

## The Present Emergency

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### Part 10: "The Church"

#### Review

*Christianity and Liberalism*, by J. Gresham Machen, helps us better understand how he responded to the threat to Biblical orthodoxy. In doing so, we are better equipped to deal with similar threats in our contemporary context.

#### Preview

- "The Pilgrim's Progress," By John Bunyan (1678), is an allegorical tale of a man named Christian who journeys from the City of Destruction to the Celestial City, symbolizing the believer's path to salvation through trials, temptations, and triumphs by faith in Christ

#### Watch video

- The Church is a fitting end to this book
  - In salvation we are united with God and united to His people
  - Centered on the cross, the reality that unites all true Christians
  - Guided by the various Creeds that are essential to define our practice
- Machen first addresses deceptive Ministers in the church who are not faithful to their confession, asking them to leave
- Then he adds an encouraging word to us. He writes, don't be discouraged...
  - God will sustain the church, no matter the present emergency (Rom 11:2-15)
  - God will continue to use the church to draw people to Himself (Mat 16:18)
- He adds a caution: We must avoid several temptations
  - When confronted with a change in the culture, we need to address the disease and not the symptoms
  - In the church we must push past those things that divide, and push to those things that unite us at the foot of the cross

- The Church has the answer for culture, not by accommodation or cheap imitation, but by being the Church
  - The business of the Church is to lift high the cross, proclaiming Jesus Christ and Him crucified (1 Cor 2:2)
  - The business of the Church is to call people to the foot of the cross where we gather, where we are refreshed, where we are nourished
- Far from being a polemic against Liberalism, Machen charts out for us in many positive ways
  - The value and beauty of doctrine
  - The beauty of Christianity that is ours to enjoy and proclaim