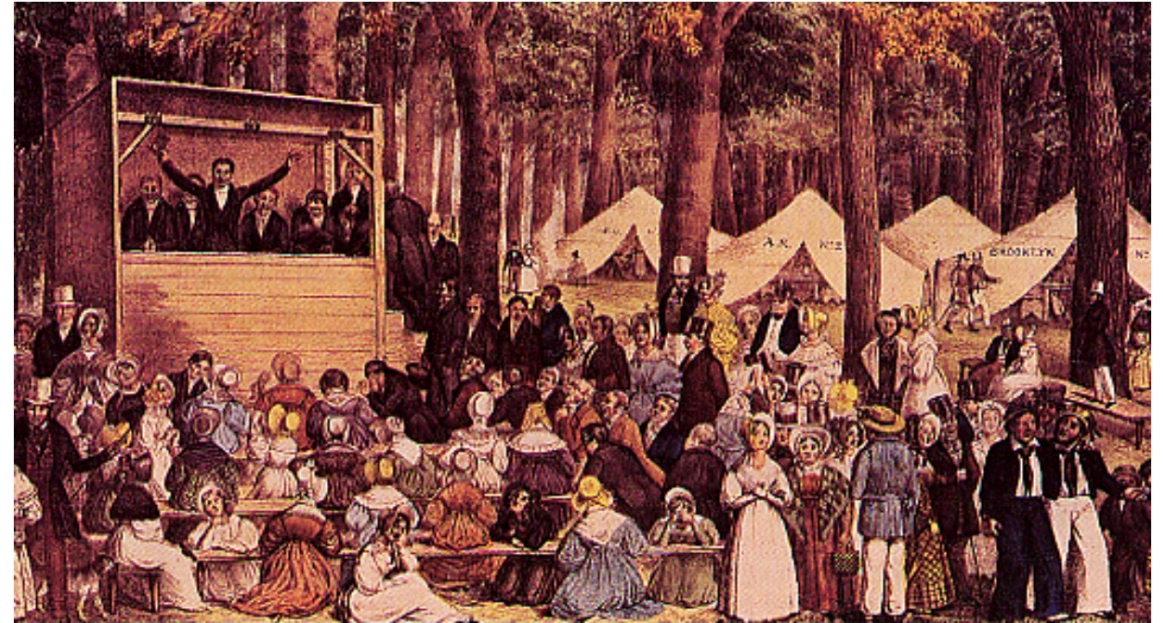


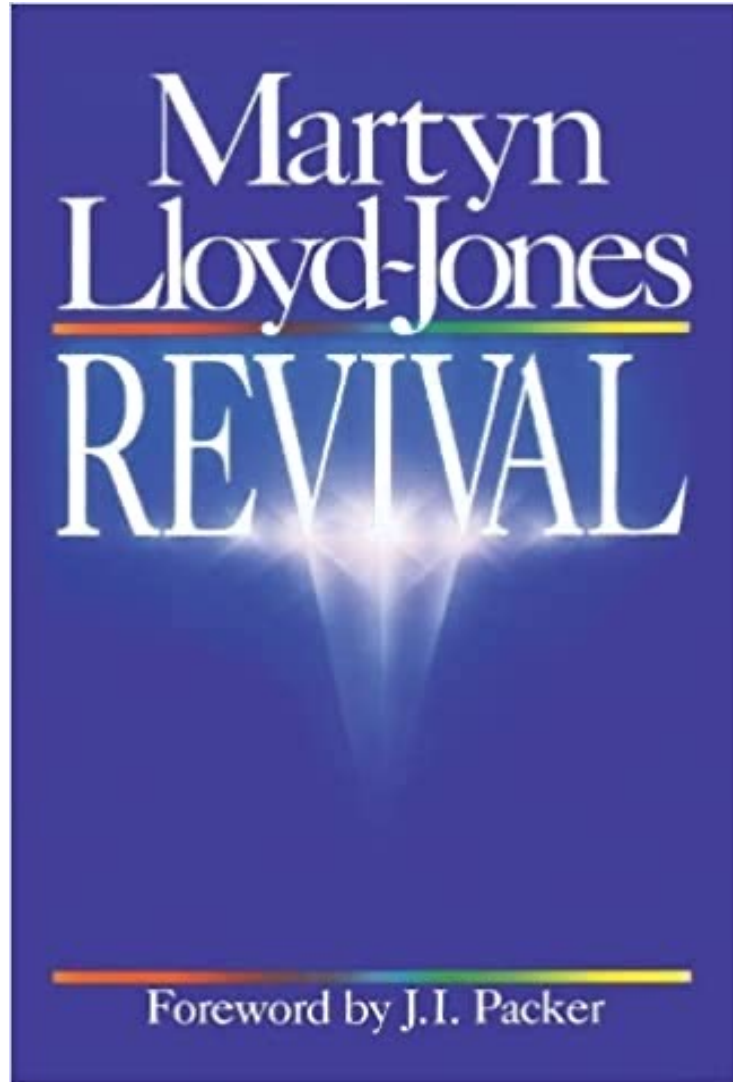
# Revival: Call to Mission

## Revivals, Awakenings and their Impact in American History 1730-1860 (Part VII)



John M. McCardell, Jr.  
Men's Bible and Breakfast  
Parish Church of St. Helena  
Winter 2023

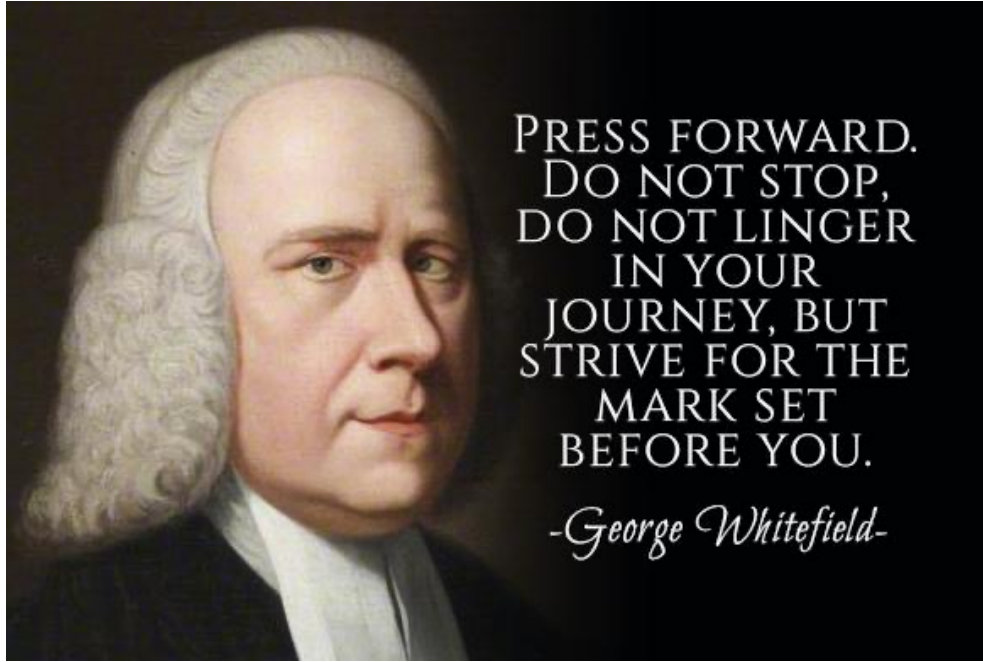
# Lest we forget ...



- “God is from everlasting to everlasting. He does not change at all.”
- “But... it is equally true that man is still the same.... Primarily interested in the very things that interested him four thousand years ago, in the time of Abraham.”
- “If you could show me how this new knowledge in any way makes any difference to God, I would be ready to listen. But it does not. He is the God who made the earth. Man is only just beginning to discover what God did, and what God has done, and what God is still doing.”
- “Nothing surely is more important for us at the present time than to read the history of the past and discover its message.”
- “The whole emphasis today is upon man’s search for God, as if God had never revealed himself at all. But the whole case of the Bible is that God is searching for man, and that he has revealed himself to man; because man by searching cannot find God.”



# “A Penitent Heart, The Best New Year’s Gift”



“My brethren, when grace is given us to repent truly, we shall turn wholly unto God; and let me beseech you to repent of your sins, for the time is hastening when you will have neither time nor call to repent; there is none in the grave, whither we are going; but do not be afraid, for God often receives the greatest sinner to mercy through the merits of Christ Jesus; this magnifies the riches of his free grace; and should be an encouragement for you, who are great and notorious sinners, to repent, for he shall have mercy upon you, if you through Christ return unto him.”

