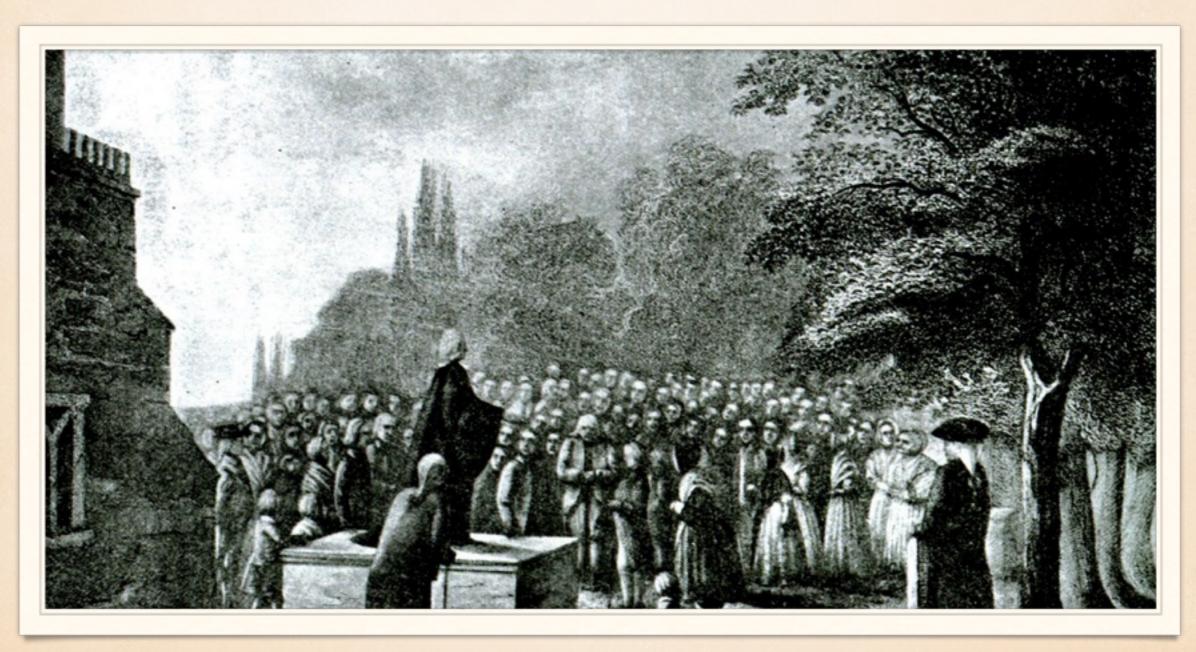
THEOLOGY OF JOHN WESLEY

Introduction, Context, Biography and Methodism



WHY ARE YOU HERE?

REASONS FOR STUDY

- Historical Roots what we believe
- Keel of the ship sailing across the wind
- Worship of God with all our mind
- Develop a language
- Theology impacts practice
- Be inspired & motivated

REFORMATION SKETCH

- Rise of Christendom
- Luther & 95 Theses
- Continuing Reformation & Counter Reformation
- English Reformation Political & Religious tied
- Church of England middle way
- Puritans & expulsion
- Toleration Act
- Pietism & societies

EARLY YEARS

- Grandparents and parents
- John: June 28, 1703 March 2, 1791
- Charles: Dec. 18, 1707 March 29, 1788
- Saved from fire at age 6
- Oxford for priesthood begins spiritual journey

LATER YEARS

- Holy Club at Oxford: study, chapel attendance, communion, and visiting poor & imprisoned
- Georgia: Parish priest, evangelist to Natives, and organizes society
- Sophy Hopkey & Return to England
- Return, Moravians, and Aldersgate

REVIVAL

- Wesley breaks with the Fetter Lane society and establishes the Foundry
- Whitefield encourages Wesley to "field preaching" "The world is my parish"
- Organizing converts into societies, into classes, into bands (including penitential)
- Adding lay preachers to help with the work
- Adding conferences for the preachers to ensure consistency in theology and preaching

SUMMARY

- Wesley comes from a home which took faith with the utmost seriousness
- Wesley lived in a religious environment which sought a middle way, moving to scientific, that was politically fearful of dissent
- Socially, there was extremely rich and extremely poor, with systems which oppressed the poor

SUMMARY CONTINUED

- Wesley taps into a vein which is seeking to develop a heart religion and he seriously begins to pursue it (Love of God and Neighbour)
- As he develops Methodism he understands it as a renewal movement within the Church of England

THEOLOGY & CONTROVERSY

- Wesley accused of being a 'Papist'
- Wesley accused of being an 'Enthusiast'
- Wesley rejects 'stillness' or 'quietism'
- Wesley rejects 'antinominism'
- Wesley wrestles with 'assurance'
- Wesley articulates doctrine of 'Christian Perfection'
- Wesley insists on 'universal grace'

TENSIONS IN THE MOVEMENT

- Many in the Church of England saw Methodism as a separate sect
- Many in the movement wanted to be a separate sect
- Need for preachers, need for offering communion
- Preachers becoming enthusiasts
- Ordination of preachers for America

WESLEY'S CLAY FEET

- Struggled with women
- Made decisions which ensured Methodism would come out of Church of England
- Pride, sometimes refusing to admit to inconsistency or overstating things

WESLEY'S BRILLIANCE

- Dynamic leader from the beginning people looked to him and he stepped up
- catholic spirit embracing Christian truth from many camps
- Balancing between conversion and discipling
- Organizing: societies, classes, bands and conferences
- Mission: care of the poor, education, and imprisoned
- Thoughtful as well as emotive