



*Semester 3, General Session 4*

Good Christian men, rejoice  
With heart and soul and  
voice!

Give ye heed to what we  
say:

Jesus Christ is born today.  
Man and beast before Him  
bow,

And He is in the manger  
now:

Christ is born today,  
Christ is born today!

Good Christian men, rejoice  
With heart and soul and  
voice!

Now ye hear of endless bliss:  
Jesus Christ was born for  
this.

He has opened heaven's  
door,

And man is blest  
forevermore.

Christ was born for this,  
Christ was born for this!

Good Christian men, rejoice  
With heart and soul and  
voice!

Now ye need not fear the  
grave:

Jesus Christ was born to  
save;

Calls you one and calls you  
all,

To gain His everlasting hall.  
Christ was born to save,  
Christ was born to save!

## Housekeeping:

- January 20 is the next meeting.
  - Systematic Theology
  - Choose between:
    - Hermeneutics
    - Disciplines of a Godly Man
- Website is updated. PW to the resources page is MBC2023

# Church History 3: The Makings of the Modern Church

1600-Present

*Part 4*

# Science vs. Faith

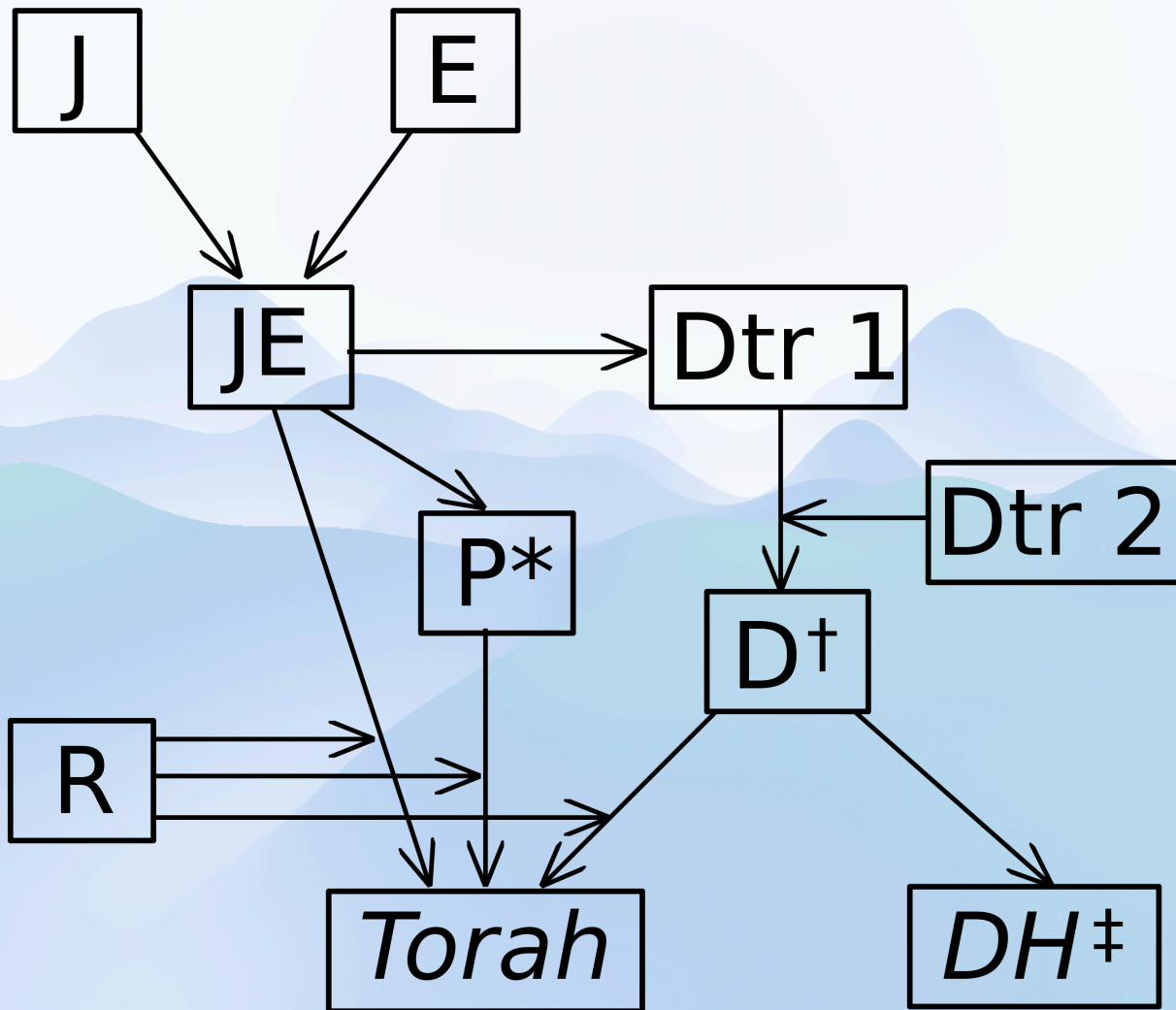
- Before the 18th century, science was rarely pitted against Christianity. Indeed some of the leading scientists and mathematicians like Copernicus, Galileo, and Pascal were very committed to the Christian faith.
- But as the ideals of the enlightenment philosophies began to take hold, more and more people began to see science and faith first as a) separated, then as b) conflicting, then as c) mortal enemies at war with one another.
- What is evident, according to many scholars today, however, is that Christianity did not start this war. According to Godfrey, Christians firmly believed and attempted to be friends with the practice of science. However, there arose a whole cadre of scientists who hated and wanted to eliminate Christianity.
- Culturally, science began to take on a philosophical component and explain to people what life is all about. Much of what was supposed to be simply test, observation, and repeat (which is the definition of science), evolved into philosophical theories about life. And so for many, science itself became a sort of religion.
- “Trust the Science.” Which really means “trust the folks who agree with us philosophically, and have the credentials of scientists.”



