

TH 605 - 5-3-1 – Gonzalez, Ch 9

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Questions:

1. What did the rationalist principles and modernity promise when applied to sciences and technology?
2. Why did modernity fail?
3. What happened at the Second Vatican Council?
4. What was the impact of Pentecostalism on modernity?
5. How did the modern ecumenical movement begin?

Answers:

1. They believed that every human problem would eventually be solved by reason and its younger sister, technology.
2. People began to distrust the promises of modernity to justify the colonial enterprise, which led to two world wars. This led to the use of modern technology, producing greater casualties and drastic ecological imbalances in every continent.
3. John XXIII saw the need to open the church to the contemporary world and respond to the people's real needs, called the Second Vatican Council. The Council declared solidarity with "the joys and hopes, the pains, and anguish" of the contemporary world. It took measures favoring freedom of conscience, the development of liturgies fitting each culture and condition, and the celebration of the mass in the vernacular language of each land.
4. Modernity believed miracles, supernatural experiences with the Holy Spirit, and gifts like speaking in tongues were a matter of past ignorance. When modernity gives signs of failure, one of those signs is precisely the growth and impact of Pentecostalism.
5. The modern ecumenical movement was born of many strands, but mainly out of the missionary movement since those who served in distant lands soon became aware that divisions among Christians were one of the main obstacles to the conversion of others. As a result, several missionary conferences gathered, seeking greater collaboration and communication among the various missionary enterprises.

Terms:

1. "White Man's Burden" – the colonizing powers' belief that to take the benefits of science, technology, and progress to the more "backward" peoples of the world, and even to do this by force if necessary.
2. Neocolonialism - The essence of neocolonialism is that the State which is the subject to it is, in theory, independent and has all the outward trappings of international sovereignty. In reality, its economic system and thus its political policy is directed from outside. The economic and political policies by which a great power indirectly maintains or extends its influence over other areas or people
3. Contextual theologies - Contextual theology asserts the necessity of cultural context to understand a passage of Scripture. It is the idea that the words of God do not always apply equally to all people at all times but that some passages must be interpreted

according to the culture in which they were written down. Some examples are Latin American liberation theology, the various feminist theologies, and Black theology in the United States and elsewhere.

Summary:

The twentieth century began with world war I. This period was based on the philosophy of modernity, which promised every human problem would be solved by reason and technology but resulted in the World Wars, colonialism, and damaging the environment. The Eastern churches outlasted the hostile government, whether Muslim or Communist, giving signs of vitality and sustaining faith even under challenging circumstances. The Roman Catholics became open to the modern world through the papacy of John XXIII. They developed theology at the Second Vatican Council, which responded to the real needs of the people. The Protestants responded by countering liberalism with Karl Barth, who is said to mark the end of liberalism and the struggle for civil rights movements in the United States under Martin Luther King Jr. Through the three Christian traditions, there was a movement parallel to anti-colonialism like Pentecostalism and also led to new sort of ecumenism.