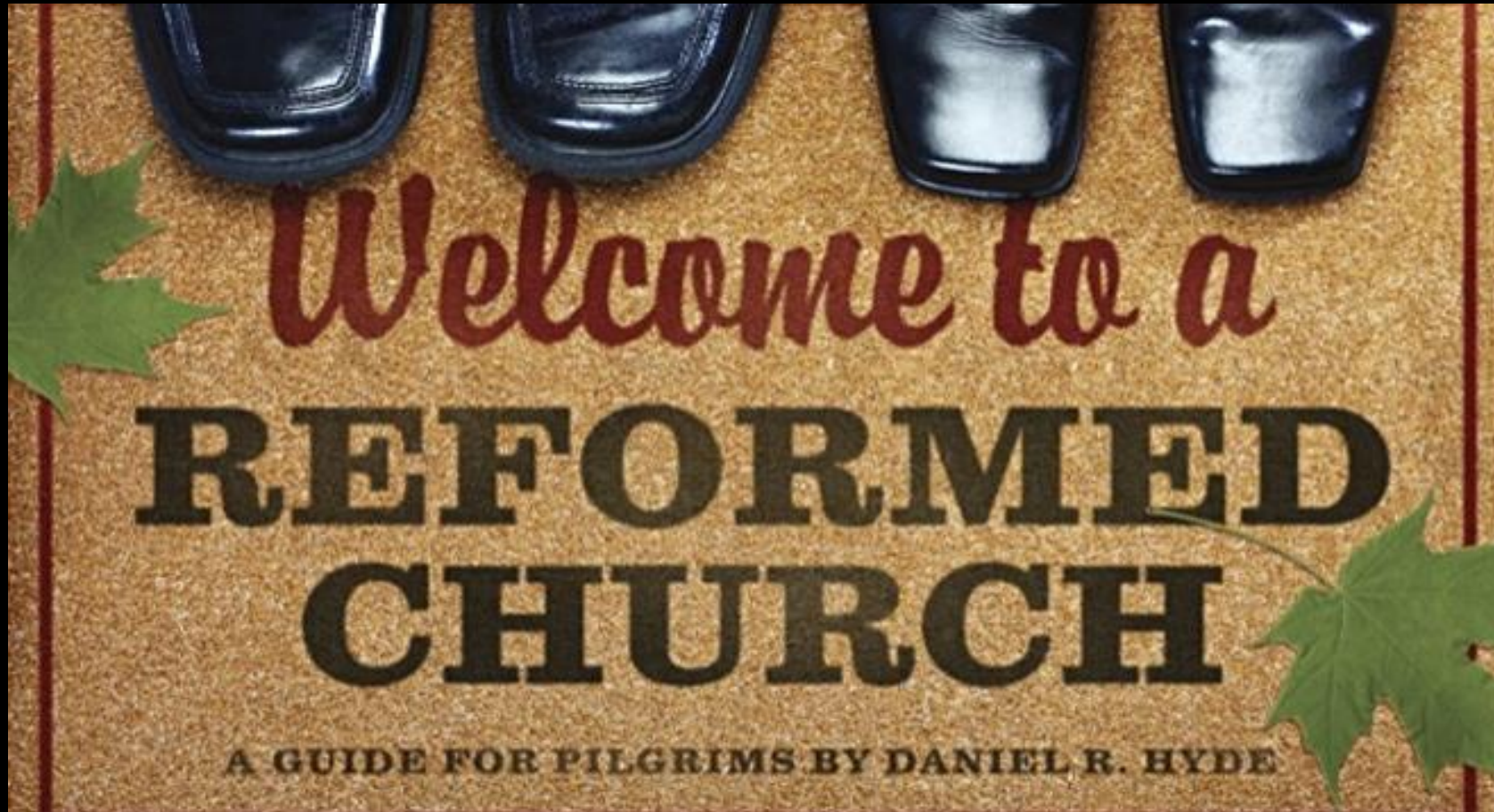


Welcome to a Reformed Church

A Guide For Pilgrims

