

McCoy Memorial Baptist Church

Date: January 10, 2021

Title: Why Dispensationalism Matters

## ABSOLUTE ESSENTIAL COMPONENTS OF DISPENSATIONALISM

1. The distinction between \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Consistently \_\_\_\_\_ interpretation of the Bible.
  - A. Historically, \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ held to a literal interpretation of the OT.
  - B. One notable exception to this normal practice was a scholarly Jew named \_\_\_\_\_ in Alexandria, Egypt (25 BC - AD 50).
  - C. A Christian scholar named \_\_\_\_\_ (AD 184-254) began using Philo's allegorical method of interp. on both the OT & NT.
  - D. This method was adopted & popularized by \_\_\_\_\_ (AD 354-430). His justification was 2 Corinthians 3:6.
  - E. Reformers such as Wycliffe, Luther, & Calvin were of the conviction that the only acceptable way to understand the Bible was to take it literally. They rejected the allegorical method that had become the norm through the middle ages.
3. Recognition of God's \_\_\_\_\_ as the underlying purpose. Covenant Theol. makes salvation the focal point of their theological system. Its controlled primarily by what they refer to as the Cov. of Grace.

## HOW MANY DISPENSATIONS ARE THERE?

A total of nine that fulfill the definition that a dispensation is a distinct way that God administrates this world.

### Five Dispensations Before the Church

1. Dispensation #1: Free Will (or "\_\_\_\_\_")
  - A. Scripture: Genesis 1, 2
  - B. A short-lived administration. This dispen. ended with the Fall.
2. Dispensation #2: \_\_\_\_\_ Conscience (or "Conscience")
  - A. Scripture: Genesis 3:14-19
  - B. See also Acts 17:30; Romans 2:14-15, and 3:25, and 5:13
  - C. Nothing in Scripture indicates that this dispensation has ended (see 1 Tim. 4:2; 1:19; and Rom. 13:5)

3. Dispensation #3: Human \_\_\_\_\_
  - A. Scripture: *Genesis 9*. God gave Noah 3 commands foll. the flood.
  - B. God never canceled the role of human government (*Rom. 13:1-7*)
4. Dispensation #4: The \_\_\_\_\_ Promises (or "Promise")
  - A. Scripture: *Genesis 12:2-3*. God made two key promises to Abraham
    - 1) He would have special status before God and in the world
    - 2) God would deal with the rest of humanity (the *Gentiles*) based on how they dealt with Abram & his family (desc. thru Isaac & Jacob).
  - B. God managed this disp. based upon ethnicity and human interaction.
  - C. This distinction remains in force now and forever (cp. *Rev. 21:12-14*)
5. Dispensation #5: The \_\_\_\_\_ Law (or "Law")
  - A. Scripture: This dispensation started in *Exodus 20* at Mt. Sinai.
  - B. Distinguished fr. those before in one key way: it applied only to the ethnic nation of Israel, not all of humanity.
  - C. No overlap with those that follow. The Law had a clear beginning and end and governed only the ethnic nation of Israel fr. Mt. Sinai to the cross (approx. 1445 B.C. to A.D. 33). See *Mt 5:20*; *Rom. 10:4*; *Col. 2:14*.

#### Dispensation #6: The Church

1. The church began 50 days following Jesus' death and resurrection, on the day of Pentecost in *Acts 2*.
2. More than anything else, the distinguishing characteristic of the Church is the baptism of the Holy Spirit (*Eph. 2:14-16*; *3:5-6*; *1 Cor. 12:13*).
3. Although the Church itself will never cease to exist, the way God is currently governing will come to an end (*Jn 14:1-3*; *1 Th. 4:13-18*; *1 Cor. 15:51-52*).

#### Three Dispensations After the Church

1. Dispensation #7: The \_\_\_\_\_
  - A. A fixed beginning & end points; no overlap or extension into another.
  - B. Details are provided in *Daniel* (esp. reg. Antichrist) and *Rev. 6-19*.
2. Dispensation #8: The \_\_\_\_\_ Kingdom
  - A. Described most fully in the prophets (see *Luke 1:31-33*)
  - B. *1 Cor. 15:22-26* distinguishes the Millennial Kingdom from "the end".
  - C. "The end" is a period foll. the kingdom (see *Rev. 20:7-15* for details)
  - D. It is finally at this point "that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, and every tongue confess" (see *Phil. 2:10-11*).
  - E. After seeing the fut. Millennium & Great White Throne, John wrote "I see a new heaven and earth" (see *21:1-5, 22, 23, 27; 22:3, 5*).
3. Dispensation #9: The \_\_\_\_\_ of the Times (*Eph. 1:9-10*)  
This is the eternal state (not Mill. Kingdom) described in *Rev. 21* and *22*.