

TWENTY CENTURIES

A Survey of Church History



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THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

The Ecumenical Movement



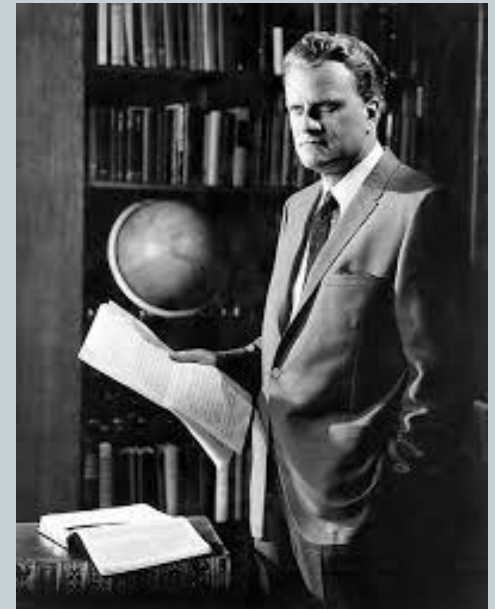
- **1910 Edinburgh Conference on World Missions**
 - Summoned to address concerns in relating world missions to non-Christian faiths and new colonial governments.
 - Re-energized missionary zeal; formed Universal Christian Conference on Life and Work, which later became the World Council of Churches. This and similar organizations tended to doctrinal minimalism and devolved into a liberalism that denied the Bible.
 - Since World War II, world missions has focused on Bible translation, seeking to bring God's Word into every tribe and tongue.
- **Campus Evangelism**
 - In support of evangelistic efforts in Britain and the US, large non-denominational groups targeted college campuses.
 - Most prominent are Campus Crusade for Christ, InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, and the Navigators
 - Widely used by the Lord for evangelism, they also tended toward broad doctrine and have in many cases converted into liberalism.

The Ecumenical Movement



- **Billy Graham Crusades**

- Following on from 19th and earlier 20th century precursors (Dwight Moody and Billy Sunday),
- Successfully concentrated evangelistic emphasis into city-wide regions
- Promoted a “minimal doctrine” Evangelical consensus.
- Focused evangelism on mass crusade evangelism and personal evangelism.
- Both indicted churches for lack of evangelism and undermined the church as the organ for Christian ministry.
- 1966 London Crusade divided British evangelicalism as Martyn Lloyd-Jones opposed Graham for including Roman Catholics
- Set the stage for televangelism, which has both reached millions and defrauded the gospel in many cases.



The Pentecostal and Charismatic Movements



- **Pentecostalism**
 - Originated with dis-satisfaction over the institutionalized nature of Christian churches.
 - Claimed a return of the Holy Spirit, with Pentecostal gifts (tongues, healing, prophecy) in preparation for Christ's return.
 - Azusa Street Revival in Los Angeles, from 1906-15, emphasized ecstatic experiences, miracles, and tongues.
 - Associated today with televangelism, faith healing, speaking in tongues, and bizarre ecstatic experiences
 - Oneness Pentecostals deny the Trinity, in favor the modalist heresy.
 - Described as the fastest growing wing of Protestant Christianity today.

The Pentecostal and Charismatic Movements



- **The Charismatic Movement**
 - Also spurred by experiential deadness in traditional churches and a democratization of the church.
 - Like Pentecostals, emphasize charismatic gifts as proof of regeneration.
 - Intense in prayer, experiential in worship, fervent in witness, Charismatics have challenged more orthodox Evangelicals. Charismatic worship has come to dominate late 20th century Evangelicalism, launching much debate on true, biblical worship.
 - While there is a wide variety of doctrine, including many who are reforming, Charismatic Christianity tends to be Arminian in doctrine, works-oriented in approach, and theologically broad.

Mainline “Reformed” Theology



- **Karl Barth (1886-1968)**
 - Alarmed by the effects of German higher criticism and the rejection of supernaturalism in German liberal theology
 - Wrote a famous Romans commentary and a multivolume *Church Dogmatics*
 - Sought to restore God to the center of theology, without challenging the theological method of liberal scholars.
 - Denied Bible inerrancy and taught universal salvation.
 - Patron of “Neo-orthodoxy,” in which orthodox terms are used, but with critical/liberal meanings.
- **Rudolph Bultmann (1884-1976)**
 - Argued that science made supernaturalism impossible to believe.
 - Sought to “demythologize” the Bible and construct an “existential” Christian faith.



