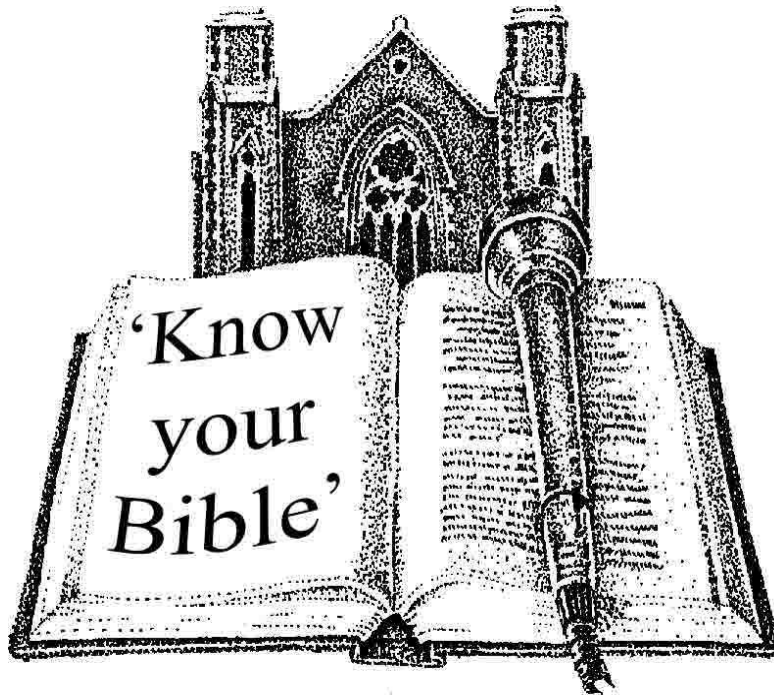


Some Contemporary Issues: Group 1

Study Notes by Stuart Olyott



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Some Contemporary Issues: Group 1

1. INTRODUCTION

- There are issues which 20th-century Christians have to face which were largely unknown by our forefathers (e.g. mass-media, Women's Lib, the state of Israel, the tongues movement, the theory of evolution, the ecumenical movement etc.)
- There are other issues which our forefathers faced, but today Christians are confused, and sometimes even divided, over them. (e.g. Roman Catholicism, use of Sunday, why the church can't go 'mod', politics and citizenship, music and art, etc.)
- Tonight we start a series which seeks to give clear Biblical instruction on these issues, and tonight's message prepares our minds to tackle them.

Let us begin by reminding ourselves of:

1. The doctrine of PROVIDENCE

The Bible teaches

- God is not absent from His creation, but present in it, Nothing could exist for a moment if He should cease to uphold it. Acts 17: 27-28, Nehemiah 9:6, Colossians 1:17, Hebrews 1:3
- He exercises complete and absolute control over His creation. There is nothing over which He does not reign. 1 Timothy 6:15. Psalms 103:19, Daniel 4:35, Job 1:2.
- This control is over:

Nature	Genesis 8:22, Job 37:5-14, Psalms 104:14, Jeremiah 31:35
Creatures	Psalms 147: 9, Matthew 10:29, (Jonah 1:17, 2:10, 1 Kings 17: 6).
Nations	Deuteronomy 32:8. Acts 17:26, Daniel 2:21, 4:25b.
History	Genesis 50:20. Acts. 2:23, 4:28, Ephesians 1:11.
Individuals	1 Samuel 2:6-8, Psalms 76:10, Proverbs 16:1, 21:1, Philippians 2:12-13.
- Yet the Bible will not let us think that God is the author of sin, or that man's responsibility is in any lessened or removed. It simply insists that ALL is in accord with His everlasting purpose, and its outcome is His glory. Ephesians 1:11, Romans 11:33-36

This means:

- There is no such thing as 'chance'. God controls His creation. Proverbs 16:33
- There is no such thing as '-fate'. GOD controls His creation. Psalm 135: 6

2. Providence and YOU.

- It is not by 'chance' or 'accident' that you live in 1977. It is not a 'twist of fate'. It is because: -
 - It is God's will
 - HE providentially arranged it.
 - HE has decreed that you should live NOW, in THESE circumstances, in THIS nation, facing the issues of TODAY'S world and church.
 - Any reaction to the present times which is not based on this truth of Providence is sinful. e.g.
 - Nostalgia - wishing to have lived at some other time, and going back mentally into it.
 - Escapism - building your life in such a way that you do not have to face the challenges of the present time - you leave God's world for one of make-believe,
 - Despair - behaving as if God has only worked in the past, or is going to work in the future, and forgetting that He is at work NOW - and has sent you to work for him NOW, too.
- You have been created to 'glorify God and to enjoy Him', and it is His will that you should do it NOW, as-well as 'forever'.
- You cannot possibly do this, unless you know what is His mind concerning those issues, which are centres of debate in the church and the world at the moment.
- His mind is only revealed in His Word.
- So we need a series which causes us NOT to evade the present issues, BUT to relate God's word to them - so that we can please God in these times - so that we can give others the truth in these times – and so that we can be, in the best sense, CONTEMPORARY CHRISTIANS.

