

The Present Emergency

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Part 9: "Salvation"

Review

Cultural modernism is a movement that emerged in the late 19th and early 20th centuries emphasizing innovation, rejecting tradition, and seeking new ways to express ideas. It often reflected skepticism toward established beliefs and embraced progress, individualism, and experimentation.

Many in the church thought that we can (or must) accommodate modernism to stay relevant. This response was labeled Theological Liberalism, as "liberal" equals departure from strict adherence.

Professor J. Gresham Machen fought against it, calling it "this present emergency" in his book *Christianity and Liberalism*. We are studying this book as an example of faithfulness, and a model for how we might engage with the errors of our day

Our current progression: Doctrine in general; Who is God? Who is man? What is the Bible? Who is Christ? and now, What is salvation? There is a right and a wrong answer to all these things.

Part 9 Preview

- Martin Luther, the 95 Theses, and his protest against indulgences

Watch video

- Machen equated the Liberal Theologians with the false prophets of old, declaring "peace, peace," when there was no peace. Their false message cannot save
 - He objected to the Liberal view of salvation because it made light of sin and was an incomplete view of God
 - The issue in salvation is our guilt. We are unrighteous, dead in our trespasses and sins

"Religion cannot be made joyful simply by looking on the bright side of God." - Machen

- Words that speak directly to our human condition and our need:
 - Regeneration: The dead brought back to life. The work of the Holy Spirit (Jn 3:1-7)
 - Justification and Imputation: Declared righteous based on Jesus' finished work on the cross. In salvation His righteousness is credited (imputed) to us

"Because He paid our penalty, our sin was cancelled. Because He kept the law, His obedience became ours." (Rom 5:1-2; 2 Cor 5:21) - Nichols

- This justification is by faith alone (Eph 2:8-9)
 - Faith is the end of our striving as we simply rest in what Christ has done
 - Biblical faith (review)
 - Notitia (knowledge): Understanding the objective content of the Gospel
 - Ascensus (assent): Agreeing that Gospel propositions are true
 - Fiducia (trust): Resting in Christ alone
 - The act of faith = salvation
 - The life of faith and obedience = the process of sanctification

“To have faith in Christ means to cease trying to win God’s favor by one’s own character. The man who believes in Christ simply accepts the sacrifice which Christ offered on Calvary.” - Machen