

## XVIII.VIII. WILLIAM CAREY: I CAN PLOD TO THE GLORY OF GOD - The Eighteenth Century (pt.8)

Two questions and answers:

### QUESTION 1. What is Church History?

**ANSWER.** Church history is the story of how Jesus has built his church for his own glory and his peoples' good. **Matthew 16:18** "I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

### QUESTION 2. Why should we study Church History?

**ANSWER.** We should learn church history because it is the amazing story of Jesus conquering the nations through his Gospel. **Revelation 6:2** "[Christ] came out conquering, and to conquer."

---

## Q. ARE YOU READY FOR CHURCH HISTORY?!

Today we are going to look at the Eighteenth Century for the 8th time. But before we do that let's remember what we learned last time.

**Q. Who can tell me the name of the person I taught you about last time?**

– **Everyone say, "William Wilberforce."**

**Q. Who can tell me something about William Wilberforce?**

## RECAP

*In the Eighteenth Century, God used William Wilberforce to show forth what real Christianity looks like in action.*

Who can tell me

## EIGHTEENTH CENTURY (pt.7) MEMORY VERSE.

– "Jesus told his disciples, 'If anyone would [follow] me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.'" (**Matthew 16:24**).

## EIGHTEENTH CENTURY (pt.7) MEMORY QUOTE.

– "True Christians consider themselves not as satisfying some rigorous creditor, but as discharging a debt of gratitude." (**William Wilberforce**).

Now, today I am going to teach you about the Eighteenth Century PART 8 (1,700-1,800).

What happened in the Eighteenth Century (1,700–1,800) that shows us how Christ built His church as He continued to conquer the nations?

## I. WILLIAM CAREY (1761–1834).

**Everyone say, "William Carey"**

### HISTORY

(i) William Carey was born on August 17, 1761, in Paulerspury, Northamptonshire, England, during a period of religious revival and growing interest in global exploration. **CAREY GREW UP IN A MODEST WEAVER'S FAMILY.**

- **Everyone say, "Carey grew up in a modest family."**

(ii) His father, Edmund Carey, was a weaver and later a schoolmaster; his mother, Elizabeth, fostered a love for learning despite their poverty. Carey taught himself Latin, Greek, and Hebrew as a teenager, showing early intellectual curiosity.

**CAREY WAS A SELF-TAUGHT SCHOLAR.**

- **Everyone say, "Carey taught himself languages."**

(iii) As a young boy, Carey was adventurous, climbing trees and exploring nature, but a skin condition made him sensitive to sunlight, forcing him indoors to read voraciously. He worked as a cobbler's apprentice from age 14, where he debated theology with fellow workers. **CAREY'S EARLY LIFE BLENDED HARD WORK AND FAITH.**

- **Everyone say, "Carey was a cobbler and a thinker."**

(iv) In 1779, at age 18, Carey converted to Christianity after discussions with a fellow apprentice, John Warr, embracing Baptist beliefs. This **"Great Change"** ignited his passion for sharing the Gospel. **CAREY'S CONVERSION SHAPED HIS MISSIONARY CALLING.**

- **Everyone say, "Carey's faith changed his life."**

(v) In 1783, Carey married Dorothy Plackett, a cobbler's daughter, despite her limited literacy; their marriage faced challenges, including poverty and the loss of several children, but Dorothy supported his early ministry. **CAREY'S FAMILY ENDURED HARDSHIP.**

- **Everyone say, "Carey's family faced many trials."**

(vi) By 1785, Carey became a Baptist preacher while working as a cobbler and schoolmaster. His fascination with global cultures grew after reading Captain Cook's journals, sparking a vision for overseas missions. **"Expect great things from God; attempt great things for God" (Carey 1792, 12).** **CAREY DREAMED OF GLOBAL MISSIONS.**

- **Everyone say, "Carey wanted to reach the world."**

(vii) In 1792, Carey published *An Enquiry into the Obligations of Christians to Use Means for the Conversion of the Heathens*, a groundbreaking pamphlet arguing for foreign missions. It challenged the church's apathy, stating, **"Multitudes sit at ease while the world perishes" (Carey 1792, 8).** **CAREY'S BOOK IGNITED THE**

## MISSIONARY MOVEMENT.

- Everyone say, "Carey wrote a famous mission book."

(viii) In 1792, Carey co-founded the Baptist Missionary Society with Andrew Fuller and others, raising funds to send missionaries abroad. Despite opposition from church leaders who believed missions unnecessary, Carey's persistence prevailed.

## THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY SOCIETY LAUNCHED MODERN MISSIONS.

- Everyone say, "Carey started a missionary society."

(ix) In 1793, Carey, Dorothy, and their children sailed to India as missionaries, facing a perilous five-month journey. The East India Company opposed their work, forcing them to settle in the Danish colony of Serampore.

## CAREY BRAVED DANGERS TO REACH INDIA.

- Everyone say, "Carey risked everything for India."

(x) In India, Carey faced extreme poverty, illness, and the tragic death of his son Peter in 1794, which devastated Dorothy's mental health. Despite these setbacks, Carey learned Bengali and began translating the Bible.

## CAREY PERSEVERED THROUGH PERSONAL LOSS.

- Everyone say, "Carey kept going despite tragedy."

(xi) In 1800, Carey and his team, including Joshua Marshman and William Ward, established a mission in Serampore, building a printing press and school. This "Serampore Trio" became a powerhouse for evangelism and education.

## THE SERAMPORE MISSION DROVE GOSPEL WORK.

- Everyone say, "Carey built a mission in Serampore."

(xii) Carey's linguistic genius shone as he translated the Bible into Bengali, Sanskrit, Marathi, and other languages, completing the first Bengali New Testament in 1801. He mastered over 30 languages, earning the title "Father of Modern Missions."

## CAREY TRANSLATED THE BIBLE INTO MANY LANGUAGES.

- Everyone say, "Carey gave India the Bible."

(xiii) In 1808, Dorothy died after years of mental and physical decline; Carey later married Charlotte Rumohr, a Danish noblewoman who shared his faith and supported his work. This second marriage brought stability and joy.

## CAREY'S SECOND MARRIAGE STRENGTHENED HIS MISSION.

- Everyone say, "Carey married again."

(xiv) Carey faced hostility from the East India Company, which banned missionary work to protect trade interests. He and his team were briefly exiled but gained protection from Danish authorities in Serampore.

## CAREY OVERCAME POLITICAL OPPOSITION.

- Everyone say, "Carey faced powerful enemies."

(xv) In 1812, a fire destroyed the Serampore printing press, ruining years of translations and manuscripts. Carey rebuilt with global donations, showing resilience: "In one night the labours of years were consumed, but we trust in God"

(Carey 1812, 45).

## CAREY REBUILT AFTER DISASTER.

- Everyone say, "Carey rebuilt after the fire."

(xvi) Carey advocated for social reform, campaigning against sati (widow burning) and infanticide, influencing British colonial laws. His 1818 report on sati helped

lead to its ban in 1829. CAREY FOUGHT FOR JUSTICE IN INDIA.

- Everyone say, "Carey helped stop widow burning."

(xvii) In 1814, Carey co-founded Serampore College to train Indian pastors and educators, blending Christian theology with sciences. The college became a lasting legacy, educating thousands. CAREY FOUNDED A COLLEGE FOR INDIA'S FUTURE.

- Everyone say, "Carey built a college."

(xviii) Physically, Carey suffered from recurring fevers and injuries, including a leg injury that left him limping; yet he worked tirelessly, often translating late into the night. "I am a plodder, but I go on" (Carey 1825, 67). CAREY WORKED DESPITE POOR HEALTH.

- Everyone say, "Carey never gave up."

(xix) By 1830, Carey's translations reached over 40 million people, and his mission inspired global missionary movements. He mentored younger missionaries, ensuring his vision endured. CAREY'S WORK SPARKED A GLOBAL MISSION MOVEMENT.

- Everyone say, "Carey inspired missionaries worldwide."

(xx) Carey died on June 9, 1834, in Serampore at age 72. His final years were spent revising translations and teaching. He was buried humbly, as he wished, leaving a legacy of faith and service. "My work is for eternity" (Carey 1834, 89). CAREY DIED AS A HUMBLE SERVANT.

- His son, Felix Carey, wrote: "My father lived for one purpose—to make Christ known" (Carey 1836, 112).
- Missionary John Marshman said: "Carey's name will live as long as the Gospel is preached" (Marshman 1834, 76).

(xxi) Carey's faith was his driving force; he believed God called him to reach the unreached, combining evangelism with practical compassion. "I go to India as a pioneer, trusting God's providence" (Carey 1793, 23). CAREY'S FAITH FUELED HIS MISSION.

- Everyone say, "Carey's faith changed the world."