Next week: The Occult.

Some Contemporary Issues: Group 1

2. THE OCCULT.

'Occult' means 'hidden' and refers to everything connected with the unseen, supernatural, spirit-world.

There has been a renewed interest in the subject recently, and almost all people have questions about it - which is why this talk is important.

4 'Don'ts'

- Don't disbelieve in evil spirits - the Bible declares that they exist.
- Don't have an unhealthy interest in them - keep a Biblical balance.
- Don't confuse spirit-contact with mental illness - the Bible distinguishes them.
- Don't mix up spirit-contact with E.S.P. - the human, psyche is unexplored.

3 Steps Downward

I. Divination

- This is any attempt to read your future.
- Its greatest manifestation is astrology. Horoscopes lead people to believe a lie; forget God's sovereignty; forget they are in His world and are accountable to Him; and deny the Gospel. See John 8:44.
- Divination often leads people to deeper occult involvement, and it, and all associated practices, are forbidden by God's Word. Deuteronomy 18:10-14.

II. Spiritism

- This is the attempt to contact spirits, indirectly or directly.
- Its most common manifestations are 'the Spiritualist Church', Ouija-boards, glass-moving, and séances.
- The Bible teaches that no contact with the dead is possible, and death is the final departure from the world. Luke 16:19-31, Hebrews 9:27.
- All supposed contact with the dead is deceit. (As was 1 Samuel: 28:3-25).
- It is the Devil's lie to persuade men that happiness beyond the grave is possible without the Lord Jesus Christ. (See Ephesians 6:12. 2 Corinthians 11:14-15).
- The Bible does not dispute that spiritism is contact with spirits, but expressly forbids this sin. Leviticus 19:31, 20:6, 27.

III. Satanism

- This is the worship and service of Satan, and is wicked rebellion against God's Word. Exodus 20:3, 22:18, Matthew 4:8-10.
- It leads to perversion and unrivalled godlessness and evil.
- Its fascination is that its adherents are given powers which they supposedly manipulate for their own ends. (in fact, Satan's).

- Demon possession is not always voluntary, however, and should be distinguished from Satanism (see the Gospels'). This is sometimes continuous. (Matthew 9:32, 12:22), but is more often intermittent, (1 Samuel 16:14, 23, 19:9, Mark 9:18).

7 things to do

- Repent if you have engaged in any practice which God forbids. His anger is upon you (Romans 1:18), but there is salvation in His Son. Romans 3:23-26.
- Have nothing whatever to do with the occult – **No** dabbling; music which 'blows the mind', drugs; some of the practices of the modern charismatic movement. And remember that a life of persistent sin is as good as a contract with Satan - see Saul in the Old Testament.
- Have nothing to do with false religions, for heathen worship is the Worship of demons. Deuteronomy 32:17, Psalm 106: 37, and 1 Corinthians 10:20 (note the interest in eastern religions today - of which we shall say more next week).
- Do battle with evil in ALL its forms, using the Word of God as a defensive and offensive weapon. Matthew 4:1-11, Ephesians 6:10-20.
- The alternatives are the Holy Spirit or an evil spirit - 1 Corinthians 12:1-3 - so, as a believer, do not be over-awed by demonic forces, or fear that you may be indwelt or possessed yourself.
- Do not be content to drive out evil without replacing it with what is good and godly. Matthew 12:44-45.
- Rejoice that the doom of Satan, and of all evil spirits, is certain. They carry their chains with them wherever they go. 2 Peter 2:4, Jude 1:6, Revelation 20:2, 10.

Next week: Eastern religions on our doorstep.

Some Contemporary Issues: Group 1

3. EASTERN RELIGIONS ON OUR DOORSTEP

There is great interest in eastern religions today, especially in varieties of Hinduism- The pop world has stimulated this interest. But there are also many ordinary people interested in meditation and yoga.

The three you are most likely to meet.

