

## Lecture 36: The Sovereignty of God and Global Missions

April 20, 2020

### Introduction

Andrew Delbanco, *The Real American Dream: A Meditation on Hope* (1999)

Melancholy vs. Hope

Story & Culture

*Because each story is an imagined social construction, it can be deconstructed and all cultures are relative.*

Ecclesiastes and Job

Revelation & Resurrection

Covenants, Prophecy, and the **Great Commission**:

“All authority has been given to Me... Go therefore and made disciples of all nations...” (Matt. 28:18-20).

*Christianity has the audacity to challenge cultures to repent of their stories and to believe the good news!*

Christianity is objective—a fact-value union between history and story.

### William Carey (1761-1834) – Father of Modern Missions

Three Influences on Carey:

1. Bible – the Great Commission is still in effect (“...even to the end of the age”)
2. David Brainerd – Puritan missions to native North Americans
3. *Captain Cook’s Voyages* – British explorations of the Pacific Ocean

### Carey’s Context: Hyper-Calvinist Paralysis

*The Great Omission?*

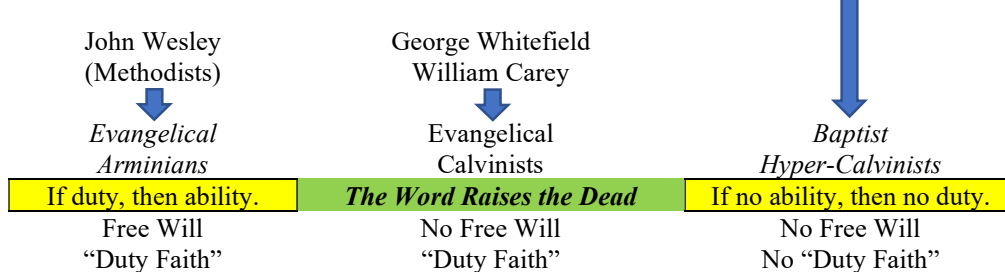
Early Expansion into Europe – Patrick and Irish monks, Roman Catholic missions to England and the Continent

Later Expansion to Europeans Colonies – Spanish Jesuits, Francis Xavier, Moravians, John Eliot of Roxbury

*The Rejected Proposal*

“Young man, sit down, sit down.

When God pleases to convert the heathen, He’ll do it without consulting you or me” (John Ryland, Sr.).



### Carey’s Contribution: A Theology of Means

“...the first Anglo-Saxon Protestant either in America or Great Britain to propose

that Christians take concrete steps to bring their Gospel to all the human race” (Kenneth Scott Latourette).

*An Enquiry into the Obligation of  
Christians to use Means for the  
Conversion of the Heathens*

1792

Baptist Missionary Society

“Expect great things from God,  
attempt great things for God.”  
—sermon on Isaiah 54:2-3

**Missionary to India**...the Serampore Press translated and published the Bible in almost **forty languages**,...

...plus botany, steam power, banking, medicine, agriculture, schools, astronomy, forestry, and women’s rights.

—Vishal & Ruth Mangalwadi, *The Legacy of William Carey: A Model for the Transformation of a Culture*

### 1800s Missionary Explosion

Missionaries – Adoniram Judson (Burma), J. Hudson Taylor (China), David Livingston (Africa),...

College Students

Haystack Prayer Meeting (1806) – the beginning of American foreign missions

Northfield Hundred (1886) – the beginning of the Student Volunteer Movement

*How about you?*