

Church History part 9

The 20th Century

Rev. 3:14-22 The Lukewarm Church

Laodicea as well as being a place name is also a compound word,

Laos – people

Dike -Custom, Right or judgement. The Right of the people are being asserted and the rights of the Saviour, to love obedience and devotion are being supplanted.

When did Philadelphia end and Laodicea begin prophetically? We will seek to answer that question this evening as we proceed.

Other symptoms of the Laodicean Church include spiritual blindness to its true and nauseating condition of Lukewarmness, the Lord outside of the activity, smug self reliance.

Post Millennialism

Optimism as a result of the massive expansion of the Gospel in the 19th Century, this had been the century of Evangelical revivals, many believed that the world would become Christianized and there would be a thousand years of bliss, before Christ returned.

The West's colonization of much of the world and bring civilization to these places, also increased the conviction of Post Millennial thinkers that the Millennium was close to begin.

The two world wars, shattered that idea. The 1914-18 war would have a huge impact on our world in many ways. Women in the work place, massive debts due to the costs of the wars. A disaffected and disillusioned male population, scared by the horrors of war. Many coming back from war had no time for God or the Church. David Earnshaw's Father as an example.

Puritanism

D.Martin Lloyd Jones, would have a huge impact on his Century, spreading a love for the Puritans and Reformed theology throughout the world.

Today's reformed men like John MacArthur, the late RC Sproul, John Piper and many others would be influenced by the beloved Doctor.

The Harely Street Physician, left the medical profession, stating he was tired of making people well, so they could sin again, he believed in the gospel he had a better solution. Went to South Wales, to a mining community and a mission Church. There was a lot of social activity In the Church, including a dramatic society and such like. He cancelled everything apart from the prayer meeting and the two Sunday meetings, one a gospel meeting and the other a ministry meeting. Hundreds were saved through his preaching, including many of the Church members, including the secretary and even Lloyd Jones wife! He proved, that there was still power in preaching the simple word of God expositively.

He was then called to Westminster Chapel in London to share the ministry with G.Campbell Morgan. The Second World war broke out and Lloyd Jones was so convinced God had called him to London for such a time as this, that even during the blitz, he would keep preaching and praying with bombs falling all around. He said He knew the Church would survive the Nazis attacks because the gospel was so needed in this hour. Many servicemen from the US, Canada, New Zealand etc. would visit during those years and take Lloyd Jones Calvinistic Reformed ideas with them.

He was also instrumental in the founding of Banner of Truth Trust, the leading purveyor of Puritan and Reformed Literature still influential to this day. He held conferences for ministers, puritan conferences and would influence JI Packer, John Stott and many others.

Pentecostalism

Asuza Street and the modern Tongues movement. January 1, 1901.

Evidence of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit was speaking in tongues, restoration of the gifts including healing, miracles etc.

Charismatic Movement is to be distinguished from old time Pentecostalism. It did not appear until 1960 when the spiritual gifts began to appear outside the Pentecostal denominations and affect Anglicans, Catholics in 1967 experienced the charismata for the first time, and many other traditional main line denominations.

People's Rights

1960's Women's rights, Civil rights, Gay rights movements.

Campus unrest, riots, Vietnam and breaking down of the old order.

The Jesus movement, Chuck Smith and the Calvary Chapels

Pioneering

Missionaries and Martyrs.

The Missionary Martyrs of Ecuador – Jim Elliot, Ned Saint, Pete Fleming, ED McCully and Roger Youderian. These would inspire multitudes of young people to volunteer for the mission field.

The news of their deaths was broadcast around the world, and [*Life*](#) magazine covered the event with a photo essay.

The Journals of Jim Elliot are still inspiring people to this day, to serve the Lord! January 8, 1956

More would be martyred in the 20th Century than in any previously century as a result of the rise of communism and radical Islam in our world. Yet more would come to Christ on a global scale than in any previous century!

Prophetic Truth

1948 Israel's declaration of nationhood and a homeland for the Jews, would excite prophetic fervor and convince many that we are now officially in the last days.

The late great planet earth -Hal Lindsey 28 Million Copies sold of the 1973 book, a movie was made narrated by Orsen Wells, TV specials were made about it, and most importantly multitudes were led to Christ through the reading of this book. Incidentally Lindsey believed the Rapture would occur no later than 1988, either we missed it, or he got that one wrong!

Proclamation of the Gospel

RA Torrey 28 January 1856 – 26 October 1928)

I have included RA Torrey for a very specific reason. If we recall previous sessions where we talked about the German Higher Criticism that had infected the Universities and Seminaries which denied the Supernatural and the inerrancy of Scripture.

RA Torrey – Was educated in these very institutions and even accepted their reasonings.

