

e. Assimilation and Evangelism continue to be consuming tasks made more difficult by the population matter while at the same time being given greater opportunities.

3. The Nationalistic Trend..in the old world the church was often identified with the state to such an extent that to fail to be a member of the church was to be a poor citizen. There will be some nationalistic tendencies in the American churches but it will be conditioned by a couple of hard facts:

- a. Separation of church and state
- b. Participation in the Hierarchies no guarantee of acceptance in the national process.

4. Geographical factors...most of the early colonials were from relatively small countries where the natural barriers could be surmounted without great difficulty. But the territorial possibilities of the American continent changed the perspective of viewing these things dramatically.

- a. Continental Magnitude
- b. Natural barriers
- c. Tendency to provincialism and pragmatism.

As I mentioned, not all of these are of merit or difficulty at the same time but all enter into the total concept of what the church in the new continent was and what its problems were.

## II. Sketches of American Church History...a long section!

To treat every movement and every church with the sort of material needed to make it complete or equal...would prove difficult so we sub-divide this material into three portions and take our view of church history in America from that.

### A. The Colonial Period: Foundation of the American Churches

1 A quick note on the original Americans...so far as original may be pressed. Indigenous faiths.... Common religious ideals of the American "Indians"as well as some views of community life that made the settled way of the Europeans hard on them...and vice versa.