

“The Origin & Teachings Of The Methodist Church Pt. 1”

Lesson Text: **1 John 4:1; 1 Thessalonians 5:21.**

I. How, Who, And Why The Methodist Church Began.

- It's Founder: John Wesley was born June 14, 1703, in a parish of Epworth, Lincolnshire in England.
- During the years 1717-1719, two brothers, John and Charles Wesley, were studying at Oxford University in England.
- They were the sons of a Church of England clergyman.
- John was ordained a priest in the Church of England.
- John and Charles Wesley, were joined by George Whitefield, and about twelve other students who formed a religious club or society at Oxford University.
- The purpose of this society was to fight or protest the formality, coldness, and “ungodliness” in the Church of England.

II. The Struggles Of The New Denomination.

- At the first, they were not well-received. They were given nicknames by other students: “Bible Moths, Bible Bigots, and the “Holy Club.”
- And because they adopted strict methods of study, diet, and exercise.... they were called, “Methodists.” This eventually was chosen as their official name.
- Some historians give 1729 as the beginning. Others give 1737-40 as their start date.
- In 1736, the Wesleys came to Georgia; Charles, as a secretary to General Oglethorpe, and John, as a missionary to the Indians.
- The mission was largely unsuccessful, but on the ship John met a group of Moravians, who inspired him by their piety.
- Upon returning to London two years later, he attended a Moravian service in Aldersgate Street, London. Here he heard Luther's preface to the book of Romans read.
- About this, Wesley said, *“I felt my heart strangely warmed; I felt that I did not trust in Christ, in Christ alone for salvation; and assurance was given me that He had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death.”*
- With this experience, Wesley was ready to commit himself to preaching the doctrine of “Faith-only.”
- As these men went out to preach, they found the pulpits of the Church of England closed to them.
- They preached on the streets, in homes, barns, and mining pits.
- They did start to have success in gaining converts to the Methodist faith.
- In 1740, an old abandoned government building known as “the foundary” became the headquarters for the movement.
- Methodism sprang from England to Ireland, and then to America.
- Prior to the Revolutionary War, the Organization invaded the colonies in America.
- The first two men to preach Methodist doctrine in America were two Irish men: Phillip Embury in New York City in 1776, and about the same Robert Strawbridge went to Fredrick County, Maryland.
- Wesley has troubles getting the sacraments to members by ordained preachers, so they ask the Bishop of London to ordain some of their preachers, but he refuses to do so.
- So Wesley ordains some himself, and sets Dr. Thomas Coke to be superintendent to preside over the flock of Christ (Methodists) here in the United States.
- From this struggle, Bishops were appointed to ordain preachers to perform the sacraments.
- The Methodist Episcopal Church of the United States originated with the Christian Conference held in Baltimore, December 24, 1784.
- in 1784 with the first Book of Discipline adopted at the Christmas Conference, which formally established the Methodist Episcopal Church in America, serving as its foundational law and doctrine for clergy and members.
- John Wesley dies in 1791, but his movement lives on today....

III. The Formation Of The Methodist Disciple—Creed Book.

- Rules And By-Laws Are Necessary To Be A Methodist. (Quotes From Disciplines, (1912,1948).
- But The New Testament Is Our All-Sufficient Guide- **2 Timothy 3:16-17.**

IV. Was It Really Necessary To Start A New Church?

- What Should Men Do Instead? Start A New Church Or Go Back To Jesus' Church? **Matthew 16:18.**
- **1 Corinthians 3:9-11.**
- Reformation Is Not Enough— We Must Restore God's Way- **Jeremiah 6:16.**