highlighting _____

a. Positives about this definition

- It highlights where the movement gets its _____
 - ✓ The term dispensationalism appears to first be used in the _____
 - The word _____ is a biblical term
 - It is the _____ of the term
 - Many _____ appear to view it this way
 - Many _____ appear to view it this way
- ##### b. Problems with this definition
- It may not fully _____ the modern history of dispensationalism
 - Every covenant theologian since John Calvin has believed in dispensations making the simple approach of saying _____ an inadequate definition

2. Dispensationalism as an _____ view of history

a. Positives with this definition

- It honors Israel's central role in the _____ of biblical history
- Dispensationalism does have a unique _____

b. Problems with this definition

- It only gives a _____ view of the central features of dispensationalism
- It could give the wrong impression that dispensationalism views the Church as God's _____

3. Dispensationalism as a _____ list of abiding concerns

a. Some notes on this approach

- This is the way that many _____ dispensationalists define dispensationalism
- It is the idea that there is no sine qua non, no essentials, just a _____ list of concerns that mark off the historical movement of dispensationalism

b. What doctrines make the list of abiding concerns?

- Authority of _____
- Dispensations
- Uniqueness of the _____
- Practical significance of the _____
- Significance of _____
- Futurist _____
- A national future for _____

- c. Positives with this definition
 - The list of abiding concerns contains _____ held by dispensationalists
 - This view has _____ which allows for _____ within the history of dispensationalism
- d. Problems with this definition
 - Following this approach could I ever define “ _____ ”?
 - Historically there seems to be a substantial set of _____ held by the dispensational tradition

4. Dispensationalism as belief in the future of _____

- a. Positives with this definition
 - This definition goes to the heart of one of the _____ of dispensationalism
 - It clearly rejects _____ in its very definition
- b. Problems with this definition
 - Many _____ exist who have no connection to dispensationalism – how do we handle the differences?
 - This approach is both too _____ and too _____ at certain points
 - Dispensationalism is more _____ and _____ in its history

5. Dispensationalism as a reflection of _____ hermeneutical and doctrinal concerns

- a. Ryrie’s *sine qua non* or essentials
 - _____ literal interpretation
 - _____ between Israel and the Church
 - _____ unifying theme of the Bible
- b. Which “literal” interpretation?
- c. By “ _____ ” literal interpretation Ryrie meant we interpret _____ literally (grammatical-historical) just like the rest of the Bible
- d. Doxological unifying theme – see diagrams on covenant theology and dispensationalism
- e. Positives with this definition
 - Taking the Bible as God gave it and meant it for the _____ is always a good idea
 - The OT has an _____ for its own interpretation
 - It allows for the significance of the _____ for Bible interpretation
 - It describes the modern historical movement of dispensationalism with a measure of _____
 - ✓ Example of Genevan Pastor Emile Guers, *The Future of Israel* (1856)

□ **Conclusion**

Dr. John’s Walvoord’s observation