# Science vs. Faith

- So, what many so-called Christians did in the seminaries, especially in Europe, was to first embrace the agreed upon scientific theories and then USE those theories to re-interpret/deconstruct the Bible.
- One such effort was known as “Higher Criticism.” There are various branches of HC (Source, Form, Redaction, Tradition, Radical), and sometimes we can find some minor benefit in these speculations; but, the overall HC goal was to deconstruct the text of scripture to discover the original meaning, authors, history, even to discover what was deleted.
- Supposedly these scholars were engaged in a branch of science, but it is abundantly clear, that, just like so many scientists today, they begin with a presupposition, and a theory expressly designed to repudiate orthodox Christianity, and then try to use science to dismantle truth. (Example of Camels in Egypt).
- Probably the most agreed upon theory of these Higher Critics (for about 100 years) was the “Documentary Hypothesis.”







## Modernism, Liberalism, and the Church

- Modernism is a form of humanism - the emphasis is on the power, the ability, and the achievement of man to accomplish human flourishing. Defined, modernism is socially progressive trend of thought that affirms the power of human beings to create, improve, and reshape their environment with the aid of practical experimentation, scientific knowledge, or technology.
- Liberalism (theological) was an effort to ‘modernize’ the church so as to keep pace with a modern society, offering them answers that have some semblance of Christianity but are led by the nose with modernism.
- Every major American denomination battled liberalism in the late 19th and early 20th Centuries.



# Responses to Liberalism

- Adoption (Presbyterian, Episcopalian, Church of Christ, American Baptist, ELCA, Quaker, Moravian, Congregational, and much later United Methodist). These denominations became known as “Mainline” Denominations.
- Anti-Intellectualism (Independent Baptists, SBC, United Methodists - before later adopting, and many of the new Charismatic denominations like Assemblies of God, Pentecostal Holiness, and etc.).
- Pragmatism (SBC, UMC).
- Thoughtful Responses - J. Gresham Machen, Martyn Lloyd-Jones, Francis Shaeffer, J.I. Packer, C.S. Lewis, Carl Henry. Then later guys like Sproul, MacArthur, Boice, Ferguson, Patterson, Mohler.
- Result was a more fractured Christian culture and the rise of denominationalism.





## Denominationalism

- Arose in strong ways in response to modernism.
- Objective is that all that you need as a Christian or church is inside your denomination - So if you stay true to the denomination, it is safe and even successful. The denominational servants lead and protect and set up the boundaries of theological and practical safety. (Note the monolithic experience).
- Denominational entities are the only fully faithful institutions. (Find your wife inside the denomination).
- Personal and church health is measured by denominational involvement and faithfulness.
- Heroes are inside the denomination.
- This is alive and well today - how?

