

AMERICA'S CHRISTIAN HERITAGE

11/26/2017

We have been looking at George Whitefield and his success in America. Today we continue that same theme.

I. WHITEFIELD WAS TIRELESS IN HIS PREACHING ZEAL.

A. He usually arose at 4:00 a.m in the morning.

- 1. Many times he would spend most of the night in reading and devotions*
- 2. He was an ardent student of the Word of God.*

B. His weekly preaching schedule was amazing.

- 1. On Sundays he preached morning, afternoon and evening.*
- 2. On Monday through Thursday he preached;*
 - a. At 6:00 a.m . in the mornings.*
 - b. At 6:00 p.m. every evening.*
- 3. He preached every Saturday night.*
- 4. He averaged 12 messages per week.*
- 5. Sometimes he averaged speaking 60 hours per week.*

C. Whitefield at home and abroad gave his life to the preaching of the gospel.

- 1. In 34 years Whitefield preached over 60,000 sermons.*
- 2. As he preached he corresponded with people throughout the world.*
- 3. During his 34 years of preaching he visited every town in;*
 - a. England*

b. Scotland

c. Whales

- 4. He crossed the Atlantic 7 times.*
- 5. He preached from Maine to Georgia.*
- 6. It is estimated that 80% of America heard him preach.*
- 7. God used Whitefield to set aflame all the colonies.*

II. PEOPLE FELL UNDER CONVICTION AT WHITEFIELDS PREACHING

- A. After preaching in one place he received over 1000 letters the following week from people who fell under spiritual conviction.*
- B. 300 out of the 1000 people responded to the faith.*
- C. In Yorkshire Whitefield was preaching from the top of a gallows scaffold.*
 - 1. His theme was; "It is appointed unto men once to die."*
 - 2. As he spoke someone cried out that one next to him had just been stricken by the destroying angel and died.*
 - 3. After a brief silence he began again, only to hear a second shriek and a second man fell to the ground.*
 - 4. The entire mass of people seemed overwhelmed by his appeal.*
- D. One evening in New England a drunken sailor ran up to Whitefield.*
 - 1. "Well, Rev. Whitefield! Good to see you again!"*
 - 2. "I do not know you sir," Whitefield replied, bemused.*
 - 3. "Don't know me! Why, you converted me ten years ago!"*
 - 4. "I should not wonder. You look like one of my converts. If the Lord had converted you, you would have been a sober man!"*

III. WHITEFIELD LEFT US AN EXAMPLE TO FOLLOW.

A. *Although he was as well known as any man in the English speaking world he remained a very humble servant.*

B. *Whitefield was;*

1. *A might man in the Scriptures.*

2. *Was dominated by a sense of the greatness, majesty and holiness of God.*

3. *A man who learned what it meant to die to self.*

4. *Known as a man who preached with a broken heart and tear filled eyes.*

IV. WHITEFIELD CLOSED HIS LIFE IN THE HARNESS FOR CHRIST.

A. *He preached his last sermon in Newbury Port, Massachusetts on September 29th, 1770.*

B. *Whitefield died at the age of 56 of a single spasmodic fit of asthma.*

C. *He had preached the day before on II Corinthians 13:5—“Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?”*

1. *He had prayed; “Lord Jesus, I am weary in Thy work but not of Thy work. If I have not yet finished my course let me go and speak for Thee once more in the fields, seal Thy truth and come home and die.”*

2. *As he began his sermon he barely had enough strength to speak;*

a. *His weakness was evident from the time he stepped into the pulpit.*

b. *For several minutes he was unable to speak and said; “I will wait for the gracious assistance of God.”*

c. *God touched him and he spoke with great power for nearly two hours and*

ended his sermon by crying out: "I go! I go to rest prepared. My sun has arisen and by the aid of heaven has given light to many. It is now about to set...No! It is about to rise to the zenith of immortal glory...O thought divine! I shall soon be in a world where time, age, pain and sorrow are unknown. My body fails, my spirit expands. How willingly I would ever live to preach Christ! But I die to be with Him!"

4. *Whitefield had often said; "Sudden death is sudden glory. Whether right or not I cannot help wishing I may go off in the same manner. To me it would be worse than death to live to be nursed and see friends weeping about me. "*

D. Whitefield finished his two hour sermon and went to a home for rest;

1. *Feeling ill he left the family dinner table and went up to rest.*
2. *Tradition says that later on as he went to bed, his friends requested that he preach.*
3. *Whitefield stopped on the second landing and turned with candle in his hand and complied with their wishes.*
4. *He preached until the candle burnt down and went out before continuing on to bed.*

E. After a fitful sleep he arose the next morning to see his last rising sun on earth, but his first in eternity.

V. SOME CLOSING REMARKS

A. It is estimated that Whitefield spoke to ten million hearers.

B. Whitefield had a four year old son to die;

1. *Whitefield did not stop preaching*
2. *He preached 3 sermons before the funeral*
3. *He was preaching as the bells rang for the funeral of his son.*