# Phillis Wheatley, “On the Death of George Whitefield”

HAIL happy saint on thy immortal throne!  
To thee complaints of grievance are unknown;  
We hear no more the music of thy tongue,  
Thy wonted auditories cease to throng.  
Thy lessons in unequal'd accents flow'd!  
While emulation in each bosom glow'd;  
Thou didst, in strains of eloquence refin'd,  
Inflame the soul, and captivate the mind....  
He pray'd that grace in every heart might dwell:  
He long'd to see America excell;  
He charg'd its youth to let the grace divine  
Arise, and in their future actions shine;  
He offer'd THAT he did himself receive,  
A greater gift not GOD himself can give:  
He urg'd the need of HIM to every one;  
It was no less than GOD's co-equal sON!...

Take HIM ye wretched for your only good;  
Take HIM ye starving souls to be your food.  
Ye thirsty, come to this life giving stream:  
Ye Preachers, take him for your joyful theme:  
Take HIM, “my dear AMERICANS,” he said,  
Be your complaints in his kind bosom laid:  
Take HIM ye Africans, he longs for you;  
Impartial SAVIOUR, is his title due;  
If you will chuse to walk in grace's road,  
You shall be sons, and kings, and priests to GOD....  
Then let us view him in yon azure skies:  
Let every mind with this lov'd object rise.  
No more can he exert his lab'ring breath,  
Seiz'd by the cruel messenger of death.  
What can his dear AMERICA return?  
But drop a tear upon his happy urn,  
Thou tomb, shalt safe retain thy sacred trust,  
Till life divine re-animate his dust.

# Phillis Wheatley (1753-1784)



- First African-American author of a published book of poetry.
- Born in Gambia or Senegal, kidnapped and sold by an African chief into slavery at the age of seven or eight, brought to North America (on *The Phillis*) and purchased by the Wheatley family of Boston, where she learns to read and write and begins to write poetry.
- Travels to London with her owner's son in 1773 to find a publisher. *Poems on Various Subjects, Religious and Moral* published in London in September 1773.
- Manumitted by her owners in 1773. Marries. Dies impoverished.



P O E M S

O N

V A R I O U S S U B J E C T S,

R E L I G I O U S A N D M O R A L.

B Y

P H I L L I S W H E A T L E Y,

N E G R O S E R V A N T t o M r. J O H N W H E A T L E Y,  
o f B O S T O N, i n N E W E N G L A N D.

L O N D O N:

Printed for A. BELL, Bookfeller, Aldgate; and sold by  
Messrs. COX and BERRY, King-Street, BOSTON.

M D C C L X X I I I.

On being brought from AFRICA  
to AMERICA.

**T** WAS mercy brought me from my *Pagan* land,  
Taught my benighted soul to understand  
That there's a God, that there's a *Saviour* too :  
Once I redemption neither sought nor knew.  
Some view our sable race with scornful eye, 5  
“ Their colour is a diabolic die.”  
Remember, *Christians*, *Negroes*, black as *Cain*,  
May be refin'd, and join th' angelic train.

# **“Awakenings” Defined (McLoughlin)**

- “Critical disjunctions in our self-understanding”
- “Profound cultural transformations,” not brief outbursts
- “Confusing and tumultuous” but ultimately “positive and unifying”
- “Begin in periods of cultural disruption and grave personal stress.... [People] lose faith in the legitimacy of norms, the viability of institutions, and the authority of leaders of church and state.”
- “Conversion of great numbers of people from an old to a new world view.... Awakening of a people caught in an outmoded, dysfunctional world view to the necessity of converting their mindset, their behavior, and their institutions to more relevant or more functionally useful ways of understanding and coping with changes in the world they live in.”

# Awakening:

**“Lord, blow the  
Coal! Thy Love  
Enflame in mee.”**



“Into this increasingly formal, ill-served, parched, and questing religious world the fervor of the Great Awakening fell likt a blazing torch.”

(Bailyn)

“As the social order lost its old cohesion, guilt and anxiety increased. Men became angry with their neighbors, with themselves, and their families.... [There was] a growing incongruence between prescriptive norms and prevailing circumstances....” (McLoughlin)

The Awakening “became a major means by which people of many diverse types responded to changing moral, religious, intellectual, and social conditions.” (Ahlstrom)

“A psychological earthquake reshaped the human landscape” (Richard L. Bushman)



