

## 15. FROM THE 1900s TO NOW: CHRIST IS STILL BUILDING HIS CHURCH!

*Isaiah 9:6-7a, "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end..."*

### 1. SUFFERING, GROWTH AND DECLINE

#### (a) The suffering church

c.70m Christian martyrs to 2000... c.45m in 20<sup>th</sup> century... c.100k annually today

Tertullian (197AD): "The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church."

#### (b) The global church

Edinburgh World Missionary Conference 1910

= 80% of delegates from West

vs.

Lausanne Conference on World Evangelisation 1974

= 151 countries... 50% delegates from 2/3 World,

Formation of indigenized churches:

e.g. South Korea: 1<sup>st</sup> church in 1884... now 30k Protestant churches, 238 theological colleges, Seoul = 40% Christian

Mission: not from here to there... but from everywhere to everywhere

#### (c) The growing church

	1800	1900	1970	2000
% of world pop. who are Christians	25%	34.4%	33%	33.1%
Total number of Christians	250 million	558 million	1236 million	2000 million

#### (d) The declining church

	1960	1990	2000
% of Christians living in the West	58%	38%	31%

	1850	1950	1980	2010
% of UK at church	50%	10%	11%	6%

## 2. PENTECOSTALS AND CHARISMATICS

### (a) The story of Pentecostalism

- **Now:**

>11,000 Pentecostal denominations = biggest Protestant movement = >400m people

- **“First wave”**

1901 Topeka Kansas: Charles Parham distinctive doctrine of baptism in the Spirit, including speaking in tongues.

1906 William Seymour sparked Azusa St Revival in Los Angeles.

Distinctives: (1) Bible and doctrine; (2) Naïve Bible reading; (3) Emphasis on baptism in Spirit and tongue-speaking

- **“Second wave”**

From 1960s... penetration of Pentecostals into mainline denominations.

Martyn Lloyd-Jones, two-stage sealing of the Spirit.

Pentecostals within the Roman Catholic church.

Distinctives:

Similar... but *experience* over-rides doctrinal differences

- **“Third wave”**

1981, John Wimber at Fuller Theological Seminary: “Signs and wonders.”

Distinctives: miracles always accompany evangelism. Growing claims re: end of world

Outside mainline denominations: “Restorationist” churches in UK. “Power evangelism”, the Kansas City Prophets, Toronto and Pensacola Blessings.

Observation: a thirst for novelty

Hillsong Churches... Alpha Course and Holy Trinity Brompton

### (b) A key distinction:

#### (i) “charismatic evangelicals”

Gospel, Bible and doctrine are central... charismatic distinctives are peripheral (e.g. Wayne Grudem, Terry Virgo, Sovereign Grace)

OR

#### (ii) “evangelical charismatics”

Bible truth at margins or in past... truncated view of sin and God (e.g. Alpha)... outright heresy (e.g. Word-Faith movement, Benny Hinn, etc)

### 3. LIBERALISM AND ANTI-LIBERAL THEOLOGY

#### **(a) Liberal Protestantism: accommodation to culture**

1900s: optimism – from Enlightenment ideology and Industrial achievements – shared by Liberal Protestant theology

World War One (1914-18):

- Allies mobilised 42 million men, 5 million killed.
- Central Powers mobilised 23 million men, 3.4 million killed.
- Ineffective padres... growing atheism (e.g. C.S. Lewis)

Liberal Protestants explain war away as a Hegelian next-step: man is improving (The “English Modernists”) - no need of redemption or saviour.

Secular humanists: optimism... League of Nations

Non-Christian pessimists –despair: Franz Kafka, Aldous Huxley, Bertrand Russell, the early T.S. Eliot.

#### **(b) Karl Barth (1886-1968) and Neo-Orthodoxy**

From 19<sup>th</sup> century liberalism... to Scripture... man cannot save himself.

BUT weak: not biblical... rejects historicity... Trinity... election... salvation.

#### **(c) C.S. Lewis (1898-1963)**

Converted 1931, through J.R.R. Tolkien... Literature prof... Narnia!... great apologist

*Mere Christianity* (for sceptics), *Fern-seed and elephants* (anti-liberal)

BUT: purgatory and prayers to the dead... unclear on means of atonement...

#### **(d) Anti-Liberalism in the United States**

*The Fundamentals* (1910-1915) – Warfield, Mullins, Torrey, Scofield – “inspiration”

Fundamentalists? – orthodoxy... OR militancy, intolerance, isolationism, anti-intellectualism.

J Gresham Machen (1881-1937).. *Christianity and Liberalism* (1923)... from Princeton to Westminster Theological Seminary... from PCUSA to OPC

Al Mohler (1959- ) and Mark Dever (1960- ): rescuing the Southern Baptists

## 4. THE STORY OF THE 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY BRITISH CHURCH

### (a) Parachurch movements in the U.K.

- **the UCCF (Universities and Colleges Christian Fellowship)**

1919 CICCUC (Cambridge Inter-Collegiate Christian Union) refuses to join Student Christian Movement: "We could never join something that did not maintain the atoning blood of Jesus Christ as its centre; and we parted company."

- **the "Bash Camps" / Scripture Union camps at Iwerne Minster**

Eric Nash (1898-1982)... evangelise and disciple teenagers from leading independent schools... military style... simple Bible doctrine...

Legacy: John Stott, Dick Lucas, Vaughan Roberts, William Taylor, Richard Bewes, Jonathan Fletcher, David Fletcher... and Nicky Gumbel, Justin Welby

- **the Billy Graham Crusades**

First in 1954: during 3 months 38,000 people "went forward"

### (b) Strengths and weaknesses in the Church

- **problems in ministerial education**

theological colleges liberal... conservatives suspicious of learning... absence of deep and Reformed theology... poorer response to liberalism than in U.S.A.

- **key names**

Martyn Lloyd Jones (1899-1981). Westminster Chapel. Preaching. Puritan texts.

John Stott (1921-2011). All Soul's Langham Place. Expositor, evangelical statesman.

J.I. Packer (1926- ). Oxford, Bristol, Vancouver. Reformed theologian.

- **a sad division after 1966**

Lloyd-Jones (the independent and non-conformist) calls on Anglican evangelicals to leave the CofE... some did... Stott furious... relations between Anglican and free church evangelicals strained for 20+ years.

- **The Proclamation Trust, and Oak Hill Theological College**

Proclamation Trust 1986 (Dick Lucas & David Jackman): expository Bible ministry.

Oak Hill Theological College: (David Peterson 1996-2007, Mike Ovey 2007-2017).

## THE FUTURE FOR IMMANUEL CHURCH BRENTWOOD?

*[We look to] the eternal rest not only of the spirit but of the body also. There we shall be still and see; we shall see and we shall love; we shall love and we shall praise. Behold what will be, in the end, without end! For what is our end but to reach that kingdom which has no end?*

*And now, as I think, I have discharged my debt, with the completion, by God's help, of this huge work. It may be too much for some, too little for others. Of both these groups I ask forgiveness. But of those for whom it is enough I make this request: that they do not thank me, but join with me in rendering thanks to God. Amen. Amen. (Augustine, The City of God)*