

The History of Christianity

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

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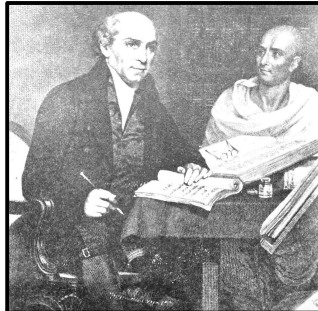
(excerpts from Robert D. Linder's introduction)

An age of reason. The Enlightenment—that 18th Century intellectual revolution which provided much of the stimulus for the political revolutions of that period—deeply affected Christianity as well. Christians were forced to think through their faith and to respond to the increasingly aggressive attacks on institutional Christianity which men such as Voltaire (1694-1778), Pierre Bayle (1647-1706), and Denis Diderot (1713-84) had made. Also, it helped Christian leaders realize that a dead orthodoxy devoid of a dynamic gospel would not appeal to a society living under stress. The fire of withering criticism drove Christians to re-examine their own faith to measure it against the original aims of its founder, Jesus Christ,

Finally, the world-wide effect of the revivals and the adaptability of Protestant Christianity in this period must be emphasized. The revivals rejuvenated the spiritual and social life of Britain and America, and to some extent Germany. They stimulated countless new efforts at spiritual renewal all over the world. Missionary enterprises reached Asia, Africa and many parts of America. They also set the stage for a new wave of revivalism which engulfed America and parts of Europe in the 19th century.

Into all the world. The great revivals of the 18th century, especially the Wesleyan renewal in Britain, made possible one of the most significant developments in Christian history—the modern missionary movement. Out of the evangelical and pietist awakenings came new efforts to carry the gospel of Christ to other lands. Organized missionary activities were begun by Protestants, and in the 19th century swelled to major proportions.

In 1792, after years of discouragement, William Carey (1761-1834) was able to persuade his fellow believers to organize the Baptist Missionary Society. The BMS was only the first organization in the vast missionary enterprise. Carey sailed to India, and spent the remainder of his life there. In the Danish trading center at Serampore, near Calcutta, he and his colleagues set to work on Bible translation: they printed all or part of the Bible in several languages. They also established a college which continues to be outstanding in the education of Indian Christian leaders. In 1795, Dutch Christians started the Netherlands Missionary Society. In 1799, in the Church of England, a society eventually called the Church Missionary Society was founded. The year 1804 marked the establishment of the British and Foreign Bible Society, the first of the national Bible societies. In 1810, US evangelicals began the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, and in 1815 European pietists established a missionary training school at Basle, Switzerland.



William Carey's many-sided work in India included Bible translation and production, evangelism, church-planting, education and medical relief, as well as social reform, and linguistic and horticultural research

“Church Affairs”

1 Timothy 5

September 28, 2025

Hartford Bible Church, Pastor Dan Hummel
(#'s in parentheses () are verses in 1 Timothy 5)

Church Family (1-2)

Widows (3-16)

Deut. 10:18; 14:29; 24:17-21

Acts 6:1-7

James 1:27

Luke 2:36-38

Washing feet: Gen. 18:4; 19:2; Luke 7:38, 44; John 13:5, 14

Elders (17-25)

Deut. 25:4, Matt. 10:10 & Luke 10:7; 1 Cor. 9

2 witnesses: Deut. 19:15; Matt. 18:16; John 8:17; 2 Cor. 13:1

Don't even greet false teachers: 2 John 1:11

Medicine (22)

Dan's purpose for the local church

Prov. 27:17

Acts 20:7a

1 Cor. 16:2a

Phil. 2:3b (all of Phil. 2)

Heb. 10:23-25