

## A Biography of Isaac Backus

Isaiah 35:1-3

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October 26, 2014

### 1. God can take what is by nature a spiritual wasteland and bring about glorious \_\_\_\_\_ beauty.

a. The Reformation. October 31, 1517

*It was, quite simply, a great work of the Spirit of God, a revival of biblical Christianity. Without a doubt, the Reformation stands out as the most significant \_\_\_\_\_ since Apostolic times." - Tom Ascol*

b. The Great Awakening. 1740's in America.

c. Isaac Backus' \_\_\_\_\_ in 1741.

*"Divine justice appeared clear in my condemnation, and I saw that God had a right to do with me as He would. My soul yielded all into His hands, fell at His feet, and was silent and calm before Him. And while I sat there, I was enabled by divine light to see the perfect righteousness of Christ and the freeness and riches of His grace, with such clearness, that my \_\_\_\_\_ was drawn forth to trust in Him for salvation." - Isaac Backus*

### 2. God will cause His \_\_\_\_\_ to blossom with abundant and progressive growth to His glory.

a. Backus joined a local church upon his conversion. He soon was called into ministry and served the Lord and His church for \_\_\_\_\_ years.

b. Backus was greatly used of God in many works of revival and the extraordinary growth of \_\_\_\_\_ churches in America.

*"There were occasionally times of refreshing from the presence of the Lord. One of these occurred in the midst of the war of the Revolution. During the year 1780, God was pleased to remember His people, and \_\_\_\_\_ them in a remarkable degree by His Spirit. Since the Great Awakening, there had not been so extensive and deep a work of grace in New England." - Alvah Hovey*

### 3. Even in the midst of God's glorious work, there are great challenges that can be \_\_\_\_\_ and discouraging.

a. The challenge entailed in becoming a \_\_\_\_\_.

b. The challenge of being part of a church that dissented from the church the \_\_\_\_\_ favored.

c. The challenge of pressing to have religious \_\_\_\_\_ written into the nation's Constitution.

*"Isaac Backus' advocacy for religious liberty, including his 1773 treatise entitled An Appeal to the Public for Religious Liberty Against the Oppression of the Present Day, was a precursor to the United States of America codifying religious \_\_\_\_\_ in the First Amendment to the Constitution."*