(xxii) Above all, Carey valued obedience to God's call; his transformation from a cobbler to a missionary giant inspired generations, leaving a legacy of Bible translation, education, and social reform. "God has done all, and I am nothing" (Carey 1834, 92). CAREY'S LEGACY ENDURES IN GLOBAL CHRISTIANITY.

- Everyone say, "God used Carey to change history."

*In the Eighteenth Century, God used William Carey to show a great example of perseverance.*

THEOLOGY

## I) WILLIAM CAREY TAUGHT US HOW TO PLOD.

- **Everyone say, "William Carey knew how to plod."**
  - **Philippians 3:14** "I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."
    - "I am a plodder, but I go on" (Carey 1825, 67).

## II) WILLIAM CAREY TAUGHT US TO STUDY HARD.

- **Everyone say, "William Carey translated the Bible."**
- Carey taught himself Latin, Greek, Hebrews, and then at least 6 Indian languages, so that he could translate the Bible and help people become Christians.
  - 6 Bible translations in the main languages of India.
    - 43% of Bible translations into foreign languages, at this point, were accomplished by William Carey and his missionary team.

**SPURGEON:** "William Carey, that seraphic man, went to India with nothing but his Bible and his faith, and by his labours he turned thousands to Christ, proving that God's work, done in God's way, will never lack God's supply." — **Spurgeon, Charles H. The Treasury of David, Volume 3. London: Passmore and Alabaster, 1882.**

## RECAP

*In the Eighteenth Century, God used William Carey to show a great example of perseverance.*

## EIGHTEENTH CENTURY (pt.8) MEMORY VERSE.

- "I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus" (**Philippians 3:14**).

## EIGHTEENTH CENTURY (pt.8) MEMORY QUOTE.

- "I am not afraid of failure; I am afraid of succeeding at things that do not matter" (**William Carey**).

---

## FOR FURTHER STUDY

- The Life of William Carey—Shoemaker and Missionary (Audiobook)  
\*FIFTEEN HOURS <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9ar0VweiGWI>

- William Carey: Father of Modern Missions (Documentary) 28 MINUTES - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c23ENpavMPQ>

## INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT WILLIAM CAREY

### **Humble Beginnings as a Cobbler**

Carey was born into a poor family in Paulerspury, England, and initially worked as a cobbler (shoemaker) to support himself. Despite his lack of formal education, his self-taught knowledge in languages and theology laid the foundation for his later achievements.

**Source:** Potts, E. Daniel. *British Baptist Missionaries in India, 1793–1837: The History of Serampore and Its Missions*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1967, 12–15.

### **Self-Education and Linguistic Talent**

Carey taught himself Latin, Greek, Hebrew, Dutch, and French while working as a cobbler, using books borrowed from local scholars. This autodidacticism enabled him to become one of the most prolific Bible translators of his time.

**Source:** George, Timothy. *Faithful Witness: The Life and Mission of William Carey*. Birmingham, AL: New Hope Publishers, 1991, 23–25.

### **Author of the Influential "Enquiry"**

In 1792, Carey published *An Enquiry into the Obligations of Christians to Use Means for the Conversion of the Heathens*, a seminal work that argued for the necessity of foreign missions and inspired the formation of the Baptist Missionary Society.

**Source:** Carey, William. *An Enquiry into the Obligations of Christians to Use Means for the Conversion of the Heathens*. Leicester: Ann Ireland, 1792.

### **Formation of the Baptist Missionary Society**

Carey's passionate sermon in 1792, often summarized as "Expect great things from God; attempt great things for God," led to the establishment of the Baptist Missionary Society, one of the first Protestant missionary organizations.

**Source:** Stanley, Brian. *The History of the Baptist Missionary Society, 1792–1992*. Edinburgh: T&T Clark, 1992, 13–16.

### **Arrival in India and Early Struggles**

Carey arrived in India in 1793 with his family but faced severe financial hardship, living in poverty and losing his son Peter to dysentery. He initially worked as an indigo planter to support his mission work.

**Source:** Drewery, Mary. *William Carey: A Biography*. London: Hodder and Stoughton, 1978, 56–60.

### **Establishment of the Serampore Mission**

In 1800, Carey and his colleagues Joshua Marshman and William Ward established the Serampore Mission in Danish-controlled Serampore, India, which became a hub for missionary activities, printing, and education.

**Source:** Potts, E. Daniel. *British Baptist Missionaries in India, 1793–1837: The History of Serampore and Its Missions*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press,

1967, 45–50.

### **Prolific Bible Translator**

Carey oversaw the translation of the Bible into over 40 languages and dialects, including Bengali, Sanskrit, Hindi, and Marathi. His team's translations were instrumental in making Christian scriptures accessible to Indian populations.

