

The Excellencies of Dispensationalism

Ephesians 3:1-12



The term “dispensation” is defined as “a distinguishable economy in the outworking of God’s purpose whereby man is responsible to be a good steward of that particular revelation which God has entrusted to him in any given period of human history.”

Some of the excellencies of Dispensationalism:

- ❑ 1) It is the system of theology which is the necessary result of a consistent literal interpretation of the Bible.
- ❑ 2) It provides a sane and sound framework for seeing all of human history from God’s point of view.
- ❑ 3) It sees the glory of God as the governing principle and overriding purpose for God’s dealing with men in every age.
- ❑ 4) It “rightly divides the Word of truth” by recognizing important distinctions that are vital for correct Biblical understanding, such as the difference between the two resurrections, the various judgments, law and grace, the Sabbath and the Lord’s Day, standing and state, salvation and rewards, etc.
- ❑ 5) It makes a clear distinction between Israel and the Church, thus avoiding the common errors of Judaizing God’s Church and spiritualizing God’s promises to the nation Israel.

- ❑ 6) It recognizes the distinctive and parenthetical and mysterious character of the present Church Age from the day of Pentecost (Acts 2) to the Rapture of the Church (1 Thess. 4:13-18).
- ❑ 7) It takes the prophetic Scriptures seriously and teaches that God will most certainly fulfill His Covenant and Kingdom promises to the nation Israel.
- ❑ 8) It encourages a realistic pessimism in view of the predicted course of the Present Age (2 Timothy 3) and a joyful optimism in view of the promised Return of Christ and the Coming Kingdom.
- ❑ 9) It fosters a healthy premillennialism which protects the Church from abandoning the Great Commission and emphasizing instead a “social gospel” with the vain hope of changing Satan’s world system and bringing in the Kingdom apart from the King.
- ❑ 10) It is known by its fruits. Dispensationalists have been generally known for their devoted interest in serious Bible study (*cf.* the impact of the Scofield Reference Bible), their consistent emphasis on personal evangelism, and their courageous allegiance to and defense of the great fundamentals of the faith.
- ❑ 11) Scriptural Dispensationalism is the best basis for understanding how our position IN Christ is the foundation for practical appropriation of the present-day spiritual resources needed for Christ-honoring, Spirit-empowered living. It is not only a matter of theological perspective, but it is essential to our daily walk and confident assurance.

~George Zeller: www.middletonbiblechurch.org