# Whitefield's Legacy

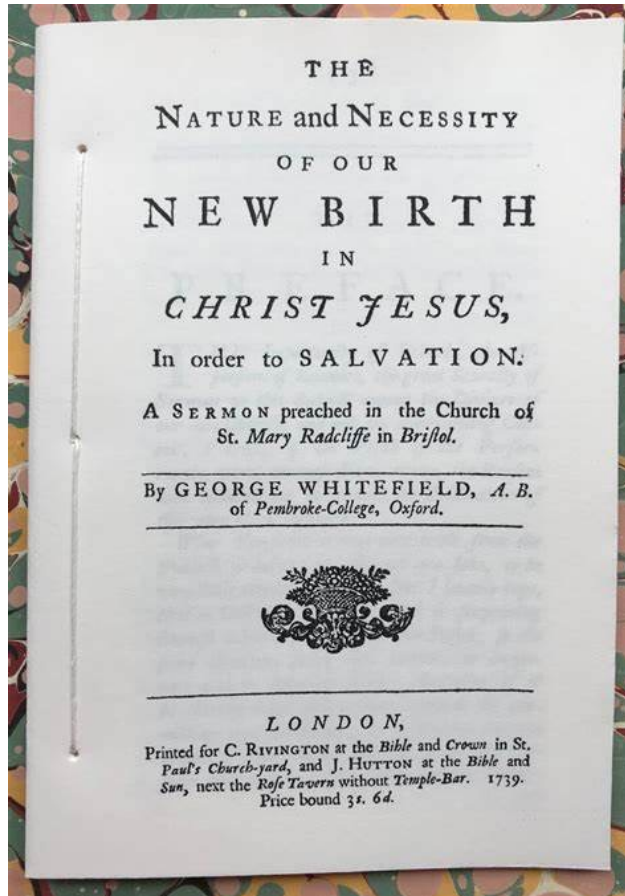
- “Whitefield was the greatest single factor in the Awakening.... He zealously carried the work up and down the colonies from New England to Georgia.... [H]is influence alone touched every section of the country and every denomination.... He was the great molding force....” (W. M. Gewehr, *The Great Awakening in Virginia*)
- “I am glad to hear that you have frequent opportunities of preaching among the great. If you can gain them to a good and exemplary life, wonderful changes will follow.... O that some method could be found to make them lasting! He who discovers that will, in my opinion, deserve more, ten thousand times, than the inventor of longitude.” (Benjamin Franklin to George Whitefield, July 6, 1749)
- “the first internationally famous itinerant preacher and the first modern transatlantic celebrity of any kind; perhaps the greatest evangelical preacher that the world has ever seen.” (Thomas Kidd, *America's Spiritual Founding Father*)

# From a Whitefield Sermon



- “Oh my dear friends, I see thousands sitting attentive, with their eyes fixed on the poor unworthy preacher....Oh false and hollow Christians, of what avail will it be that you have done many things? That you have read much in the sacred Word? That you have made long prayers?... That you have appeared holy in the eyes of men? What will all this be, if, instead of loving God supremely, you have been supposing you should exalt yourself in heaven by acts really polluted and unholy?... I beseech you to repent.... You must answer, ‘I made myself easy in the world, by flattering myself that all would end well; but I have deceived my own soul, and am lost!’”

# ***Nature and Necessity of New Birth (1737)***



- “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.” 2 Corinthians 5:17
- “One of the most fundamental doctrines of our holy religion.”
- “The very hinge on which the salvation of each of us turns.”



# “God showed me that I must be born again.”

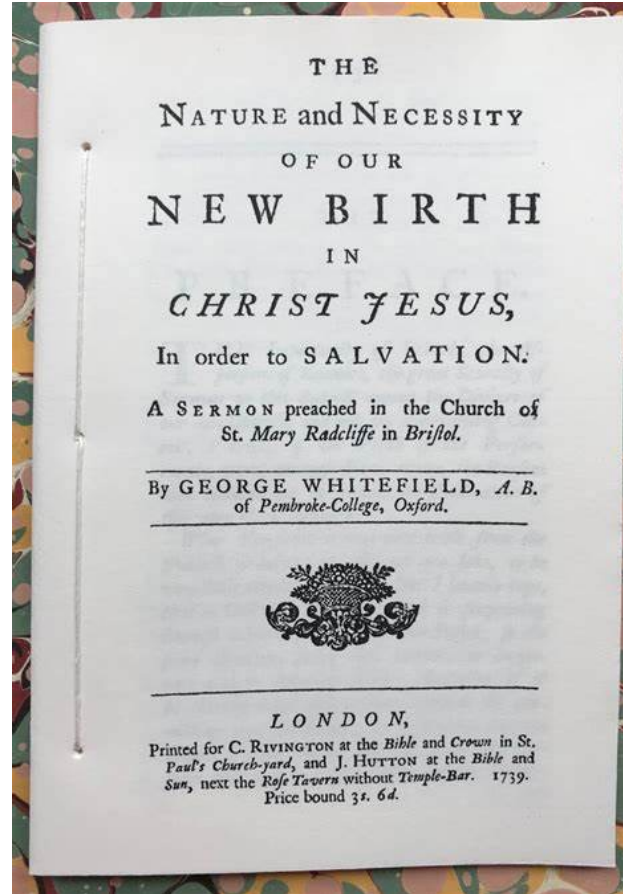
“God was pleased to remove the heavy load, to enable me to lay hold of His dear Son by a living faith, and by giving me the **spirit of adoption**, to seal me even to the day of everlasting redemption.

