

The History of Christianity

(taken from Eerdmans' Handbook to the History of Christianity)

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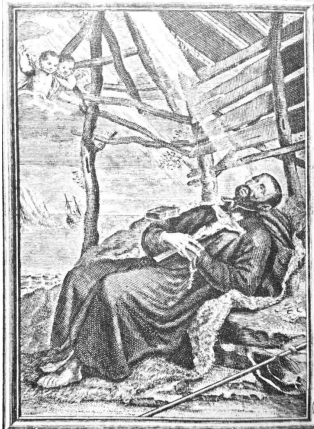
Introduction: The Christian Centuries, Part 11

(excerpts from Robert D. Linder's introduction)

A Middle Way (cont.). While Anglicanism was never large and was ecclesiastically unimportant except in Britain and countries of the British Empire and Commonwealth, its far more long-term religious, political, and social impact was the Puritan movement which it spawned. Although Puritanism was never a formal ecclesiastical body, and although it ultimately failed in its avowed goal 'to purify' the Church of England of its 'popish and Romish trappings', it did affect deeply a number of Christian groups. It also influenced British and American life in general—and, through British and American Christians, ultimately much of the Christian world at large.

Attempts for reform were still being made within the Catholic church, including an association of priests and lay Christians called the Oratory of Divine Love, and several reform-minded popes led the drive for renewal. But on both sides attitudes hardened. Protestantism became more institutional and the Roman Inquisition and the Council of Trent (1542-63) defined the response of the Church of Rome to the Protestant threat. Trent did much to revitalize the spiritual and ecclesiastical life of the church by clarifying doctrines and reforming administrative abuses. In addition, the Society of Jesus (Jesuits), founded in 1540 by Ignatius of Loyola (1491-1556), helped renew the church and deter Protestantism.

Protestant expansion outside of Europe occurred along the Atlantic seaboard of North America in the British colonies which eventually became the United States. Many of the early settlers were attempting to escape from some form of persecution in Europe, chiefly Puritans, Independents, Quakers, and Baptists. In the 1600's also increasing numbers of Reformed and Lutheran Christians arrived to escape oppression by Roman Catholic rulers in France and parts of Germany. These new evangelical movements originated in the impulse to return to the model of apostolic Christianity in order to revitalize the faith in their own time. The repercussions of the 18th century revivals were eventually felt all over the world.



Francis Xavier, one of the Jesuit founders. He went to Goa in 1542 to preach the gospel, and many there were subsequently baptized. Xavier later went on to Japan and China.

“The Tool Pouch Psalm” Psalm 37:1-22

September 7, 2025

Hartford Bible Church, Pastor Duane Cline

Tools for the Believer:

Fret not- _____

Trust- _____

Commit - _____

Be still - _____

Refrain - _____

The words Shall and Will – Tell us God is not _____,

but He is _____

Why do we need the tools? _____

Spiritual battle with the “wicked”- Who are the Wicked?

Ephesians 6:11-12 _____

How can we best use these tools?