

TURNING POINTS IN CHRISTIAN HISTORY: Learning to spot key moments/movements
#10 THE FIRST GREAT AWAKENING (Paul E. Engle)

i. WHAT CONDITIONS LED UP TO THE FIRST GREAT AWAKENING?

- A. The _____ in Europe
- B. _____ in New England in 1727 turned people's attention to God.
- C. The _____ was also in decline creating a spiritual vacuum.
1. Average marriage age and keeping warm:
 2. England also: painting "Gin Lane" by Wm. Hogarth (1751)
- D. The church had many unconverted members and even many ministers had not been regenerated. What then was church life like?
1. The church in Northampton, Massachusetts was led by a minister named _____
 2. What did he help formulate? _____
 3. Story of his grandson: _____

II. GOD WORKED IN THE LIVES OF STRATEGIC LEADERS TO BRING HIS

AWAKENING: Jonathan Edwards, William & Gilbert Tennent, George Whitfield, Timothy Dwight

A. God worked through Jonathan Edwards, Northampton, Massachusetts (1703-1758)

1. What happened early in his pastorate? _____
2. Funeral sermon on Psalm 90:5-6 resulted in what? _____
3. What was the point of his honey sermon? _____
4. His most famous sermon was what? _____
5. What did he use effectively in the sermon? _____
6. How did the people respond? _____
7. Years earlier in the fall of 1734 he also preached two sermons on justification – trust in the person & work of Christ rather than in your own goodness. These had a powerful impact planting seeds in the hearts of people.
7. In December what happened to an immoral young woman? _____.
8. During the midst of this revival Edwards started putting some of his observations in writing in what he called "A Faithful Narrative of the Surprising Work of God." Tells how town changing.
9. Spread to 30 some other towns and to England.

B. What did people think of this revival? It divided the Christian world into two camps:

1. Old Light people
2. New Light people

John Piper: *“Does any of us know what an incredible thing it is that this man, who was a small-town pastor for 23 years in a church of 600 people, a missionary to Indians for 7 years, who reared 11 faithful children, who worked without the help of electric light, or word-processors or quick correspondence, or even sufficient paper to write on, who lived only until he was 54, and who died with a library of 300 books--that this man led one of the greatest awakenings of modern times, wrote theological books that have ministered for 200 years and did more for the modern missionary movement than anyone of his generation?”*

D. God also worked through William Tenant (1673-1746) and Gilbert Tennant (1703-1764)

1. What did William do in New Jersey?
2. How did God use William's son Gilbert?

E. God worked through the British evangelist George Whitfield

1. Whitfield was born in Gloucster, England in 1714. He studied at Oxford where he came in contact with John and Charles Wesley.
2. His preaching attracted large crowds. He often got up at ____ a.m. and was preaching by ____ am. What happened at the Boston Commons? _____
3. It's estimated that _____% of the American colonists in the mid-1700s had heard Whitfield speak in person. He preached over _____ times to over 10 million people – much outdoors.
4. Whitfield was a Calvinist. What was his preaching like? _____
5. What to look for if you visit Newburysport, MA and look up Old South Church.
6. It's difficult (if not impossible) to understand the Great Awakenings in North American without taking into account the powerful preaching of George Whitfield who was used by God to bring many Americans to faith in Christ.

CONCLUSION – Thanks and prayer