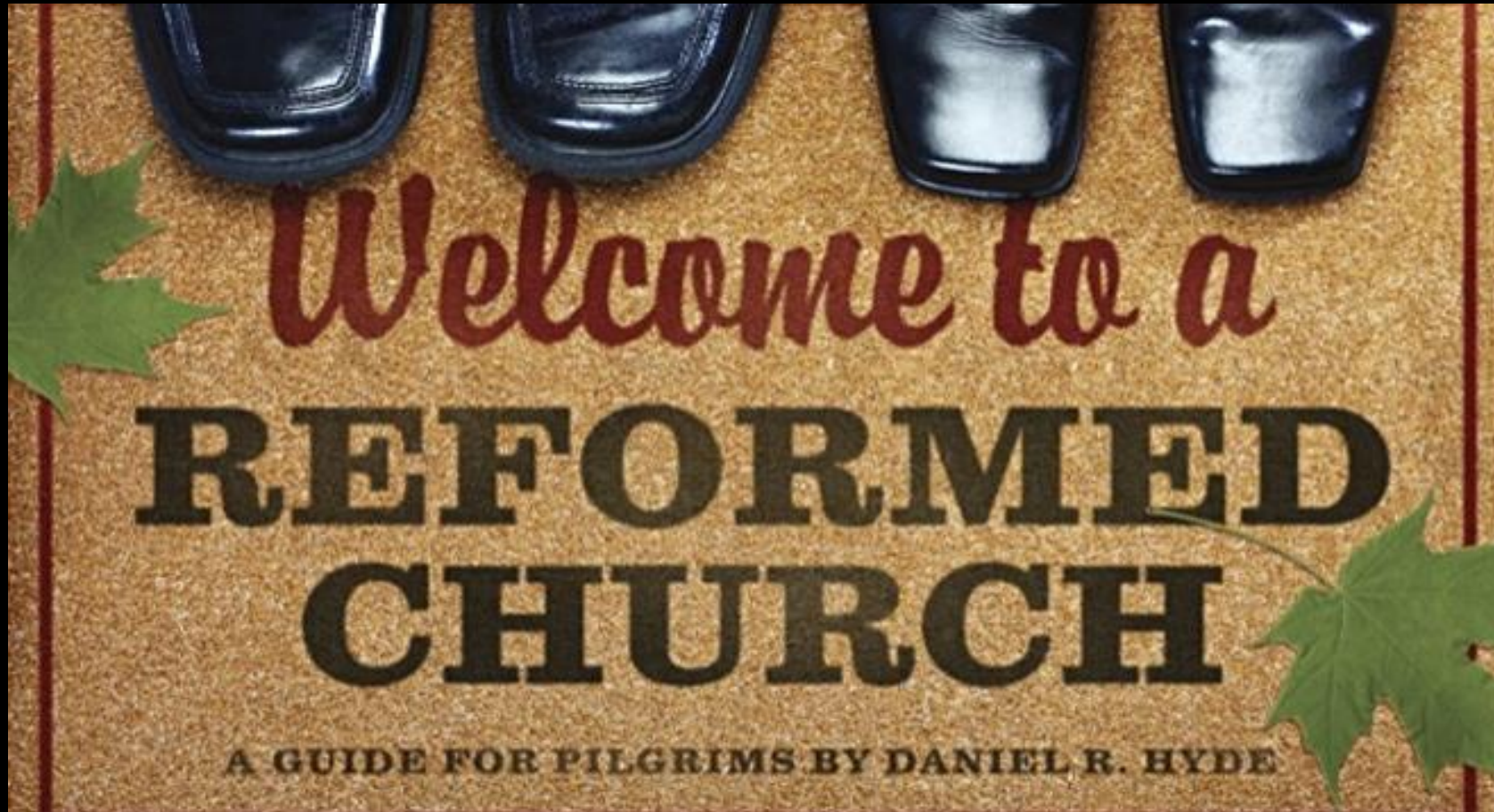


“I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.”