1 The Hare Krishna Movement.

- The devotees of Lord Krishna - a god who has descended to earth (avatar).
- A small but expanding movement - of temples, chanting, and self-denial.
- Members are initiated in 2 stages - purification, and 'sacred thread'.
- Which teaches - you can escape from the endless cycle of more or less miserable lives (karma) by devotion to Lord Krishna, one of the avatars of Vishnu. Devotion consists of chanting the 16-word name for God, (maha-mantra). This cleanses the heart, and does good to all who hear it (transcendental vibration). Under the guidance of a Spiritual master you will leave off sinful activities, progress on the path back to Godhead, and at last enjoy the highest transcendental bliss – the pure love of God.

2 The Divine Light Mission.

- A large, expanding, well-publicised organisation - attractive to young people.
- True religion is the realisation of self and communion with the Cosmic Self.
- Great saints have spread this Divine Knowledge, but are now dead (Inc. Jesus).
- A living Guru is necessary to lead disciples along the path.
- The present Guru on earth is Maharaj Ji - an avatar
- He is able to impart technique of meditation and the grace to perform it.
- He does this through his specially commissioned 'mahatmas'.
- The result is that you find and experience the Divine Light within, and so have solution to your problems, peace, and happiness in life.

3 Transcendental Meditation.

- A respected and influential world-wide movement.
- Headed by Maharishi Mahesh Yogi - a devotee of the Late Guru Dev.
- With Hindu origins; but presented in scientific, not religious, terms.

- Use a mantra (chant-word) whose meaning is unknown, and give your mind freedom to follow its natural inclination to seek after happiness; and make contact with Being. Thus you will be ready to live in this world, more effective and more fulfilled.
- Devotees are initiated into this technique in a private religious ceremony, with a Maharishi-trained teacher and a photo of Guru Dev.

The Central Issue.

- **In one way or another, all these movements teach:**
 - 1) There are many paths, which all lead to the same goal - union with Being.
 - 2) This can be achieved-by self-effort.
- **But the Bible insists on:**
 - 1) - that it alone is true, and given by God. John 17:17. 2 Timothy 3:16-17.
 - That the Triune God of Scripture is the only God. Deuteronomy 6:4, Matthew 28:19, 2 Corinthians 13:14, Psalms 86:10, Exodus 20:3
 - That the Lord Jesus Christ alone is the way to God. 1 Corinthians 1:30, John 14:6, Acts 4:12, 1 Timothy 2:5, Hebrews 7:25, Jude 1:24-25. (His resurrection proves His uniqueness, and integrity of His claims & character).
 - That the moral law of the Bible is the only true morality. Deuteronomy 6:4-5, Mark 12:28-31, Romans 13:9-10.
 - 2) - that salvation is only brought about by what God has accomplished in Christ, and is applied by free grace, and so is unearned. Romans 3:23-28, Galatians 3:11-14, Ephesians 2, Titus 3:3-7.

There can, then, be no compromise between the Gospel and eastern religions. They are opposites.

Two Closing Points.

- **Meditation may be medically valuable;** but eastern meditation is regarded as a way of salvation and involves initiation into a false religion, a form of prayer to a false god, and a permanent relationship with a guru. It is therefore sinful. Christian meditation is a difficult discipline, focussed on Christ as He is revealed in His Word - and is something we need to return to.
- **Evangelism of people in these religions is peculiarly difficult;** they are irrationally addicted. Such spiritual warfare must be fought with the spiritual weapons of prayer and God's Word. Unless "life...more abundantly" is evident in us, we shall make few inroads amongst these deluded mystics.

Next week: The cults.

Some Contemporary Issues: Group 1

4. THE CULTS

A cult is “a religion regarded as unorthodox or spurious; also a minority religious group holding beliefs regarded as unorthodox or spurious.” (Webster). Many have come and gone in history. Dozens exist at the present.

Four that you will meet - sooner or later.

I. Unitarianism

- They think they are modern & progressive; but their beliefs are very old.
- The Bible errs: God is not a personal deity: there is no Trinity: Christ was no more or less a divine than anybody else: man is essentially good, improving, and able to save himself by redemption of character: heaven and hell do not exist.
- They have no creeds: their views often change: they are ‘religious’ humanists.

II. Jehovah’s Witnesses

- Small & active: begun by C.T. Russell in the 1870's.
- No hell: non-witnesses will be annihilated: fanciful view of prophecy.
- Salvation is gained by meeting Jehovah's standards.
- They deny - the Trinity: Christ's Deity: the power of His atonement: His bodily resurrection: His bodily return: immortality.

