



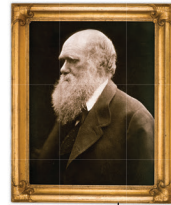
PART 5

ANNO DOMINI
1800-1900

A SURVEY OF

Church History

W. ROBERT GODFREY



S T U D Y G U I D E

A Survey of Church History

Part 5, AD 1800-1900

W. Robert Godfrey



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The Nineteenth Century

INTRODUCTION

The ideas and events of the nineteenth century produced effects that can be felt down to this day. In this introductory lesson, Dr. Godfrey shows us why the history of the church in this century still matters and gives us five categories to analyze and understand it for ourselves.

LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. To provide an overview of how the church developed in the nineteenth century
2. To establish a pattern to follow the trends of the nineteenth-century church

SCRIPTURE READING

For the word of the cross is folly to those that are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

—1 Corinthians 1:18

LECTURE OUTLINE

- A. The nineteenth century is a rich and challenging century in church history.
 1. This series will largely focus on the American and reformed experience.
 - a. The American experience was greatly influential around the world.
 - b. The reformed experience was critical to the intellectual defense of the faith.
 2. This series will not be limited to the American and reformed experience.
 - a. The events of this century throughout the world are still very influential on the church today.
- B. The vast social and economic changes of the nineteenth century suggest that Christianity's future will be problematic.

1. Throughout this century, Christianity remains influential among common people but begins to lose its influence among cultural elites.
 - a. "On Religion: Speeches to Its Cultured Despisers" is an early indication of this trend.
 - b. To this day, there will be a widening gulf between a vibrant Christianity and those that despise it.
 2. The French Revolution sets the stage for the nineteenth century.
 - a. It showed that a violent overthrow of a monarchy and government was possible, and many Europeans wondered if other revolutions were yet to come.
 - b. Napoleon is crowned as emperor of France, and the effort for democratization in the French Revolution fails as monarchies throughout Europe are strengthened.
 3. The growth of cities fosters the growth of the middle class.
 - a. Wealth was once based on landownership and agriculture, so people expected to remain in the class into which they were born.
 - b. Colonization facilitated trade in cities, and the Industrial Revolution brought people from farms to cities with greater opportunities.
 - c. Political pressures cause aristocrats and the way people see aristocrats to change.
- C. There were five responses to the events in Europe during the nineteenth century.
1. Christianity is attacked.
 - a. This is a direct result of the posture of the French Revolution.
 - b. There will continue to be voices attacking Christianity to the point that some will insist Christianity is dangerous.
 2. Christianity is established.
 - a. There are attempts to enforce Christianity as the legal religion and to punish by law any attack against it.
 - b. The establishment of Christianity is evidenced by laws of the British Parliament pardoning anyone who had served in Parliament without being a member of the Church of England.
 - c. The danger is that Christianity is made the ideological prop of the government, and thus any criticism directed toward the government is directed toward Christianity
 3. Christianity is accommodated.
 - a. There is a response to the growing intellectual criticism of Christianity that demands that it be accommodated to those criticisms.
 - b. It is assumed that if Christianity wants to be intellectually respectable, it will have to change its attitude on the Bible and evolution.
 4. Christianity is defended.
 - a. Strong intellectual defenses of the Christian faith are put forth.

- b. This is most noticeably seen through Abraham Kuyper and the Princeton theologians.
5. Christianity is revived.
 - a. There is great emphasis on a vigorous commitment to Christianity in the nineteenth century.
 - b. While Europe widely insists on the legal establishment of Christianity, America advances Christianity with much more success by reviving a Christianity that is vital to the heart.

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. The law stating that a person had to be a member of the Church of England in order to serve in the British Parliament an example of Christianity's being _____.
 - a. Accommodated
 - b. Defended
 - c. Established
 - d. Attacked
2. The French Revolution was successful in establishing a democracy in France.
 - a. True
 - b. False
3. _____ changes were the primary cause behind the attempts for democratization in the nineteenth century.
 - a. Social
 - b. Political
 - c. Religious
 - d. Economic
4. The church was not dramatically affected by the social and political changes of the nineteenth century.
 - a. True
 - b. False
5. Which of the following did not lead to the rise of the middle class in the nineteenth century?
 - a. The Industrial Revolution
 - b. The ownership of land
 - c. The growth of cities
 - d. The increase in trade

6. In the nineteenth century, that the Bible was beginning to be viewed in light of evolutionary theory is an example of Christianity's being _____.
 - a. Attacked
 - b. Revived
 - c. Accommodated
 - d. Established

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is different about the attempts to revive Christianity in America as compared to the attempts made in Europe during the nineteenth century?
2. What are the similarities of the French Revolution's attack on Christianity and today's attacks on Christianity?
3. What can you imagine are some of the dangers of establishing Christianity by law?
4. Why is the reformed experience so important to emphasize throughout the course of nineteenth-century church history?

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