- 2 Timothy 4: 1-5

Welcome to a Reformed Church

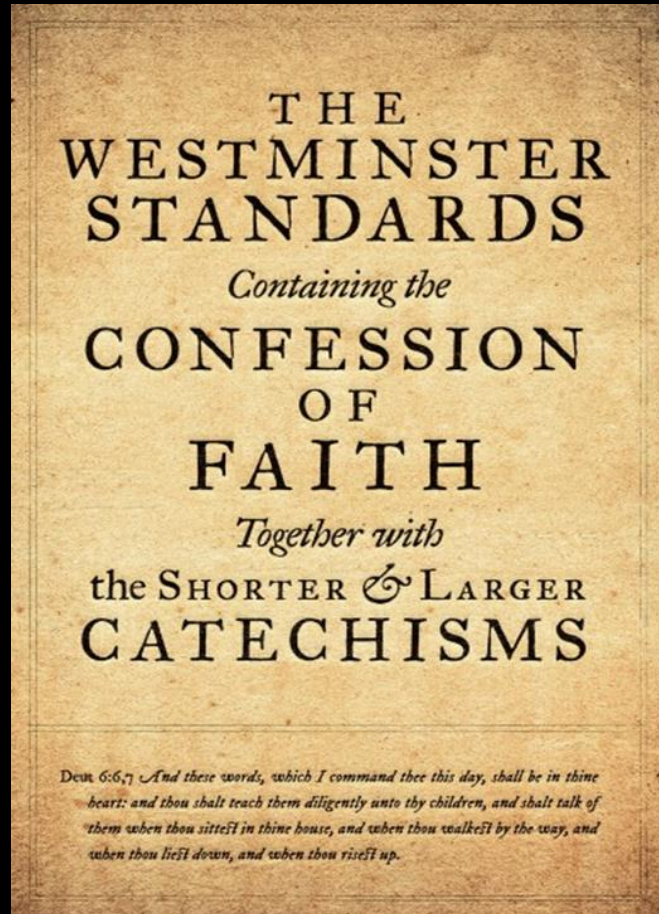
A Guide For Pilgrims



Confessions: Doctrinal Foundations

Chapter 2

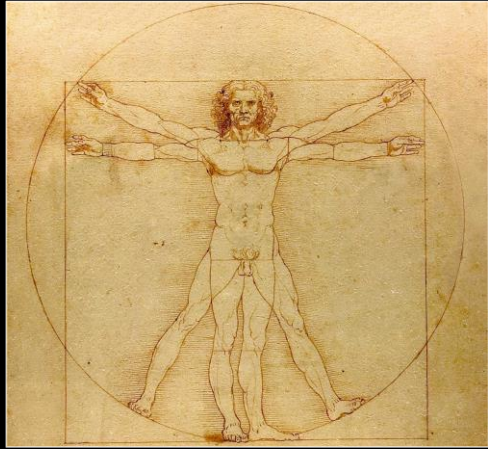
Biblical and Confessional



- Apostles' Creed
- Nicene Creed
- Athanasian Creed
- Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed
- Definition of Chalcedon
- The Second Helvetic Confession
- The Westminster Standards
- The Heidelberg Catechism
- The Belgic Confession
- The Canons of Dort



19th Century Attacks on Confessions



Liberal

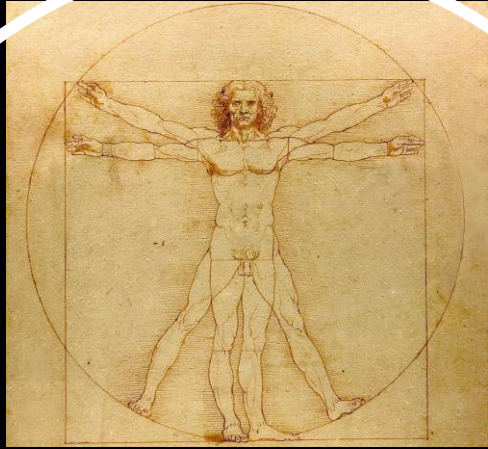
- Rationalism
- Schleiermacher



Conservative

- Alexander Campbell
- W.B. Johnson

19th Century Attacks on Confessions



Liberal

- Rationalism
- Schleiermacher



Conservative

- Alexander Campbell
- W.B. Johnson

“I have never permitted myself to meditate a specified creed. These formulas have been the bane & ruin of the Christian church, it’s own fatal invention which, thro’ so many ages, made of Christendom a slaughter house, and at this day divides it into Casts of inextinguishable hatred to one another.”

