

Whitefield against Unconverted Ministers



“The pavement of hell is lined with the skulls of unfaithful ministers.” (Quoted)

Introduction:

- Whitefield’s commitment to Christian unity
- To rankle the outlook of religious unbelievers would as well their religious, unbelieving ministers.
- Rankled the outlook already of Church of England ministers.

Background:

1. The general apostasy of the day – Ryle’s account, *New Birth*, pp. 274 - 280
2. Already seen three actions by Whitefield
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Whitefield’s Strong Resistance

1. Not unlike Paul’s in Galatians 1

2. Not absolutely new –
3. Gilbert Tennant’s famous sermon – “The Danger of an Unconverted Ministry”
4. Whitefield steps onto this field:
 1. With fellow Church of Englanders
 2. With dissenters of the Presbyterian Church
 3. Especially in New England – why? Had raised this to a principle!
 4. Addressing ministerial students at Harvard and Yale – recall Brainerd

Whitefield Right and Wrong

1. There are some today who find all this most objectionable – Old Side Presbyterians still
2. Objections lack understanding of the times
3. While fault to be found in being too pointed/dismissive at times, the principle is sound.
 - a. Whitefield and others repented of being too sharp – but never of the need to address unconverted ministers
 - b. Ministers were professed non-believers!
 - c. The church very different than being in a small orthodox body today
 - d. Many ministers came to know the Lord
 - e. Accepting an unconverted minister was (hopefully) forever thrown out

Next Time: Whitefield contra Wesley