

Evangelistic Zeal of George Whitefield

Who is George Whitefield?

- Preached 18,000 sermons
- Rising to 30,000 with informal sermons
- 7 trips to America
- 15 trips to Scotland, 2 to Ireland
- 1 each to Gibraltar, Bermuda & Netherlands

Who is George Whitefield?

- Born - 16th Dec, 1714
- Aged 18 - attends Pembroke College
 - Where he meets the Wesley's and joins the Oxford Holy Club
- 1735, aged 21 converted
- 1736, ordained as a Deacon in the Church of England

Who is George Whitefield?

- 1736 - Begins preaching in Gloucester
 - Fills pulpits in London
- Wesley's request him to come to America
- 18 month waits for his boat to be ready - preaches extensively
- Huge popularity, overflowing congregations - many saved.

Who is George Whitefield?

- Dec 28th, 1737- departs for the American colony of Georgia
- Arrives 7th May 1738
- Compelled to build an Orphanage
- Returns to England to raise funds, Aug 28th 1738

Who is George Whitefield?

- Feb 17th, 1739 - preaches outdoors for the first time at Kingswood
- Mar 25th a crowd of 23,000 at Bristol
- Then in London, at Moorfields
- 30,000 - Kennington common
- 80,000 - Hyde Park

Who is George Whitefield?

- August 1739 - Returns to America
- Brings revival to the colony, thousands converted
- Jan 1741 - returns to England
- Conflict with John Wesley over the Sovereignty of God in salvation
- Increased hostility towards Whitefield

Who is George Whitefield?

- 1741 - Married Sarah
- Preached through England & Scotland
- 1744 - His Son died
 - Assassination plot
 - Increased financial difficulty for the Orphanage
 - Returns to America for four years
 - Another wave of revival

Who is George Whitefield?

- 1748 - severely ill
- Goes to Bermuda to recover
 - Preaches himself well!
- Returns to England
 - Meets Countess of Huntingdon
 - Who becomes a faithful supporter
 - Meets British Aristocracy

Who is George Whitefield?

- 1751 - America 4th trip
 - Orphanage still financially needy
 - Returns to England to raise funds, extensively preaches
- 1754 - America 5th trip
- 1755 - Returns to England, poor health
 - 8 years preaching up and down the British Isles

Who is George Whitefield?

- 1759 - Finally clears Orphanages debt
- 1763-65 Returns to America, preaching up and down the coast
- 1768 Sarah dies
- 1769, Sept 16th - preaches final sermon in London
 - soon after sails back to America

Who is George Whitefield?

- Spring 1770 - extensive preaching campaign
- 1770 Sept 29th preaches in Exeter
- 1770 Sept 30th around 6am dies

A life of singular devotion

- Immersed in Scripture
- Saturated himself with prayer
- He was a humble man
- He strove for holiness

A life of singular devotion

Questions:

- What lessons are there for us from Whitefield's devotion?
- What connection is there between his devotion and his desire to share Christ?
- Why do we not so boldly proclaim Christ with our families, colleagues, friends

His Theological convictions

- Total Depravity
- Unconditional Election
- Definite Atonement (*Limited or particular atonement*)
- Efficacious Call
- Persevering Grace

His Theological convictions

Questions:

- Why do we resist teaching such truths to non-believers?
- How should these doctrines shape our evangelism in much the same they did Whitefield?

Gospel without compromise

- Exposing Sin
- Exalted the cross
- Requiring regeneration
- Pointed people to eternity

Gospel without compromise

Questions:

- Out of these areas - what do we find easy to speak about, what do we find hard and why?
- Why is it essential if we hold to the doctrines of grace that we preach a fully orbbed gospel?
- Why do we often struggle to do so?
- Why do we not like to call people to come?

Conclusion

- Man of deep convictions
- He deeply loved people, sinners
- He did it all for the Lord, empowered by the Spirit
- He remained humble
- Driven by the desire to proclaim the glory of God

Questions

- What has most struck you about Whitefield?
- What will you do differently in light of his example?