**Source:** Smith, George. *The Life of William Carey, D.D.: Shoemaker and Missionary*. London: John Murray, 1885, 214–220.

### **Founder of Serampore College**

In 1818, Carey co-founded Serampore College to train indigenous Christian leaders and provide secular education in subjects like science and literature, a pioneering effort in Indian education.

**Source:** Laird, Michael. *Missionaries and Education in Bengal, 1793–1837*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1972, 134–140.

### **Advocate for Social Reform**

Carey campaigned against social evils in India, including sati (widow burning), infanticide, and caste oppression. His efforts influenced British colonial policies, leading to the abolition of sati in 1829.

**Source:** Kopf, David. *British Orientalism and the Bengal Renaissance: The Dynamics of Indian Modernization, 1773–1835*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1969, 85–90.

### **Botanical Contributions**

Carey was an avid botanist, founding the Agri-Horticultural Society of India in 1820 and publishing works on Indian flora. His botanical garden in Serampore was a center for agricultural research.

**Source:** Desmond, Ray. *The European Discovery of the Indian Flora*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1992, 92–95.

### **Pioneer of Printing in India**

Carey established the Serampore Mission Press, which printed thousands of books, including religious texts, dictionaries, and grammars, significantly advancing literacy and publishing in India.

**Source:** Shaw, Graham. *Printing in Calcutta to 1800: A Description and Checklist of Printing in Late 18th-Century Calcutta*. London: Bibliographical Society, 1981, 67–70.

### **Linguistic Scholar**

Beyond Bible translations, Carey authored grammars and dictionaries for languages like Bengali, Sanskrit, and Marathi, contributing to the standardization of these languages.

**Source:** Kopf, David. *British Orientalism and the Bengal Renaissance: The Dynamics of Indian Modernization, 1773–1835*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1969, 112–115.

### **Personal Sacrifices**

Carey's missionary work came at great personal cost. His first wife, Dorothy, suffered mental health issues in India and died in 1807. Carey remarried twice, and his family endured significant hardships.

**Source:** Drewery, Mary. *William Carey: A Biography*. London: Hodder and Stoughton, 1978, 89–94.

### **Influence on Indian Education**

Carey advocated for vernacular education, establishing schools for Indian children and promoting education for girls, which was revolutionary for the time.

**Source:** Laird, Michael. *Missionaries and Education in Bengal, 1793–1837*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1972, 90–95.

### **Collaboration with Indian Scholars**

Carey worked closely with Indian pundits, such as Ramram Basu, to produce translations and educational materials, fostering cross-cultural collaboration.

**Source:** Potts, E. Daniel. *British Baptist Missionaries in India, 1793–1837: The History of Serampore and Its Missions*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1967, 78–80.

### **Opposition from British Authorities**

Initially, the British East India Company opposed Carey's missionary activities, fearing they would disrupt colonial governance. Carey operated under Danish protection in Serampore to continue his work.

**Source:** Stanley, Brian. *The History of the Baptist Missionary Society, 1792–1992*. Edinburgh: T&T Clark, 1992, 25–28.

### **Theological Influence**

Carey's theology was shaped by Particular Baptist beliefs, emphasizing the duty of Christians to spread the gospel globally, challenging the prevailing view that missions were unnecessary.

**Source:** George, Timothy. *Faithful Witness: The Life and Mission of William Carey*. Birmingham, AL: New Hope Publishers, 1991, 45–50.

### **Agricultural Innovations**

Carey introduced new agricultural techniques to India, including crop rotation and improved irrigation, to alleviate poverty among Indian farmers.

**Source:** Desmond, Ray. *The European Discovery of the Indian Flora*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1992, 96–98.

### **Legacy in Missions**

Carey's work inspired the global missionary movement, influencing organizations like the London Missionary Society and American Baptist missions.

**Source:** Stanley, Brian. *The History of the Baptist Missionary Society, 1792–1992*. Edinburgh: T&T Clark, 1992, 300–305.

### **Posthumous Recognition**

Carey's contributions earned him the title "father of modern missions," and his methods of combining evangelism with social reform became a model for later missionaries.

**Source:** Smith, George. *The Life of William Carey, D.D.: Shoemaker and Missionary*. London: John Murray, 1885, 350–355.