“O with what joy – joy unspeakable – even joy that was full of and big with glory, was my soul filled, when the weight of sin went off, and an abiding sense of the pardoning love of God, and a full assurance of faith. Broke in upon my disconsolate soul!...[M]y joys were like a spring tide, and overflowed the banks.

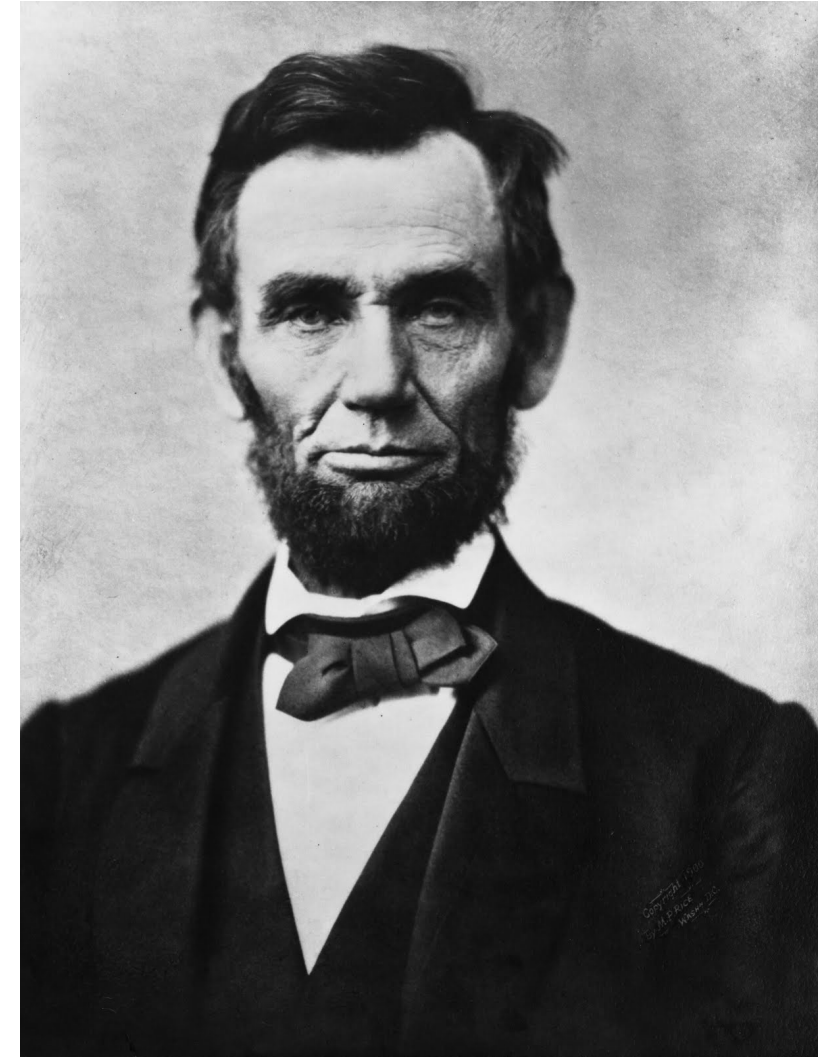
“Oxford ... that place where Jesus Christ first revealed himself to me and gave me the **new birth**.”

“It is said that George Whitefield, the great evangelist, preached on this text, ‘Ye must be born again’ more than three thousand times. One day a friend said to him, ‘Mr. Whitefield, why do you preach so often on that text?’ Mr. Whitefield replied, ‘**Because ye must be born again.**’” (J. Clyde Turner, *Soul-Winning Doctrines*)

“That this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom.”



“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.”









"I really can't think of a blessed thing to preach about this morning, so I'll entertain questions from the floor."