III. Christian Science.

- Founded in 1879 by Mary Baker Eddy, supposedly cured in 1862 & 1866.
- Whose book is reckoned as inspired, and superior to the Bible.
- God is an impersonal principle (Mind), and is All that exists; Christ was an outstanding man: Material things are only an illusion, and unreal: sin, evil, and death do not exist: Christ's blood does not cleanse from sin: He did not really die.

IV. Mormonism.

- Joseph Smith Jr. supposedly found the Book of Mormon in 1823 - special specs!
- This book is regarded as God's Word - although obviously a hoax.
- There are many gods: ‘God’ was once a man like us: man can finally achieve godhood: Adam's sin was necessary in order to provide mortal parentage for God's spirit children who were waiting for the experience of earth life: polygamy is right - Jesus married Mary & Martha & Mary Magdalene.
- Salvation is by faith & works & baptism: yet all men will spend eternity on some level in a multi-storeyed heaven - the level being decided by how well you live here.

Where to be clear.

1. There is but one living and true God.

Deuteronomy 6:4. 4:35. 1 Kings 8:60. Isaiah 43:10, 44:6. 1 Corinthians 8:4-6. James 2:19.

2. There are three who are God

- **The Father is God.**

This not generally disputed John 1:18, Ephesians 4:6.

- **The Son is God.**

He is called God. Isaiah 9:6, John 20:28, Hebrews 1:8.

He has the attributes of God. John 1:1, 2:24-25, Matthew 20:28.

He does the works of God. John 5:21, Colossians 1:16, Hebrews 1:3.

He is given the worship that belongs to God. John 20:28, Revelation 5:12-14.

- **The Holy Spirit is God**

The 4 Things above can also be said of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 5:3-4, 1 Corinthians 2:10, John 6:63, Matthew 12:31.

3. The three are distinct.

The Father is not the Son; the Son is not the Holy Spirit; the Holy Spirit is not the Father.

Yet each is God; equal in power and glory.

- We do NOT believe in “Modalism” – that God is one person playing three different parts. See Matthew 3:16-17, where the three Persons of the Godhead manifest themselves at the same time.
- We do NOT believe in “Monarchianism” - that the Father is God in a superior way to the Son and Holy Spirit. See (ii) above; and Philippians 2:6.
- We DO believe in an order of relationship within the Trinity – the Father begets the Son, and the Son is eternally begotten of the Father; the Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father and the Son from all eternity

Such is the mystery of the unity and plurality of Gods the Trinity.

- Clearly hinted at, even at the beginning of the Bible. Genesis 1:26 27.
- Clearly taught in the New Testament. See especially Matthew 28:19.
- Clearly beyond our comprehension! - Romans 11:33.

Next week: Roman Catholicism.

Some Contemporary Issues: Group 1

5. ROMAN CATHOLICISM.

We come today to examine a system:

- Which regards itself as the one and only true church of Jesus Christ
- Which began to develop between 445-590, and finally emerged 1054
- which was rocked by the Reformation, 1517 ff
- which today embraces one-sixth of the world's population
- which seems impregnable; has many faces; and full of deep divisions
- which teaches very many Scriptural doctrines
- Which has so many unscriptural additions that it totally obscures the way of salvation for perishing sinners; 'the great whore' of Revelation 17.

"Rome" versus the Bible.

- "Scripture does not clearly teach all necessary truth, it cannot be accepted as the sole rule of faith." Now see 2 Timothy 3:16-17.
- "It is not desirable for anyone to read the whole Bible without the advice of his spiritual director." See Acts 17:11.
- "Second list of inspired books". Romans 3:2.
- "I most steadfastly admit and embrace the Apostolic and Ecclesiastical Traditions and other observances and constitutions of the same church." Mark 7:7-9.
- "Our Lord made Simon Peter alone the Rock and key bearer of the church, and appointed him Shepherd of the whole flock". Matthew 16:18-19, 18:18 1 Peter 2:4-8, 5:1-4.
- "The Pope...is the successor of St. Peter whom Christ appointed to be the head of His Church on earth." Matthew 23:9. Acts 15:23, Galatians 2:9, 11. 2 Corinthians 11:5.
- "Hail Mary..." "She may rightly be said to have redeemed the human race with Christ." Matthew 4:10, 1 Timothy 2:5, Acts 4:12, Luke 11:27-28.
- "After the birth of her divine Son she remained ever a virgin." Matthew 12:46-50, 13:54-56.
- "Outside this Church there is neither salvation nor remission of sins." Luke 23:43, Acts 16:30-34.
- "Auricular confession", "I absolve thee." John 20:23, Luke 24:18, 33, Acts 8:22.