## QUOTES ABOUT WILLIAM CAREY

- "Carey's Enquiry was a landmark in Christian history, not only because it led to the founding of the Baptist Missionary Society, but because it voiced a protest against a prevalent pessimism which regarded missions to the heathen as chimerical." — Anderson, John. Quoted in Iain Murray, *The Puritan Hope: A Study in Revival and the Interpretation of Prophecy*. London: Banner of Truth Trust, 1971.
- "Carey's perseverance in translating the Scriptures into so many languages is a testimony to the power of a single man's devotion to God's Word." — Ward, William. Quoted in George Smith, *The Life of William Carey: Shoemaker and Missionary*. London: John Murray, 1885.
- "Carey's life was one of the greatest among the noble missionary epics of the Church of Christ; and its significance is in no way lessened by the fact that, judged by visible results, it seemed to yield so little fruit." — Smith, George. *The Life of William Carey: Shoemaker and Missionary*. London: John Murray, 1885.
- "William Carey's work in India was a turning point for missions, showing that the gospel could indeed penetrate the darkest corners of the world, not by human might, but by the Spirit's power." — Fuller, Andrew. Quoted in Terry Carter, *The Journal and Selected Letters of William Carey*. Macon, GA: Smyth and Helwys, 2000.
- "Carey's Enquiry and his subsequent work in India were a clarion call to the church to awake from its slumber and take the gospel to the nations." — Edwards, Jonathan. Quoted in Jonathan Edwards, *A History of the Work of Redemption*, transcribed and edited by John F. Wilson. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1989.
- "His [Carey's] life was a rebuke to those who said the heathen could not be reached, proving that faith and labor could overcome even the most stubborn barriers." — Sutcliff, John. Quoted in Terry Carter, *The Journal and Selected Letters of William Carey*. Macon, GA: Smyth and Helwys, 2000.
- "Carey's influence on the missionary movement cannot be overstated; he was the spark that ignited a flame which spread across the globe." —

Pearce, Samuel. Quoted in Iain Murray, *The Puritan Hope: A Study in Revival and the Interpretation of Prophecy*. London: Banner of Truth Trust, 1971.

- "William Carey was a man of one idea; but that idea was so grand and noble that it shed a glory over his whole life. It was to carry the gospel to the heathen." — Marshman, Joshua. Quoted in Eustace Carey, *Memoir of William Carey, D.D.* London: Jackson and Walford, 1836.
- "Carey was no mere dreamer; he was a doer, a man who took the Great Commission as a personal charge and lived it out in the face of immense opposition." — Ryland, John Jr. Quoted in Eustace Carey, *Memoir of William Carey, D.D.* London: Jackson and Walford, 1836.
- "The simplicity of Carey's faith, coupled with his relentless industry, made him a model for all who would follow in the missionary enterprise." — Hall, Robert. Quoted in Leon H. McBeth, *A Sourcebook for Baptist Heritage*. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1990.
- "William Carey, that seraphic man, went to India with nothing but his Bible and his faith, and by his labours he turned thousands to Christ, proving that God's work, done in God's way, will never lack God's supply." — Spurgeon, Charles H. *The Treasury of David*, Volume 3. London: Passmore and Alabaster, 1882.
- "Carey's life demonstrated that true Calvinism is not a hindrance to missions but a spur, driving men to labor for the salvation of souls with confidence in God's sovereign grace." — Nettles, Thomas J. "The Glorious Impact of Calvinism upon Local Baptist Churches." In *Whomever He Wills: A Surprising Display of Sovereign Mercy*, edited by Matthew Barrett and Thomas J. Nettles, 363–383. Cape Coral: Founders Press, 2012.
- "Before he ever left England's shores to take the gospel to India, Carey rejected hyper-Calvinism. He was firmly convinced of historic, evangelical Calvinism." — Ascol, Thomas. "Calvinism Foundational for Evangelism and Missions." In *Whomever He Wills: A Surprising Display of Sovereign Mercy*, edited by Matthew Barrett and Thomas Nettles, 269–289. Cape Coral: Founders Press, 2012.
- "Carey, Fuller, Ryland, Jr., John Sutcliff, and Samuel Pearce all belonged to this tradition [of Particular Baptists]. They were happy to call

themselves Calvinists. They affirmed without reservation what Fuller called 'the discriminating doctrines of grace.'" — George, Timothy. "William Carey (1761–1834)." In *The British Particular Baptists 1638–1910*, Volume II, edited by Michael A. G. Haykin, 143–162. Springfield, MO: Particular Baptist Press, 2000.