-Thomas Jefferson

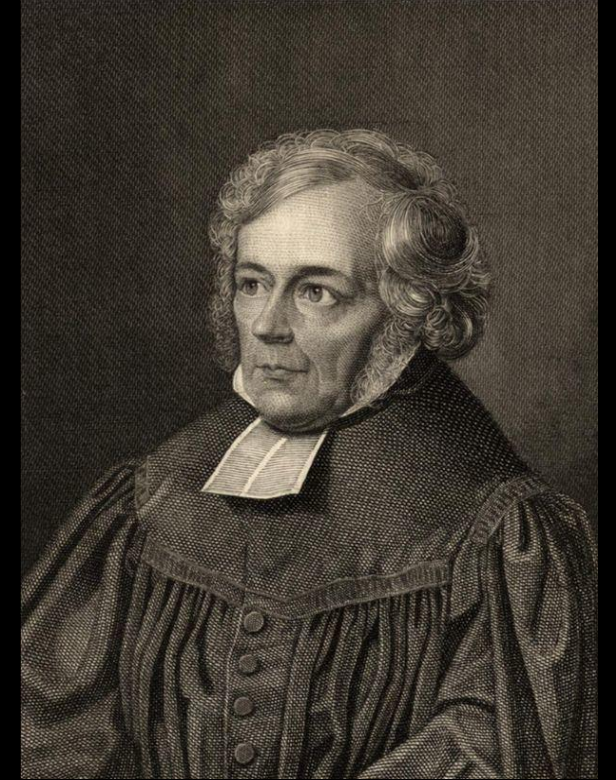
(Letter to Thomas Whittemore, June 5, 1822)



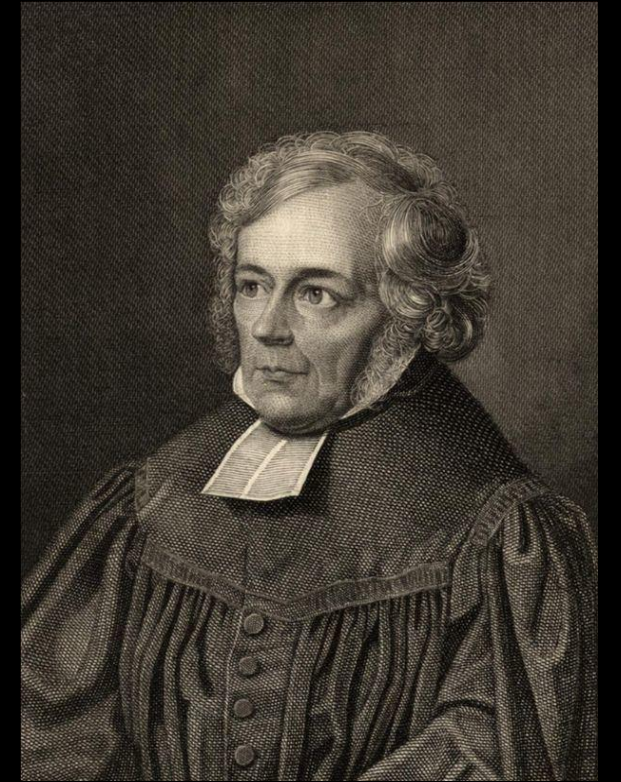
Friedrich Schleiermacher (1768-1834)

“Father of Protestant liberalism.”

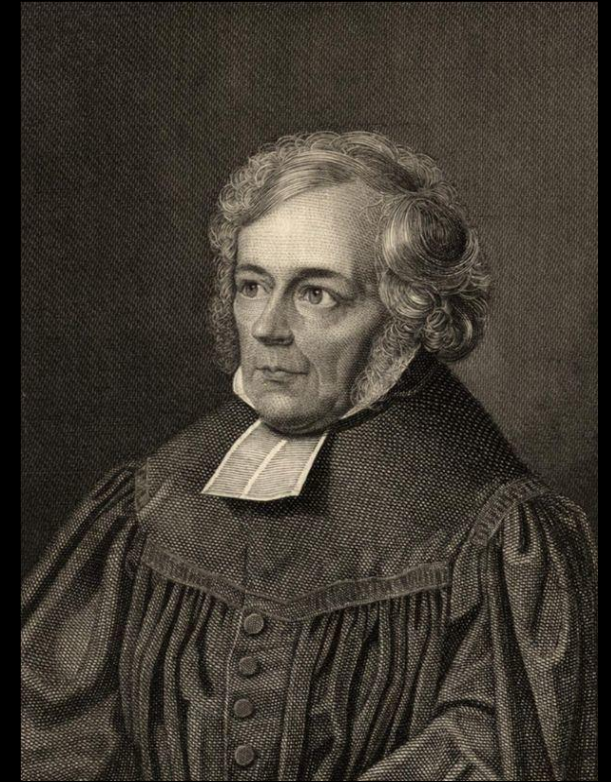
“I cannot believe that He, who called Himself the Son of Man, was the true eternal God: I cannot believe that His death was a vicarious atonement, because He never expressly said so Himself; and I cannot believe it to have been necessary, because God, who evidently did not create men for perfection, but for the pursuit of it, cannot possibly tend to punish them eternally, because they have not attained it.”



