

# 16—Fundamentalism and Modernism

“The Story of the Church”

Pastor Mike Cooke

## 1. Third Great Awakening

- A. 1836 Holiness Movement—Phoebe Palmer (Methodist)
- B. 1858 Higher Life Movement—William Boardman (Presb.)
- C. 1865 Salvation Army—William Booth (Methodist)
- D. 1870 “Baptism of the Holy Ghost”—Asa Mahan (Presb.)
- E. 1875 “Secrets of a Happy Life”—Hannah Whitehall Smith (Quaker)
- F. 1885 Signs and Wonders Evangelism—Maria Woodworth-Etter (Quaker)
- G. 1886 Moody Bible Institute—D. L. Moody (Congregational)
- H. 1887 Christian and Missionary Alliance—A. B. Simpson (Presb.)

## 2. The Fundamentalist-Modernist Controversy (1838-1869)

- A. 1857 “New School Presbyterians” split off—oppose slavery
  - 1) “Old School” (Princeton Theological Seminary, New Jersey)
    - a) Defended the Westminster Confession (Calvinism)
    - b) Opposed to association with non-Presbyterians
  - 2) “New School” (Union Theological Seminary, New York)
    - a) Wanted more evangelical, spirit-led approach
    - b) More broad minded to other denominations

## 3. Higher Criticism and the Briggs Affair (1880-1900)

- A. 1880 The Presbyterian Review debated Higher Criticism
- B. 1891 Charles Augustus Briggs challenged the authorship of the books of the Bible by modern scholarship
  - 1) The General Assembly votes to veto his professorship
  - 2) Union faculty vote to leave the denomination
- C. 1892 “Portland Deliverance” affirms “inerrancy” and expels dissenters
  - 1) 1893 Briggs is defrocked, re-ordained as an Episcopal

## 4. Movement to Revise Westminster Confession (1902)

- A. Led by Henry Van Dyke
  - 1) That all infants go to heaven (not just the elect)
  - 2) That Christ atoned for all mankind (not just the elect)
  - 3) That believers can reprobate—reject their salvation
  - 4) That the Pope is not the Anti-christ

## 5. The "Five Fundamentals"

- A. 1910 Convention passes the "Doctrine of Deliverance"
  - 1) The inspiration of the Bible by the Holy Spirit and the inerrancy of Scripture as a result of this
  - 2) The virgin birth of Christ
  - 3) The belief that Christ's death was an atonement for sin
  - 4) The bodily resurrection of Christ
  - 5) The historical reality of Christ's miracles
- B. 1910-1915 90 articles published called "The Fundamentals"
  - 1) Opposed all modernism and higher criticism
  - 2) Opposed emotionalism and Pentecostalism
  - 3) For Dispensationalism, Premillennialism, and Cessationism
- C. 1920 Convention rejects "Church Union" with non-Fundamentalists
- D. 1922 Harry Emerson Fosdick (Baptist) preaches "Shall the Fundamentalists Win?" at First Pres. New York

## 6. The Evolution Debate

- A. 1859 "The Origin of Species"—Charles Darwin (Anglican, agnostic)
- B. Early Christian teachers were divided over whether it was compatible
  - 1) 1860 Oxford Debate—Thomas Henry Huxley vs. Samuel Wilberforce
  - 2) 1874 Charles Hodge argued that evolution was atheistic
  - 3) Asa Grey argued that theistic evolution was compatible with Christianity
  - 4) Darwin never denied the work of a Creator as a primary cause
  - 5) 1882 Darwin is honored with burial at Westminster Abbey
- C. 1905 Sen. William Jennings Bryan attacks Darwinism and Higher Criticism
  - 1) 1913 becomes Woodrow Wilson's Secretary of State
  - 2) 1915 resigns, opposed to going to WWI against Germany
  - 3) Argues that Darwin and Nietzsche led to Social Darwinism
  - 4) Encouraged states to ban Darwinism from schools
- D. 1925 Scopes "Monkey" Trial
  - 1) Tennessee charges John Scopes with teaching Darwinism
  - 2) Bryan prosecutes, Clarence Darrow (agnostic) defends Scopes
  - 3) Scopes loses, but newspapers depict Fundamentalism as irrational, backwards, and intolerant
- E. 1926 the Presbyterian Convention reaffirms doctrinal toleration
- F. 1929 Westminster Theological Seminary forms to champion conservatism
- G. 13 US states currently allow some schools to teach Creationism