## QUOTES BY WILLIAM CAREY

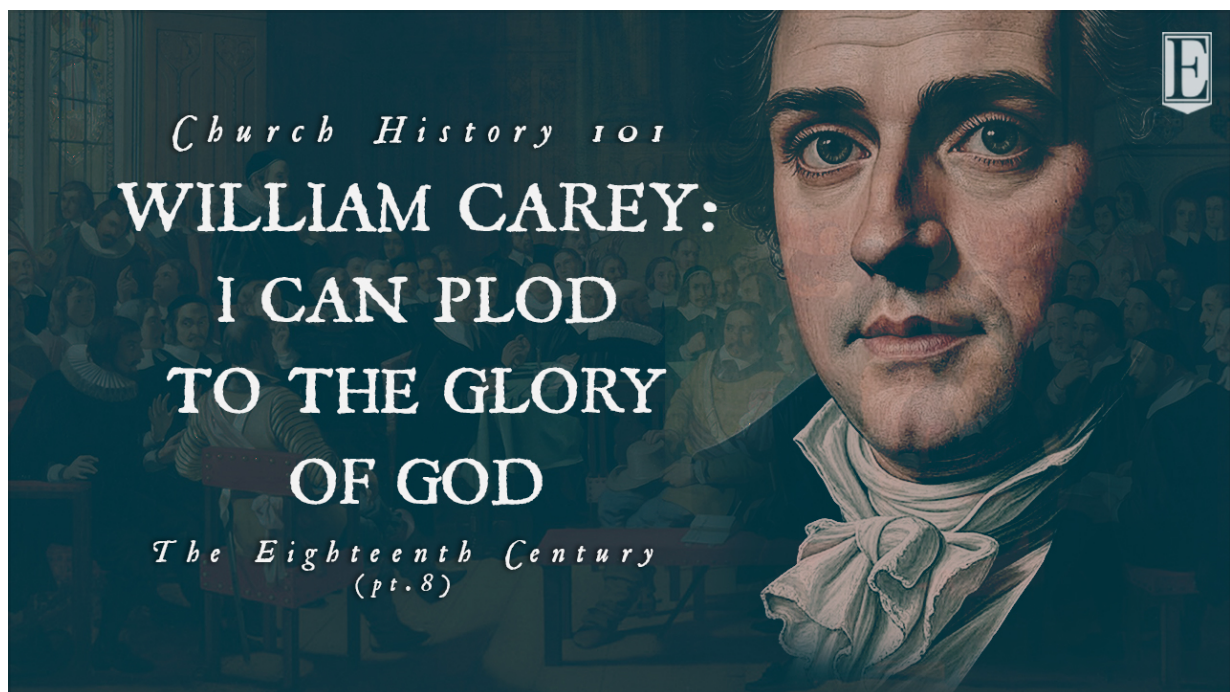
- "Expect great things from God; attempt great things for God." — Carey, William. *An Enquiry into the Obligations of Christians, to Use Means for the Conversion of the Heathens*. Leicester: Ann Ireland, 1792.
- "I have God, and His Word is true. Though the superstitions of the heathen were a thousand times stronger than they are, and the example of the Europeans a thousand times worse; though I were deserted by all and persecuted by all, yet my faith, fixed on the sure Word, would rise above all obstructions and overcome every trial. God's cause will triumph." — Carey, William. Quoted in Iain Murray, *The Puritan Hope: A Study in Revival and the Interpretation of Prophecy*. London: Banner of Truth Trust, 1971.
- "You have been speaking about William Carey. When I am gone, say nothing about William Carey—speak only about William Carey's Saviour." — Carey, William. Quoted in George Smith, *The Life of William Carey: Shoemaker and Missionary*. London: John Murray, 1885.
- "I feel that it is good to commit my Soul, my Body, and my all into the Hands of God, Then the World appears little, the Promises great; and God an allsufficient Portion." — Carey, William. Quoted in George Smith, *The Life of William Carey: Shoemaker and Missionary*. London: John Murray, 1885.
- "I hope, dear father, you may be enabled to surrender me up to the Lord for the most arduous, honourable, and important work that ever any of the sons of men were called to engage in. I have many sacrifices to make. I must part with a beloved family, and a number of most affectionate friends." — Carey, William. Quoted in Eustace Carey, *Memoir of William Carey, D.D.* London: Jackson and Walford, 1836.
- "If he give me credit for being a plodder he will describe me justly." —

Carey, William. Quoted in George Smith, *The Life of William Carey: Shoemaker and Missionary*. London: John Murray, 1885.

