#11 The Second Great Awakening
TONIGHT CITY WIDE REVIVAL

AUG 10 14 7 00 PM

PASTOR JERRY BLACK
How did this emphasis on revivals begin in America?
God used Edwards, Tennants, Whitfield
Let’s look at another man that God used in the Second Great Awakening.
God worked through Timothy Dwight (1752-1817)

Grandson of Jonathan Edwards
From Jonathan Edwards’ 1,394 studied descendants came
1 American vice president,
3 senators,
3 governors,
3 mayors,
30 judges,
13 college presidents,
65 college professors,
100 lawyers,
60 physicians,
75 military officers,
100 preachers and missionaries,
60 prominent authors, and
80 other public officials
*Mother Mary taught him alphabet in one lesson.

*Age 7 started reading OT historical books.

*Taught himself Latin

*Enrolled at Yale at 13.

*Bored so took up card playing and distractions.

*Tutor confronted him so turned around in last 2 yrs.

Timothy Dwight
“Every morning he woke up at 3:30 a.m. one hour before chapel, to study Greek. But studying by candlelight exacted a physical toll. Over the years, Dwight’s eyesight failed and he suffered from excruciatingly painful headaches.”
Age 41 returned to Yale to become president. (1795)

State of college distressful. Only c. 10% of students willing to use name of Christ in public. College church was almost extinct.
“Most of the students were skeptical and rowdies. Wine and liquors were kept in many rooms.; intemperate, profanity, gambling and licentiousness were common. I hardly know how I escaped... most of the class before me were infidels and called each other Voltaire, Rousseau, D’Alembert, etc. etc.”
Within first year student behavior showed signs of great improvement.

New president began to work to address this.
* Dwight taught theology and preached every week.

* Met with senior students to advise them. Enabled students to get to know their president as very humble and godly role model.
President had weekly debate with questions submitted by students.
Dwight chose to address question they thought he would avoid:

ARE THE SCRIPTURES OF THE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS THE WORD OF GOD?
Give me your best arguments against Scripture.

He meticulously and aggressively demolished their case and in its place built a well-reasoned defense of the accuracy of the Bible.
DESCRIPTION BY HIS SON SERENO:

“From that moment infidelity was not only without a stronghold but without a lurking place. To espouse her cause was now as unpopular as before it had been to profess a belief in Christianity. Unable to endure the exposure of argument, she fled from the retreats of learning ashamed and disgraced.”
Timothy Dwight began a 6 month series of sermons on the authority and accuracy of the Bible.

He delivered the baccalaureate address in 1797 “The Nature and Danger of Infidel Philosophy”
“A gentleman once asked me whether I allowed my children to read the books of infidels. I told him yes: for they must become acquainted with them sooner or later, and while I am living I can confute the arguments they use. I should be unwilling to have them find these arguments unawares, with nobody to meet them.”
Revival began to sweep the campus in 1797. Group of 25 students founded Moral Society of Yale College.
Dwight believed only God could send revival.

Paul’s analogy: 
Cor. 2:6-7 farmer plants seeds. God sends rain, sun.
By 1802 1/3 of Yale student body of 230 professed to have new faith in Christ. The whole college shaken. By end of year 58 students joined college church.

Surely God is in this place!
In subsequent years other revivals broke out in Yale as part of The Second Great Awakening.
I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord

TEXT: Timothy Dwight
MUSIC (ST. THOMAS, S.M.): Aaron Williams

1. I love Thy kingdom, Lord, The
2. I love Thy Church, O God! Her
3. For her my tears shall fall; For
4. Beyond my highest joy I
5. Sure as Thy truth shall last, To
I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord

1. I love Thy Kingdom, Lord, The house of Thine abode,
2. I love Thy Church, O God: Her walls before Thee stand,
3. For her my tears shall fall, For her my prayers ascend;
4. Beyond my highest joy I prize her heavenly ways,
5. Sure as Thy truth shall last, To Zion shall be given

The Church our blest Redeemer saved With His own precious blood.
Dear as the apple of Thine eye, And graven on Thy hand.
To her my cares and toils be given, Till toils and cares shall end.
Her sweet communion, solemn vows, Her hymns of love and praise.
The brightest glories earth can yield, And brighter bliss of heaven. A-men.
II. GOD WORKED THROUGH THE RISE OF CAMP FIRE MEETINGS (Second Great Awakening)
James McGready — church prayed for revival (Logan County, KENTUCKY)
How did this Kentucky church pray for revival

Prayed every Saturday evening at sunset.
Prayed 30 min. Sunday AM.
Prayed whole day 3rd Sunday of month.

For 3 years!
CANE RIDGE KENTUCKY: Gathering of 19,000 to 25,000 frontier people to hear Gospel.

