

Church History VI – The 20th century

Course Description:

“An awareness of Christian history is one of the most neglected but necessary ingredients in the spiritual diet of Christians today. ... We are too easily captive to the contemporary and become unthinking assenters to our culture’s seduction by the now, the latest, the present moment.

Understanding of Christian history will help us in many ways. We will uncover precedents in the past of how God has worked. We will gain perspective that will help us see our current situation in a new light. We will develop a sense of continuity and see how the unfolding of God’s purposes transcends any single generation, century, denomination, geography, or ideology.” Kenneth Curtis, *Christian History & Biography*, issue #1; 1982)

In the spring term we will look at God’s work in the 20th century. During the first part of the term we will see how the Spirit spoke through A. B. Simpson, Andrew Murray, and T. Austin–Sparks to reveal how to have deeper experiences of Christ as life (Colossians 3:1; Galatians 2:20). We also will also see how the Spirit moved to reveal truths in the Bible through Robert Govett, G. H. Pember, and others. From these two streams (life and truth) came the Keswick movement, Welsh revival, and Azusa Street Revival.

Then we will move on to see the life and work of Watchman Nee and those who influenced him (Jessie Penn–Lewis, Mary E. McDouough, Dora Yu, & M. E. Barber). At the end of the term, we will close with the continuation of the gospel in China, the U.S. and in the entire world. During the 20th century, many more were able to hear the Word of God.

All references for the class are available online. We look forward to taking this journey with you through the 20th century.

Instructors: Jeff Brown & Kurt Sheu

Time: Wednesdays 9:00 – 10:00 PM

Class Size: No limit

Tentative Syllabus:

A. B. Simpson

Andrew Murray

T Austin Sparks

Robert Govett

G. H. Pember

[Keswick Movement](#)

Welsh Revival

Azusa Street Revival

Jesse–Penn Lewis

Dora Yu

Mary E. McDonough

M E Barber

Watchman Nee

Gospel to China:

- James Outram Fraser
- Samuel Pollard
- Taylor's son(s)

Gospel in the US :

- Billy Sunday to Billy Graham