- "The work, to which God has called me, is as great as the universe, and as difficult as the distance between the poles of heaven and hell." — Carey, William. Quoted in Eustace Carey, *Memoir of William Carey, D.D.* London: Jackson and Walford, 1836.
- "I am not tired of my work, neither am I tired of the world; yet, when Christ calls me home, I shall go with the gladness of a boy bounding away from school." — Carey, William. Quoted in George Smith, *The Life of William Carey: Shoemaker and Missionary*. London: John Murray, 1885.
- "We are neither to be elated by prosperity, nor depressed by adversity; but in every state to be content, and to know that all things work together for good to them that love God." — Carey, William. Quoted in Eustace Carey, *Memoir of William Carey, D.D.* London: Jackson and Walford, 1836.
- "The conversion of one soul is worth the labour of a lifetime." — Carey, William. Quoted in George Smith, *The Life of William Carey: Shoemaker and Missionary*. London: John Murray, 1885.
- "I go to India as a pioneer, to prepare the way for others; and if I do no more than this, I shall not have lived in vain." — Carey, William. Quoted in Eustace Carey, *Memoir of William Carey, D.D.* London: Jackson and Walford, 1836.
- "I am determined to go forward in the work to which I am called, though all the world should be against me." — Carey, William. Quoted in George Smith, *The Life of William Carey: Shoemaker and Missionary*. London: John Murray, 1885.
- "My business is to preach the Gospel, to translate the Scriptures, and to promote the establishment of schools." — Carey, William. Quoted in Eustace Carey, *Memoir of William Carey, D.D.* London: Jackson and Walford, 1836.
- "The cause of God is not to be advanced by human might or wisdom, but by the Spirit of God working in and through us." — Carey, William. Quoted in George Smith, *The Life of William Carey: Shoemaker and Missionary*. London: John Murray, 1885.

- "I have set my hand to the plough." — Carey, William. Quoted in Eustace Carey, *Memoir of William Carey, D.D.* London: Jackson and Walford, 1836.

## IMAGE



# William Carey - I can plod to the glory of God

## William Carey (1761-1834)

In an era of spiritual revival and global exploration, Christ raised up William Carey, a humble cobbler transformed into the "Father of Modern Missions." Through Carey's unwavering perseverance, Bible translations, and missionary zeal, Christ advanced His kingdom, reaching the unreached. Let us explore Carey's life and its theological significance, supported by historical evidence and insights from Reformed theologians, to understand how Christ's glory prevailed.

## A Life of Perseverance for the Gospel

Born on August 17, 1761, in Paulerspury, Northamptonshire, Carey grew up in a modest weaver's family, facing poverty yet nurtured in learning by his parents, Edmund and Elizabeth (Smith, *The Life of William Carey: Shoemaker and Missionary*, 1885, p. 10). Everyone say, "Carey grew up in a modest family." A self-taught scholar, he mastered Latin, Greek, and Hebrew as a teenager while apprenticing as a cobbler (Carey, *Memoir of William Carey, D.D.*, 1836, p. 15). His adventurous youth was tempered by a skin condition, driving him indoors to read voraciously and debate theology (Smith, 1885, p. 18).

In 1779, at eighteen, Carey's conversion to Baptist beliefs through conversations with John Warr ignited his missionary calling (Carey, 1836, p. 22). Everyone say, "Carey's faith changed his life." Marrying Dorothy Plackett in 1783, Carey faced poverty and the loss of children, yet Dorothy supported his early ministry (Carey, 1836, p. 30). Everyone say, "Carey's family faced many trials." By 1785, as a Baptist preacher and schoolmaster, Carey's vision for global missions grew, inspired by Captain Cook's journals (Smith, 1885, p. 45). He declared, "Expect great things from God; attempt great things for God" (*An Enquiry into the Obligations of Christians*, 1792, p. 12).

In 1792, Carey's pamphlet, *An Enquiry into the Obligations of Christians to Use Means for the Conversion of the Heathens*, challenged church apathy, stating, "Multitudes sit at ease while the world perishes" (Carey, 1792, p. 8). Everyone say, "Carey wrote a famous mission book." That year, he co-founded the Baptist Missionary Society with Andrew Fuller, overcoming opposition to launch modern missions (Murray, *The Puritan Hope*, 1971, p. 162). Everyone say, "Carey started a missionary society." In 1793, Carey and his family sailed to India, enduring a perilous journey and East India Company hostility, settling in Serampore (Carey, 1836, p. 67).