Mainline “Reformed” Theology



- **Emil Brunner (1889-1966)**
 - Emphasized Christianity as a personal encounter. The Bible “becomes” the Word of God in our experience.
 - Denied sin, atonement, hell, since there is no objective but only subjective truth
- **N. T. Wright (1948-)**
 - Sought to correct both mainline scholarship and conservative Reformed theology by making historical studies of the “Second Temple Period” definitive for theology.
 - Reconstructed salvation theology by redefining covenant and making it the center of salvation. Christians are saved by membership in the covenant community.
 - Achieved strong in-roads into evangelical Reformed theology.



Authoritarian Church Persecution



- **Nazism & the German Dissidents**
 - Prepared for by a weak & compromised Lutheran state church
 - Nazism an explicitly pagan view of life
 - Heroic Christians opposed Hitler and died.
- **Russian Communism**
 - Lenin/Stalin closed Russia to the West and coopted the Orthodox church
 - Christians were repressed through gulag imprisonment and murder
 - Fall of the iron curtain led to an influx of Western missions including sound churches and cults
- **Chinese Communism & Persecution**
 - The growing missions church was feared lost
 - Severe persecution involving prison camp sentences and constant harassment
 - Valliant Christians accepted the persecution, continued to evangelize, relied on prayer, and saw a mass explosion of biblical Christianity.
 - Late in the century, the Chinese house church came under a decidedly Reformed theological influence.



Theologians of the Reformed Tradition



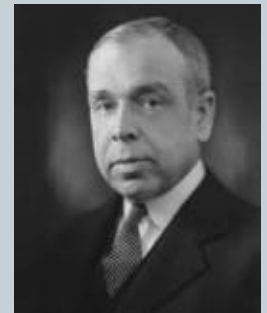
- **Benjamin Breckinridge Warfield**

- Championed Reformed doctrines of salvation from Princeton Seminary, and especially the inerrancy and authority of Scripture



- **J. Gresham Machen**

- Princeton trained NT scholar, studied in Germany. Wrote important books defending Pauline authority, the supernatural character of the NT, and *Christianity & Liberalism* (1927), which argued that the two are different religions.
- Defrocked by UPC in 1935 over the gospel in missions; founded Westminster Theological Seminary (1929) and the Orthodox Presbyterian Church (1936).

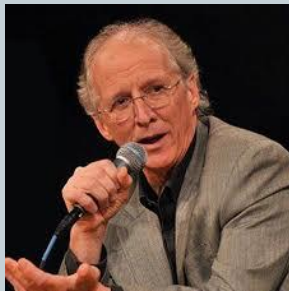
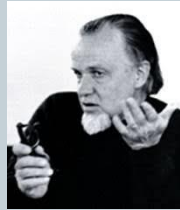
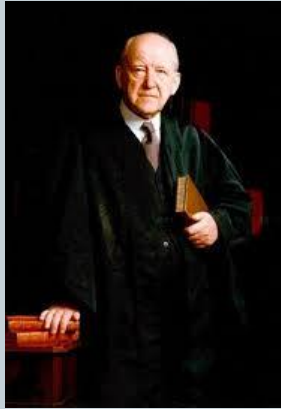


- **Cornelius van Til**

- Princeton/Westminster professor who developed an apologetic consistent with Reformed theology and based on the primacy of the Bible.



Theologians of the Reformed Tradition



- **Martin Lloyd-Jones**
 - Welsh preacher who championed Reformed theology from Westminster Chapel in London
 - Inspired expository preaching and founded the Banner of Truth Trust
- **James Montgomery Boice**
 - Pastored Tenth Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia (1968-2000). Through expository preaching, commentaries, Reformed conferences, International Council on Bible Inerrancy, and radio ministry, promoted a Bible-based Reformed Evangelicalism.
- **R. C. Sproul**
 - Through popular speaking and mass marketing through Ligonier Ministries, expanded the Reformed reach into evangelicalism
- **John Piper**
 - Through dynamic preaching and popular writings, extended Reformed theology into Baptist and Charismatic churches.

The Church Growth Movement



- An evangelical movement seeking to grow the church through sociological research and application.
- De-emphasized traditional church settings and worship; radical appeal to contemporary style.
- Arminian theological tendency; mass marketing techniques.
- Redefined “success” via mega-churches. Also redefined church and church membership away from a biblical model.
- Emphasized the pastor as celebrity rather than biblical teacher/ shepherd.



THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

Essential Reformed Writings



- Essential Reformed Writings of the Twentieth Century

