

XVIII.I. THE ADVANCEMENT OF CHRIST'S GLORY IN THE CHURCH AND AMONG THE NATIONS - The Eighteenth Century (pt.1)

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 Seventeenth Century for the 23rd time. But before we do that let's remember what we learned last time.

Q. Can anyone tell me *which person* I taught you about last time?

A. Thomas Goodwin.

Everyone say, "Thomas Goodwin."

RECAP

In the Seventeenth Century, God used Thomas Goodwin to teach the Bible both deep and wide.

Who can tell me

SEVENTEENTH CENTURY (pt.23) MEMORY VERSE.

- "More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb. Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward" (**Ps. 19:10-11**).

SEVENTEENTH CENTURY (pt.23) MEMORY QUOTE.

- "Christ cannot love me better than he does; I think I cannot love Christ better than I do; I am swallowed up in God" (**Thomas Goodwin**).

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

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

In the Eighteenth Century, God used many great men to advance Christ's glory in the church and among the nations.

I. THE ENLIGHTENMENT TRIED TO THWART CHRIST'S CONQUERING OF THE NATIONS (18th Century).

Everyone say, "The Enlightenment."

- The main tenet of The Enlightenment is the belief in the power of human reason or logic to understand the world and improve society, emphasizing individual liberty, scientific inquiry, and skepticism toward traditional authority.
- **KEY FIGURES:** David Hume, Emmanuel Kant.
 - **Colossians 2:8** "See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ."
 - **JONATHAN EDWARDS:** "Many have a false persuasion of their own enlightenment, trusting in their own wisdom and the strength of their reason, while they remain strangers to that spiritual light which comes only from God's Spirit, illuminating the soul to see the glory of divine things." — **Jonathan Edwards, *Treatise Concerning Religious Affections* (1746)**
 - **HERMAN BAVINCK:** "The Enlightenment elevated human reason to the throne, as if it were an infallible oracle, but in doing so, it forgot the corruption of the human heart and the limits of finite understanding. Reason, apart from divine revelation, becomes a blind guide, leading humanity into the abyss of autonomy and self-sufficiency, where it imagines itself wise while groping in darkness." — **Herman Bavinck, paraphrased by Brett Baggett, reflecting themes from *Reformed Dogmatics*, ed. John Bolt, trans. John Vriend, vol. 1 (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2003), particularly his discussions on human reason and revelation (e.g., 1:231–233).**

You and I need the Scriptures, and if we do not have them, hear them, read them, study them, believe them, and direct all of our thinking and

living by them, we are lost in a sea of sinfulness and arrogance.

II. GOD USED GREAT PREACHERS TO IGNITE THE GREAT AWAKENING (1730s and 40s).

Everyone say, "The Great Awakening."

- The Great Awakening was a series of religious revivals in the American colonies during the 1730s and 1740s, led by figures like Jonathan Edwards and George Whitefield, that emphasized personal conversion, emotional faith, and a return to fervent piety, challenging established religious norms and fostering a shared evangelical identity.
- **KEY FIGURES:** Jonathan Edwards, Whitefield, John Wesley, Charles Wesley, John Newton, Isaac Watts.
- **IMPORTANT NOTE:** The Great Awakening contributed to a sense of colonial unity, which some historians link to the revolutionary spirit of the 1770s.
 - **Psalms 85:6** "Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you?"
 - **JONATHAN EDWARDS**, describing the revival he witnessed in Northampton, Massachusetts:

"There was scarcely a single person in the town, old or young, left unconcerned about the great things of the eternal world. Those who were wont to be the vainest and loosest, and those who had been disposed to think and speak lightly of vital and experimental religion, were now generally subject to great awakenings. The work of conversion was carried on in a most astonishing manner, and increased more and more; souls did as it were come by flocks to Jesus Christ." — **Jonathan Edwards, A Faithful Narrative of the Surprising Work of God (1737)**

God has caused many revivals or awakenings to happen throughout history! We should continually ask Him to do it again in our day!

III. GOD USED TYRANTS TO BIRTH A NEW NATION (1776).

Everyone say, "God used tyrants to birth a new Nation."

- The United States of America.
- Do you remember what those Pilgrims wanted to establish when they came over in 1620 on the Mayflower?
 - **MAYFLOWER COMPACT:** "[We have undertaken this voyage] for the Glory of God and advancement of the Christian Faith and

Honour of our King and Country. . ."

- **Matthew 5:14** "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden."

We should praise God for the blessing and benefit of belonging to this nation, the United States of America.

And we should make it our aim to seek another Great Awakening so that the majority of this nation would turn back to Christ Jesus and honor Him as Savior and King!

IV. THE MODERN MISSIONS MOVEMENT (1790s).

Everyone say, "The Modern Missions movement"

- William Carey and Andrew Fuller (Particular Baptists).
 - *William Carey arrived in India in 1793 as a missionary and spent over 40 years there, establishing the Serampore Mission Press and founding the Serampore College, the first degree-awarding university in India.*
 - **Romans 15:20-21** "20 I make it my ambition to preach the gospel, not where Christ has already been named, lest I build on someone else's foundation, 21 but as it is written, 'Those who have never been told of him will see, and those who have never heard will understand.'"
 - **ANDREW FULLER:** "Our undertaking to India really appeared to me, on its commencement, to be somewhat like a few men who were deliberating about the importance of penetrating into a deep mine which had never before been explored; and when we began to act, it seemed as if Carey said, 'Well, I will go down, if you will hold the rope.'" — **Andrew Fuller, from a letter he wrote to William Carey on April 27, 1795, as recorded in *The Complete Works of the Rev. Andrew Fuller* (Vol. 3, 1845 edition)**

The Law of God and the Gospel of God need to go everywhere, so that Christ will be believed on and worshiped in the entire earth!

RECAP

In the Eighteenth Century, God used many great men to advance Christ's glory in the church and among the nations.

SEVENTEENTH CENTURY (pt.1) MEMORY VERSE.

- **Psalms 85:6** "Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you?"

EIGHTEENTH CENTURY (pt.1) MEMORY QUOTE.

- “I will go down, if you will hold the rope.” **(William Carey).**