

STUDY PAK 19

THE EVANGELICAL CENTURY

“In his preaching Moody stressed the Gospel of Salvation through Jesus Christ. The simplicity of his language and the warmth and sincerity of his spirit attracted great numbers.”

~~B. K. Kuiper~~

I. THE SECOND GREAT AWAKENING (1795-1810)

The Second Great Awakening stirred America about spiritual things. The impact was almost as great as the first Great Awakening.

- A. “_____” became a major part of American frontier life.
- B. College Revivals.
 - 1. Timothy Dwight and Yale saw a historic collage revival.
 - 2. Revivals broke out at Harvard, Bowdoin, Brown, Dartmouth and Middlebury.

II. METHODISM

- A. Methodism boomed into _____ in the U.S.
 - 1. The history of early American Methodism is largely the History of Francis Asbury. As the charismatic father and bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church, Asbury held greater ecclesiastical powers than any Protestant in early national America. Alone, without check from any lay or clerical body, he defined the circuits and assigned the Methodist itinerants their charges. Counting the life and health of the ordained as the property of God, he placed rigorous demands upon his men. Some balked, but generally his personal self-sacrifice diffused complaint. During his forty-five year American ministry between 1771 and 1816, Asbury travelled on horseback 270,000 miles, preached 16,500 sermons, presided over 240 annual conferences, and ordained 4,000 preachers. And under his supervision, Methodism grew from the smallest to the largest American denomination.

2. From the forward to “*Asbury’s America*” by Terry D. Bilharty.

“At twenty-six years, the youngest of Wesley’s foreign missionaries, Asbury embarked for America glowing with youthful enthusiasm. His early experiences on the continent reinforced his high expectations. Just three weeks after arrival, Asbury already had concluded that the Americans were “more willing to hear the Word than the English.” Ashbury maintained this conviction throughout his American ministry.

Of course Asbury’s perfectionist eyes also spotted the spiritual shortcomings of the colonists. At a glance he noticed that the Americans were too attached to the things of the world to give as liberally as they ought. And he complained that too many were lax in their enforcement of Methodist rules, while too few yearned for the blessing of perfect love. Even more alarming, Ashbury disapproved of the reluctance of his itinerant colleagues to leave the cities. No matter how great the risk or hopeless the task, Asbury believed his mission was to spread the tidings of salvation across the fertile, yet virgin land.

Bold and stubborn, Ashbury determined to show his colleagues the true Wesleyan Way. With little regard for the weather, Asbury set out across hill and vale, travelling an extra ten or twenty miles daily, just to reach another house and preach another message. Wherever he went, Asbury established new classes and societies, even as he pruned existing rolls until they reflected only those willing to abide by the rigors of Methodist discipleship. His disciplinarian bent cost him initial popularity, and on several occasions his insistent travel almost cost him his life. Yet in time his reputation as a resolute travelling evangelist won him lasting respect. And his circuit-riding zeal gave credibility to the old adage, “No one’s out today but crows and Methodist preachers.”

- B. Methodist churches acted independently and preached the gospel aggressively.

C. _____

was the Baptists, no longer the outcasts of society.

III. THE ABUNDANCE OF CHRISTIAN ORGANIZATIONS

A large number of evangelical organizations developed in England and the United States.

American Bible Society
YMCA
Boy Scouts
The Tract Society
American Education Society
American Board for Foreign Missions
American Sunday School Union

American Home Missionary Society
The Colonization Society

There were denominational versions of most of these organizations. There were similar organizations all around Europe.

IV. THE SECOND GREAT AWAKENING AND THE MOVEMENTS IT INSPIRED RECEIVED GOOD ENCOURAGEMENT FROM THE GOVERNMENT

Encouragement of Christianity was normal but Christianity was not established.

V. THE BIBLE COLLEGE MOVEMENT

- A. Bible colleges became the heart of higher education in the U. S. and quickly spread to other countries.
- B. These were recognized as distinct schools.
- C. There were 180 denominational colleges in 1860, 144 were evangelical.

VI. C. G. FINNEY

- A. Finney combined aggressive citywide soul winning campaigns with education, and an anti-slavery campaign.
- B. He developed the “mourner’s bench.”
- C. He was openly Arminian.
- D. He emphasized “_____” in an evangelical context.

VII. THE HOLINESS MOVEMENT

This movement believes that:

- A. _____.
- B. Belief in “_____” or “_____” characterized the holiness movement.
- C. Female preachers like Phoebe Palmer were common in this movement.
- D. For the holiness movement the ultimate goal was “_____”.

VIII. THE THIRD GREAT AWAKENING (1858-9)

- A. Spiritual decline and financial abundance came to many churches.
- B. Lay prayer meetings began for revival.
- C. Revival spread across the country with millions of professions of faith.

IX. MISSIONS TO THE AMERICAN INDIANS

- A. Cherokees became Christianized. Shawnee, Miami, Wyandot, Nez Perce all had significant Christian groups.
- B. Sheldon Jackson pioneered missions in Alaska.
- C. Missionaries on the Oregon Trail opened up the west coast of the United States.

X. D. L. MOODY 1837-1899

- A. As an evangelist, Moody became the most famous man in American in the second half of the Nineteenth Century.
- B. He had a strong local church ministry in Chicago.
- C. He began citywide meetings around the U. S. that were greatly used of God.
“I look upon this world as a wrecked vessel. God has given me a lifeboat and said to me, ‘ _____ ’.”
- D. He dressed like a normal businessman.
- E. He used gospel hymns (which echoed the language of the King James Bible).
- F. He was a master of _____ and _____.
- G. He could be very trusting and allowed people in his ministry that could not be trusted.

XI. THE PROTESTANT CENTURY

Bible based Christian evangelicalism became dominate in the U. S. and England and influential all over Europe.