Tribalism

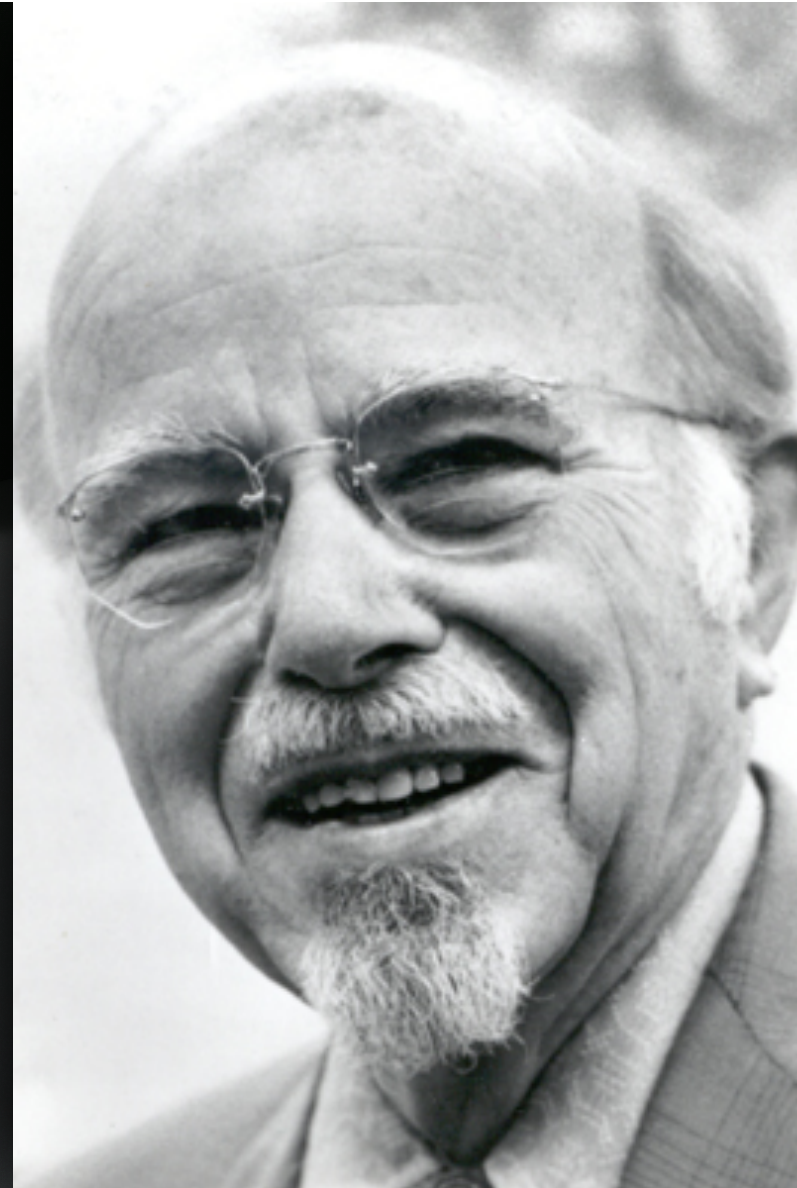
# Revivalism

- Arose from the Finneyism of the 19th Century -
- Whole objective was to produce an experience that is divine. It views history as a series of revivals, and so the idea of personal revival is paramount - followed by group, community, city, and with enough effort, country-wide experience.
- Heroes are the Charismatic leaders both radical (Benny Hinn) and modest (Ian Thomas of the Keswick Movement).
- Health is measured by subjective feelings, but these often give way to the need to see fantastic experiences.



# Pragmatism

- Arose out of the Darwinian Pragmatism of the 19th Century - offered by William James and John Dewey. The bottom line is nothing is of any real value if it does not have measurable, quantifiable results. (Example of the impact within the Industrial Revolution).
- Whole objective then is to grow God's kingdom by growing the church. So, business, marketing, and growth strategies should be adopted and employed to that end. (Note, Donald McGavran's *Bridges to God*).
- Health is measured in numbers, finances, buildings, and things like the number of conversions, baptisms, and churches planted.
- Heroes are the pastors and leaders with the biggest churches (who openly have embraced pragmatism): Bill Hybles, Rick Warren, Wayne Cordeiro - today Craig Groechelle, Steven Furtik, Ed Young Jr., and Andy Stanley.
- This is, by far, the most influential of all the philosophies today.



# Philosophy of Ministry Philosophy

- A Ministry Philosophy is WHY behind the HOW in ministry. It will define - what a pastor is, what preaching is, why and how of music, evangelism, children's, etc.
- These (first three) philosophies ALL have something desirable about them. Therefore, we must acknowledge many who hold these things, are sincere, earnest, love Christ and Scripture.
- A pastor and a church WILL be driven by ONE philosophy, though, in practice they may dabble in many different Philosophies.
- You can discover a church/pastor's philosophy by asking diagnostic questions (in your heart, first) like what determines health, who are the heroes, and what is the final objectives or goals.



# “Fidelitism”

- There are two things that unite fellows like whom I mentioned - J. Gresham Machen, Martyn Lloyd-Jones, Francis Shaeffer, J.I. Packer, C.S. Lewis, Carl Henry. Then later guys like Sproul, MacArthur, Boice, Ferguson, Patterson, Mohler.
  - Unflinching commitment to Biblical Orthodoxy
  - A ministry Philosophy of “Fidelitism”
- Fidelitism
  - Grounded in the doctrine of Sola Scriptura, its final objective is to be and do what is offered in Scripture as closely as possible.
  - Health is measured by how close and clear we are in following Scripture.
  - Heroes are the above and others who do the same.



# Hawaii Religion in the last Century

- The early missionary work done in Hawaii was mostly by denominations that would move toward liberalism. This impacted even more conservative denominations on-island.
- So from the 1940s to the 1980s, in the face of multiculturalism, pluralism, churches both liberal and conservative tended to be small and insignificant. By the early 1980s the data shows that only about 28% of people living in Hawaii identified as Christian, and only about 4% could be categorized as evangelical.
- In the 1980s Wayne Cordeiro (a Foursquare pastor) started churches on the Big Island, then on Oahu. He incorporated much from the Church Growth Movement, and maintained basic conservative beliefs. His efforts with many others of the same ilk, essentially re-Christianized Hawaii - to the point that in 2010, more than half of the people in Hawaii identified as Christian.
- Unfortunately, that same survey revealed that still only about 4% of the population believed “Jesus is the only way,” that, “The Bible is completely true,” and that, “Christians must make an effort to take their message to the world.”
- The GREAT news is that there are a growing number of churches who are faithful here, and all of these churches are growing and healthy.



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