

dispensation.

Which of these views is correct? The former? The latter? Neither? In the words of the Westminster Confession of Faith, which of these views "is either expressly set down in Scripture, or by good and necessary consequence may be deduced from Scripture"?³

This paper addresses the question, Were all Old Testament believers regenerated and indwelt by the Holy Spirit? As projected, this study will examine recent opinion on these issues, propose tighter definitions of these ministries, and attempt to establish the claim that all Old Testament believers experienced these ministries, at least in some sense. As to the plan of the study, we will take up regeneration first, and then proceed to indwelling.

However, before we examine the question of these ministries as they relate to Old Testament saints, there are certain truths that must be set forth as preliminary principles essential to the study as a whole.

Preliminary Principles

The first of these principles may be stated in the following manner: since the Fall of mankind, human beings have been saved by grace through faith, upon the basis of the shed blood of Christ. Among evangelical Christians, dispensationalists have sometimes been accused of advocating more than one way of salvation, especially in regard to Old Testament saints. Roy L. Aldrich, Visiting Bible Lecturer at Dallas Theological Seminary for a number of years, stated that this is an "ultradispensational" teaching, and not characteristic of dispensationalism. In an article entitled "An Outline Study on Dispensationalism," in *Bibliotheca Sacra* of April 1961, he also states that "Orthodox Christian theology is in general agreement that there is only one plan of salvation for all dispensations."⁴ In the Doctrinal Statement of Dallas Theological Seminary the following assertion appears: "We believe that according to the 'eternal purpose' of God (Eph 3:11) salvation in the divine reckoning is always 'by grace, through faith,' and rests upon the basis of the shed blood of Christ."⁵

The second principle may be stated in the following words: the benefits of Christ's redemption can be applied before that redemption is accomplished