“In our exposition, all doctrines properly so called must be extracted from the Christian religious self-consciousness, the inward experience of Christian people.”



- Experience (feeling) is primary over doctrine and scriptural authority.
- Laid foundation of “modern hermeneutics” (i.e. “redaction-form criticism”)
- Birthed the Social gospel; Theological feminism; Liberation theology; Process theology; and Jesus seminar among others.



CATECHISMS

OF THE

Methodist Episcopal Church, South.

REVISED BY T. O. SUMMERS, D. D.

WITH AN

INTRODUCTION BY BISHOP PIERCE.

Ὁ κατηχούμενος τὸν λόγον.—GALATIANS VI. 6.

A good life is begun in catechizing.—CLEMENT.

Let us persevere in catechizings.—CYRIL.

Catechizings are our best preachings.—JEREMY TAYLOR.

What a pity that all our preachers have not the zeal
and wisdom to catechize.—JOHN WESLEY.

Nashville, Tenn.:

SOUTHERN METHODIST PUBLISHING HOUSE.

1861.

THE DOCTRINES

AND

DISCIPLINE

OF THE

Methodist Episcopal Church.

THE NINETEENTH EDITION.

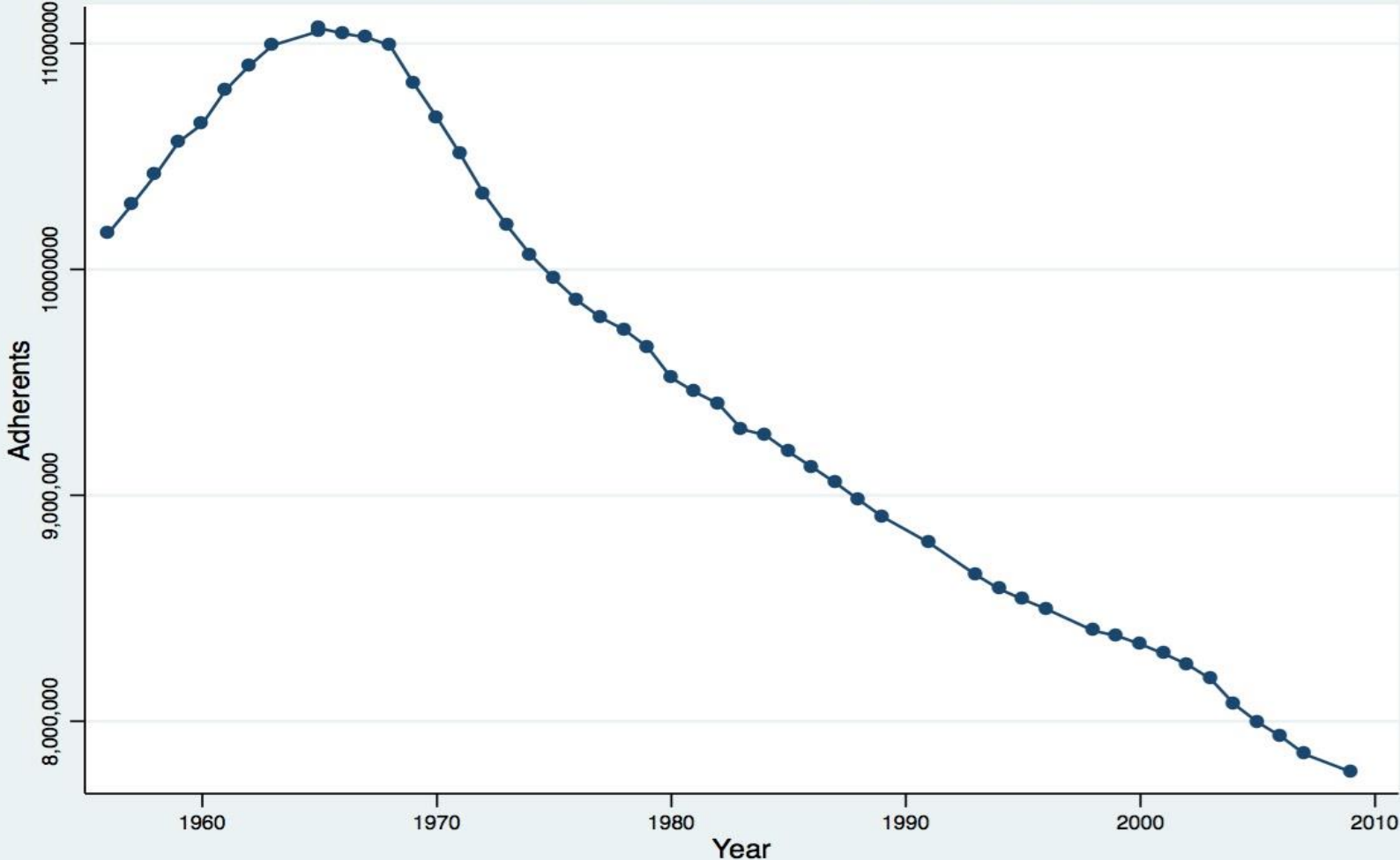
NEW-YORK:

PUBLISHED BY J. SOULE AND T. MASON,
FOR THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL
CHURCH IN THE UNITED
STATES OF AMERICA.

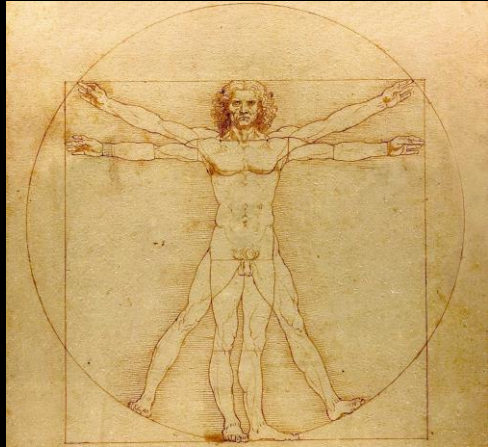
John C. Totten, printer.

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1817.

United Methodist Membership 1960-2000



19th Century Attacks on Confessions



Liberal

- Rationalism
- Schleiermacher



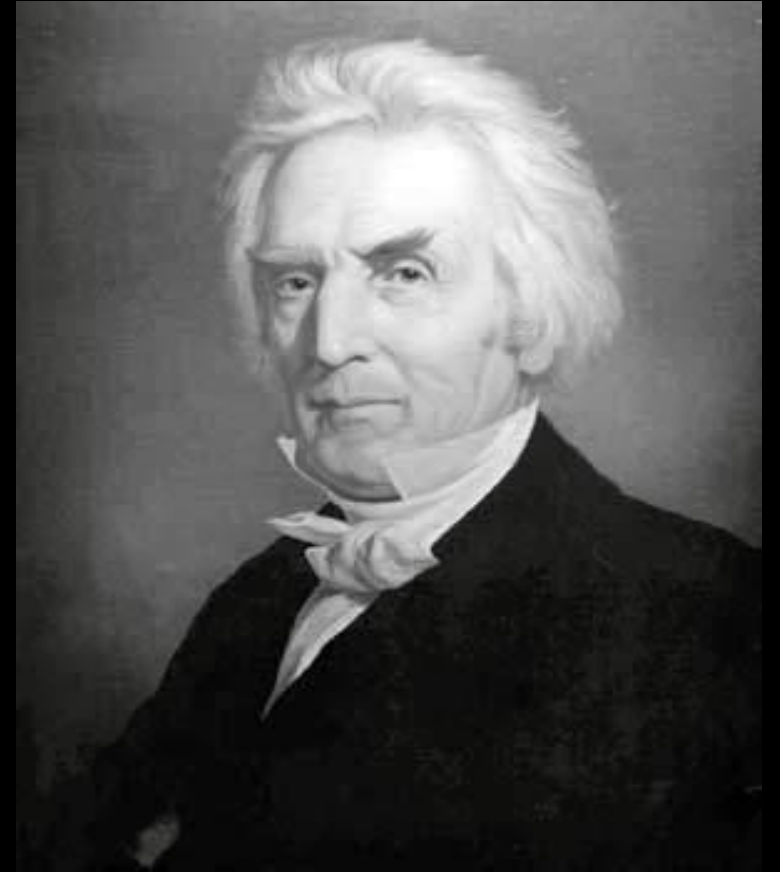
Conservative

- Alexander Campbell
- W.B. Johnson

Alexander Campbell

(1788-1866)

