

The Church in Historical-Theological Perspective

VI. The Modern Church (Fifth Message)

A. Details:

The Period is largely 1700-2000. It is a period that sees great changes in almost every aspect of life and major challenges for the church. Some of the great factors that influence it are:

1. World expansion (finding what the world really is)
2. Giant wars and periods of great depression
3. Increased ability in communication and travel
4. Revivalism (there have always been revivals but....)
5. Missionary enterprise
6. The "one world" philosophies and these leading to the modern ecumenical movement among the ecclesiastical institutions.
7. Progress in science: medicine, cosmology, technology

B. Scripture: Read the warnings in Acts 20 as well as those in 2 Peter and Jude.

C. Theological Disputes:

1. Modernism: the attempt to interpret the Bible in the light of present knowledge
2. Liberalism: the attempt to read or interpret the Bible in a non-obligatory way...the text is not binding, we are "free."
3. Philosophy: Too much for a poor farmer to discuss but the ideas were to find man's path without recourse to a basic truth.
4. Biblical criticism: The study of the Bible to take it apart and discern genuine parts from non-genuine parts (over simplification).
5. Church diversions: How much energy, etc., should be put into societal issues and programs...the role of the social Gospel.
6. The Ecumenical Movement....an attempt to unite "church" bodies in a societal way with little or no regard to doctrine or principle.

D. Developments:

1. Missions: enormous change in movement and maintenance.
2. Para-Church work
3. Eschatological fervor
4. Development of "issue" churches
5. The mega-church move and the rebirth of Pentecostalism.

E. And Message six....the future church....wait until another year!

*Evilness - but don't  
 Suffer - be strong  
 Responder: says the health  
 watch out  
 Throat - toleration of all  
 souls - be willing  
 strength  
 Philadelphians: open door  
 so we can  
 be committed*

*Emergent Church  
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