

Message Notes ~ January 17, 2010

HiStory: The Enlightenment and the Great Awakening

The Enlightenment (17th and 18th Centuries)

- Human Reason replaced Christian faith as the cornerstone of culture
- Great thinkers
- Every human being had the right to life, liberty, property, and the pursuit of happiness and no one, including government and church, ought to violate those rights.
- An individual had the freedom to pursue whatever non-coercive religion he saw fit or to refrain from religious pursuit altogether.
- Historical tensions between church and state
- Enlightenment Religion: Deism
 - Denied the trinity, divinity of Jesus, inerrancy of Scripture, miracles, intervention of God in creation
 - Leads eventually to Unitarianism and Liberal Theology

The Great Awakenings (18th and 19th Centuries)

- “You cannot be awakened unless you have first fallen asleep.”
- Most 2nd and 3rd generation Americans were “outside the church”
- A powerful movement of God in reaction to Deism and dead-orthodoxy
- Great Preachers: Jonathan Edwards, George Whitfield, and Charles Finney
- Supernatural conversions and emotional responses
- Evangelistic fervor
- “The ground is level at the cross of Christ.” George Whitfield
- Greater sense of societal responsibility – abolition of slavery, prison reform, temperance, and missions

How God Breaks Out

1. It's Gnosticism with a twist Colossians 2:2-10
2. God - a stumbling block to the “wise”
1 Corinthians 1:18-31
3. Repeated Awakenings 1 Corinthians 2:1-5
4. Freedom - “level at the cross of Christ”
Ephesians 2:14-18
5. God's people - a light to the world Matthew 5:13-16

How is my faith made stronger because we studied this period?”

- Hope given, hope received, hope acted on