“We only aim at substituting the New Testament in lieu of every creed in existence; whether Mohammedan, Pagan, Jewish or Presbyterian. We neither advocate Calvinism, Arminianism, Arianism, Trinitarianism, Unitarianism, Deism or Sectarianism, but New Testamentism. We wish, we cordially wish, to take the New Testament out of the abuses of the clergy, and put it into the hands of the people” (Men of Yesterday, p. 78).



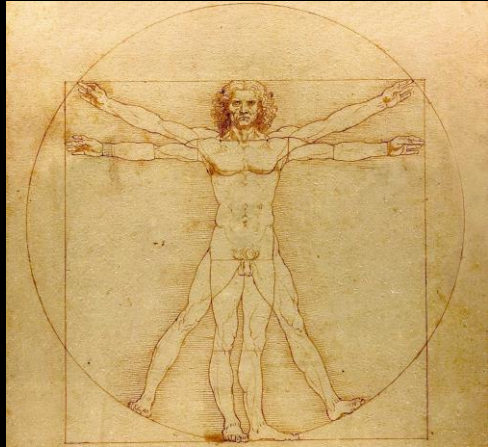
William Bullein Johnson

(1783-1862)

“Can man present God’s system in a selection and compilation of some of its parts better than God has Himself done it as a whole in His own book?”



19th Century Attacks on Confessions



Liberal

- Rationalism
- Schleiermacher



Conservative

- Alexander Campbell
- W.B. Johnson

Creeds and Confessions are:

1. Biblical

“Hear, O Israel, the LORD our God: the LORD is one!” (Deut. 6:7)

“You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God.” (Matt 16:16)

“That Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the Scriptures.”
- 1 Cor. 15:3–4

“There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.”

-Ephesians 4:4-6

“Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of
godliness

He was manifested in the flesh,
vindicated by the Spirit,
seen by angels,
proclaimed among the nations,
believed on in the world,
taken up in glory.”

- 1 Tim. 3:16

“So everyone who acknowledges* me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.” - Matt. 10:32-33

*ὁμολογέω (homologeó)
“to speak the same, to agree”

“If you confess* with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses* and is saved” - Rom. 10:9-10

*ὁμολογέω (homologeó)
“to speak the same, to agree”

“Nevertheless, in church I would rather speak five words with my mind in order to instruct* others, than ten thousand words in a tongue.” - 1 Cor. 14:19

Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches*.” - Galatians 6:6

*κατηχέω (katécheó)

“to teach by word of mouth”

“Now a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, came to Ephesus. He was an eloquent man, competent in the Scriptures. He had been instructed in the way of the Lord. And being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things concerning Jesus, though he knew only the baptism of John. He began to speak boldly in the synagogue, but when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, ***they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.*** And when he wished to cross to Achaia, the brothers encouraged him and wrote to the disciples to welcome him. When he arrived, he greatly helped those who through grace had believed, for he powerfully refuted the Jews in public, showing by the Scriptures that the Christ was Jesus.”

- Acts 18: 24-28

Creeds and Confessions are:

2. Beneficial

- They are the Basis for Our Fellowship
- “There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— **one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all**, who is over all and through all and in all.”
–Eph. 4: 4-6
- “Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus, that you may with **one mind and one mouth** glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.” – Rom. 15: 5-6

Creeds and Confessions are:

2. Beneficial

- They are Teaching Aids/Protect the Flock from Heresy

“And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ***until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God***, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, ***so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.***” – Ephesians 4: 11-14

Creeds and Confessions are:

2. Beneficial

- They Provide a Public Standard for Church Discipline

“I appeal to you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and create obstacles contrary to the doctrine that you have been taught; avoid them. For such persons do not serve our Lord Christ, but their own appetites, and by smooth talk and flattery they deceive the hearts of the naive.”

– Romans 16: 16-17

Creeds and Confessions are:

2. Beneficial

- They Witness to the Truth to those Outside the Church

“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. — Matt. 5: 14-16