I didn’t hear a word of swearing. Religious awe pervaded Kentucky.

President of Washington College on visiting.
How did idea of outdoor camp meetings begin?

In Britain had 4 day gatherings called **communion**: fasting, praying, preaching, then communion.

From English and Scottish immigrants in South
Western frontier towns didn’t have enough people to have a church. So scheduled occasional gatherings patterned after 4 day practice in Britain. Preach, pray, take communion: people were converted.
Over time emphasis shifted from communion to inviting people to make a decision for Christ.
USED NEW TECHNIQUES SUCH AS SAWDUST TRAIL TO WALK AISLE AND SIT ON ANXIOUS BENCH
Started to see hysterical behavior.
Songs to stir emotions without much content. Simple words/lyrics. Shifted from declaring biblical truth to cultivating personal experiences & feelings.
GOAL SHIFTS

From declaring biblical truth
To cultivating personal experiences and feelings

From gathering for communion
To getting people to make decisions for Christ
BETHEL CHURCH ARBOR
ESTABLISHED CIRCA 1830

Earliest documented seat of Methodism in Cabarrus County. Originally used to house week-long camp meeting revivals traditionally held the second Sunday in August. A reported estimate of 2000 people attended in 1878. Families camped in cabins or tents around the Arbor. Oak timbers are hand-hewn and held together with wooden pegs. The Sunday tradition continues to this day in the form of a congregational homecoming.

BETHEL ARBOR PLACED ON NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES 1997
DEDICATED AUGUST 10, 1997
Trumpets called people to worship: 8 am, 11 am, 2 pm, 8 pm
Long prayers, loud preaching, shouting, & many conversions
Bethel Church Arbor is an open, hand-hewn, timber-framed structure which was built as a religious shelter for camp meetings. Its exact construction date is not known, but church records indicate that at least the earlier section of the arbor was standing in 1866. Built in 2 stages, the Arbor now measures 74 by 57 feet. The heavy timbers supporting the roof are beams attached with mortise and tenon joints that are further secured with wooden pegs.

The Arbor’s original use was to house annual week-long camp meeting revivals held typically the 2nd Sunday in August after the crops had been laid by. Rows of “tents” or small wooden cabins were seen about the periphery of the campgrounds. The Arbor was constructed to contain the overflow from the church sanctuary as people came from far and near with their families, some with their animals. Parishioners were called by trumpet to no less than four meetings a day; 8 & 11 a.m., 2 & 8 p.m. Services were characterized by long prayers, loud preaching, plenty of shouting and many conversations.
Some revival practices were then taken from campfire mtgs. back into the churches.
Leader in movement. Preaching in upstate New York in what came to be called “the burned-over district.” Used anxious bench and mourners bench.
Revival is “not a miracle or dependent on a miracle in any sense. It is purely philosophical result of the right use of the appropriate means.”
Charles Finney

Revival not a miracle

Anti-Calvinism Arminian

Revival worked UP

Jonathan Edwards

Revival miracle sent by sovereign God

Calvinist

Revival prayed DOWN
Denied God’s sovereignty, human depravity, and penal substitutionary atonement. All one needed to become a Christian was to decide to do it, without any act of God required.
Starting in 1830s revivals measured by how many decisions for Christ were made. Eventually Finney’s new measures became less effective. Had to keep up with new innovations; singing evangelists, comedians, etc.
Finney wants to look back at the circumstances that were surrounding the first great awakening at Cane Ridge and to sort of make scientific observations about it, pull whatever we can make out of that and bring it into the present in hopes that it would recreate revival.”

(Malachi Tresler)
REVIVALS TRANSFORMED INTO REVIVALISM

Had impact on church, felt today
III] WHAT WERE THE LONG-TERM EFFECTS OF THE AWAKENINGS?
RESULT 1: Conversions plus social impact.

25,000 to 30,000 conversions in New England

Anti-slavery, prison reform, child labor, women’s rights, inner city missions
RESULT #2: founding of colleges to train Christian leaders (6 out of 9 colonial colleges)
Princeton, Rutgers, Univ. of PA, Brown University
RESULT #3

Impact on evangelism.
New outreach to the American Indians.
(Native Americans)
RESULT # 4

Worship changed in some churches. Shift to altar calls: from theocentric to evangelistic services. Musical entertainment to touch emotions.
COULD A REVIVAL HAPPEN AGAIN IN AMERICA?
Study of history motivates us to keep praying but also to humbly recognize we are dependent on God’s sovereignty. May God raise up people like Edwards, Dwight, and Whitfield in our day.
“Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; 38 therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.””

Matthew 9:37–38 (ESV)
A REVIVAL PRAYER
(COME DOWN, O LORD)

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