

Class TH605 History of Christianity

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Questions

1. What was one of the greatest challenges facing the Church in the 19th Century?
2. What outgrowth of the Wesleyan Church tradition was manifested in North America?
3. What are the three new Religions with elements that derived from Christianity in North America?
4. Who was Friedrich Schleiermacher?
5. What was the belief of Soren Kierkegaard?

Answers

1. The greatest challenge facing the Church in the 19th Century was probably slavery.
2. The outgrowth of the Wesleyan tradition manifested in North America was the birth of several Holiness Churches.
3. The three new Religions with elements that derived from Christianity were Mormons, Jehovah's Witnesses, and Christian Science.
4. In reinterpreting the Christian faith, Friedrich Schleiermacher was deemed the father of Liberalism.
5. The beliefs of Soren Kierkegaard held that the Christian faith is a matter of radical decision, like a leap into a void. He also insisted that the radical reality, through which all other reality is experienced and interpreted, is existence. He was considered the father of Existentialism.

Terms

- *Liberalism* propagates the teaching that the Christian faith is not a matter of doctrines or morality but instead of a feeling of absolute dependence on God.
- *Hegel's philosophy*, an interpretation of religion and its history, became very popular. It became the best interpretation of the Christian Faith and all reality.

- *Existentialism* came from the beliefs of Soren Kierkegaard that faith is a matter of radical decision and is not based on reality.

Summary

The nineteenth Century was a great time of modernity; however, it had its political and spiritual challenges. We witnessed The Second Great Awakening, the growth of the Wesleyan Movement, the challenge of the reinterpreting of the Christian Faith, Hegel's philosophy challenge by Soren Kierkegaard, and the French Revolution that saw the martyrs of hundreds of Christians.