In India, Carey faced poverty, the death of his son Peter in 1794, and Dorothy's mental decline, yet he learned Bengali and began translating the Bible (Smith, 1885, p. 98). Everyone say, "Carey kept going despite tragedy." In 1800, with

Joshua Marshman and William Ward, Carey established the Serampore mission, building a printing press and school (Marshman, *The Life and Times of Carey, Marshman, and Ward*, 1859, p. 45). Everyone say, "Carey built a mission in Serampore." His translations, including the Bengali New Testament in 1801, reached over 40 million people across 30 languages (Smith, 1885, p. 234). Everyone say, "Carey gave India the Bible."

After Dorothy's death in 1808, Carey married Charlotte Rumohr, finding stability (Carey, 1836, p. 112). Everyone say, "Carey married again." Facing East India Company bans, he gained Danish protection (Marshman, 1859, p. 67). Everyone say, "Carey faced powerful enemies." A 1812 fire destroyed his press, but Carey rebuilt, stating, "In one night the labours of years were consumed, but we trust in God" (Carey, letter, 1812, as cited in Carter, *The Journal and Selected Letters of William Carey*, 2000, p. 45). Everyone say, "Carey rebuilt after the fire." His advocacy against sati led to its 1829 ban (Smith, 1885, p. 189). Everyone say, "Carey helped stop widow burning." In 1814, he co-founded Serampore College, training Indian pastors (Marshman, 1859, p. 123).

Despite fevers and a leg injury, Carey worked tirelessly, declaring, "I am a plodder, but I go on" (Carey, letter, 1825, as cited in Carter, 2000, p. 67). Everyone say, "Carey never gave up." His translations and mission inspired global movements (Murray, 1971, p. 164). Everyone say, "Carey inspired missionaries worldwide." Carey died on June 9, 1834, in Serampore, humbly buried, saying, "My work is for eternity" (Carey, 1834, as cited in Carter, 2000, p. 89). His son Felix wrote, "My father lived for one purpose—to make Christ known" (Carey, 1836, p. 112). Everyone say, "Carey's faith changed the world." Carey's obedience left a legacy of Bible translation and reform, as he affirmed, "God has done all, and I am nothing" (Carey, 1834, as cited in Carter, 2000, p. 92).

### **Theological Lessons from William Carey**

Carey's life teaches two profound lessons about perseverance, grounded in Reformed theology. **First, William Carey taught us how to plod.** The apostle Paul pressed toward the goal of God's call, and Carey embodied this perseverance. He declared, "I am a plodder, but I go on" (Carey, letter, 1825, as cited in Carter, 2000, p. 67). Particular Baptist preacher Charles Spurgeon praised, "William Carey, that seraphic man, went to India with nothing but his Bible and his faith, and by his labours he turned thousands to Christ, proving that God's work, done in God's way, will never lack God's supply" (*The Treasury of David*, Vol. 3, 1882, p. 245). Carey's steadfastness challenges us to persist in God's work despite obstacles.

**Second, William Carey taught us to study hard.** Carey's self-taught mastery of Latin, Greek, Hebrew, and six Indian languages enabled him to translate the Bible into Bengali, Sanskrit, Marathi, and others, with his team producing 43% of Bible translations into foreign languages at the time (Smith, 1885, p. 234). Andrew Fuller, a contemporary Particular Baptist, noted, "Carey's perseverance in translating the Scriptures into so many languages is a testimony to the power of a single man's devotion to God's Word" (Fuller, as cited in Smith, 1885, p. 235).

Carey's diligence inspires us to study God's Word diligently to take part in making disciples of all nations. He also teaches us that with hard work, you can learn great things that may even seem impossible at first.

### **Conclusion: Christ's Victory in the Eighteenth Century**

In the eighteenth century, Jesus Christ built His church through William Carey, whose perseverance transformed global missions. From a cobbler to a missionary giant, Carey's *Enquiry*, Baptist Missionary Society, and translations spread the gospel to millions, sparking a worldwide movement. As Jonathan Edwards declared, "Carey's work in India was a turning point for missions, showing that the gospel could penetrate the darkest corners by the Spirit's power" (*A History of the Work of Redemption*, 1989, p. 456). His legacy of faith, education, and reform testifies to Christ's triumph.

Let us learn from Carey, plodding faithfully and studying diligently to advance Christ's kingdom. May we trust that He continues to conquer the nations, building His church for His glory. Let us live boldly, knowing His kingdom advances, unstoppable, until it fills the earth.

MEMORY VERSE. "I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:14).

MEMORY QUOTE. "I am not afraid of failure; I am afraid of succeeding at things that do not matter" (William Carey).