He graduated from [Yale University](#) in 1875 and [Yale Divinity School](#) in 1878.
After further studies in [theology](#) at [Leipzig University](#) and [Erlangen University](#) in 1882–1883

However he had a praying mother who was a genuine believer,

At age fifteen he was at Yale University and passed through a period of scholastic skepticism. His quick mind learned easily. He was an expert dancer and his conscience was not oversensitive about campus good times. "What more could I want?" he thought. "I've got all I need to make me happy." Social and worldly delights like race tracks, cards, the theater all crowded out any pursuit of Christian objectives.

One night at Yale, he dreamed his mother came to him as an angel asking him to preach. His melancholy increased. He had a sudden impulse to commit suicide. He hurried to the washstand and fumbled for his razor or any other sharp instrument that would serve this purpose, but could not find a suitable weapon. His mother, miles away, was pulled from her bed by an invisible power to pray for her son whose faith had been shaken. Young Reuben, about to commit suicide one way or another, was gripped by a desire to pray. Snapping back to reality, he knelt at his bedside and asked the Lord to come into his heart. He said, "Oh, God, deliver me from this burden--I'll even preach!" He returned to his bed with a soothing peace settling over his mind and his future plans were settled. This was in the spring of 1875, when Torrey was 18 years old. In Yale chapel he made a public profession of faith and, following graduation in 1875, he entered the Yale Divinity School.

In fact, Torrey became a most bitter foe of liberalism the rest of his days. He was hopelessly orthodox.

He was instrumental in the publishing of the Fundamentals, a series of books

he Fundamentals: A Testimony To The Truth (generally referred to simply as ***The Fundamentals***) is a set of ninety essays published between 1910 and 1915 by the Testimony Publishing Company of Chicago. It was initially published quarterly in twelve volumes, then republished in 1917 by the [Bible Institute of Los Angeles](#) as a four-volume set. Baker Books reprinted all four volumes under two covers in 2003. [Delmarva Publications](#) offers an [eBook](#) version sold by [Amazon](#).

According to its foreword, the publication was designed to be "a new statement of the fundamentals of Christianity."^[1] However, its contents reflect a concern with certain theological innovations related to [liberal Christianity](#), especially biblical [higher criticism](#). It is widely considered to be the foundation of modern [Christian fundamentalism](#).

The project was conceived in 1909 by California businessman [Lyman Stewart](#), the founder of [Union Oil](#) and a devout [Presbyterian](#) and [dispensationalist](#). He and his [brother](#) Milton anonymously provided funds for composing, printing, and distributing the publication. The project had three successive editors: [A. C. Dixon](#), Louis Meyer, and [Reuben Archer Torrey](#). The essays were written by sixty-four different authors, representing most of the major Protestant Christian denominations. It was mailed free of charge to ministers, missionaries, professors of theology, [YMCA](#) and YWCA secretaries, [Sunday school](#) superintendents, and other Protestant religious workers in the United States and other English-speaking countries. Over three million volumes (250,000 sets) were sent out.^[2]

The volumes defended orthodox Protestant beliefs and attacked [higher criticism](#), [liberal theology](#), Roman [Catholicism](#) (called [Romanism](#) by many Protestants of the time), [socialism](#), [modernism](#), [atheism](#), [Christian Science](#), [Mormonism](#), [Millennial Dawn](#) (whose members were sometimes known as [Russellites](#), but which later adopted the name [Jehovah's Witnesses](#)), [spiritualism](#), and [evolutionism](#).

Mr. Torrey also made it a habit to hold special prayer meetings asking God to pour out His Spirit in mighty revival power around the world. Little did he suspect how instrumental his own life would be in bringing this to pass.

Getting a leave of absence from his Chicago responsibilities, he quickly began to ponder that God might use him as the human instrument to bring worldwide revival--his burden for many years. He was to see some 102,000 come to Christ in the next few years in the most globe-girdling enterprise ever undertaken by an evangelist.

Billy Graham - Man of Ethical integrity, powerful gospel preacher and friend and confident of presidents

Mass Evangelism, multitudes saved. Billy Graham Evangelistic Crusades using mass media etc;

Problems – Christianity Today and Neo Evangelicalism, Fuller Theological Seminary and a further distancing from Fundamentalism. Ecumenicalism, Anglican's and Catholics sharing the platform at Billy Graham Crusades etc.

Radio – TWR, HCJB

What about the brethren Movement

1950's the Hall Chapel Division

1970's evident something was wrong, a serious call to renewal by Bill MacDonald

William G. MacCartney and Letter of Interest from the Home Fields. Interest Magazine

Chicago Hospitals and Stewards Foundation – health care for workers

Money, Men and an Agenda – the next step from becoming like the Baptists,

Professional ministry – Abandon Head Covering and give a greater role to women in the Church – minimize the Lord's Supper

1989 Decade of Promise

God's answer

David Long, Boyd and Jabe Nicholson, Randy Amos, Steve Hulshizer all and more raised up to defend NT Principles

Success and then settled on their lees, led to a going through the motions. Still a need of renewal of the heart not just of the principles. The principles are only as good as those who practice them!