- “The Church is made up of Clergy and Laity....the body of Bishops...with priests under them to serve the laity in parishes.” 1 Peter 2:5, 9. Revelation 1:6.
- “Baptism....makes us Christians, children of God and members of the church. “Matthew 28:19-20, John 1:12-13, Acts 8:13, 22-23.
- “The Holy Eucharist is also a sacrifice....the sacrifice of the Mass.... the central act of Christian worship, offered daily.” I Corinthians 11:26, Hebrews 9:28, 10:10-12
- “Catholics make use of statues, pictures and relics.... merely using them to aid our prayer which is always directed to heaven”. Exodus 20:4-6.
- “Nor can it be held that we pray too much to the Saints and too little to God... prayers to the Saints are, as it were, incidental.” Colossians 2:18, Romans 1:25, Revelation 19:10.
- “Ave Maria”, “Pater Noster”. Matthew 6:7-8.
- “Justification is a free gift, conferred by God Himself through the sacrament of Baptism.”
- “...during this life nobody is absolutely certain of his salvation.” 1 John 5:10-13, Romans 8:16.
- “It is possible for a soul once justified to end by falling into hell.” Romans 5:1-2, 8:30
- “A person may die in a state of grace and yet be defiled....a certain purgative process is therefore required to make them fit for heaven.” 1 John 1:7. Matthew 25:46. Luke 23:43.

all this, plus corrupt teaching on confirmation, marriage, penance, holy orders, extreme unction, holy days, celibacy, indulgences etc.

A lie, a strong, delusion, counterfeit Christianity - hiding from the lost sinner all that he most needs to know.

What to do.

- Recognise Rome for the apostasy that it is, and have nothing whatever to do with it. 2 Corinthians 6:14-18.
- Seek to undermine this error, not by negative protests, but by a Biblical, doctrinal and theological presentation of the truth. 2 Corinthians 10:3-5, Ephesians 6:10-20.
- Have compassion on those who are deluded by this error and seek to bring the Gospel to them. Matthew 28:18-20, Jude 1:20-25.

Next week: Liberal Protestantism (Modernism!)

Some Contemporary Issues: Group 1

6. LIBERAL PROTESTANTISM ("MODERNISM").

What it is, and where it came from.

Modernism is basically an attack upon the Bible, by those who exalt human reason. It denies, that the Bible is verbally inspired, infallible and inerrant. This leads it to deny the Bible's own claims, and its teaching. As it proceeds, it denies the miracles, then the Deity of Christ, then the atonement, resurrection, personality of the Holy Spirit, eternal punishment, creation....etc ... It finally ends up in absolute scepticism.

The history of modernism is very complex. It began on the Continent in the late 18th century, and built up there in the early 19th. It burst on the British scene from 1850 onwards. It infected all the main Protestant denominations by 1880, and has controlled them since 1900. It is still advancing, even among 'Evangelicals'.

Modernism is not Christian.

It does not hold the same view of Scripture as CHRIST.

- He accepted the 39 books of the Old Testament as nothing less than the verbally-inspired, infallible, and inerrant Word of God. See Mark 7:13, 12:36, Matthew 22:31, 19:4-5, 5:17-18, John 10:34-35, 17:12, 17.

You can't get round this by 'kenosis'. Jesus had the same regard for Scripture after His resurrection. Luke 24:25-27, 44-46.

You can't get round this by 'accommodation'. Jesus was not afraid to upset cherished notions. He clearly accepted the Old Testament and its authority without reserve. Luke 16:29-31, Mark 7:6, 13.

- The 27 books of the New Testament were written by the apostles and their associates. They wrote under the inspiration of His Spirit, just as He had promised; and their writings are on the same level as those of the Old Testament. John 14:26, 15:26-27, 16:13, Acts 15:28, 1 Thessalonians 4:8, 5:27, 2 Peter 3:15-16.

- So the WHOLE Bible is to be received as the Spirit-inspired Word of GOD. 2 Peter 1:21, 2 Timothy 3:16.
- You cannot be both a modernist and a follower of Christ and His apostles. You must be one or the other! You must choose between Christ and the critics!!

What to do about false teachers.

- Do not be swayed by them. Ephesians 5:14, Hebrews 13:8-9.
- Have nothing to do with them Romans 16:17-18. 1 Timothy 6:3-5, 20-21, 2 John 1:7.
- Excommunicate them. Galatians 1:6-8. Titus 3:10.

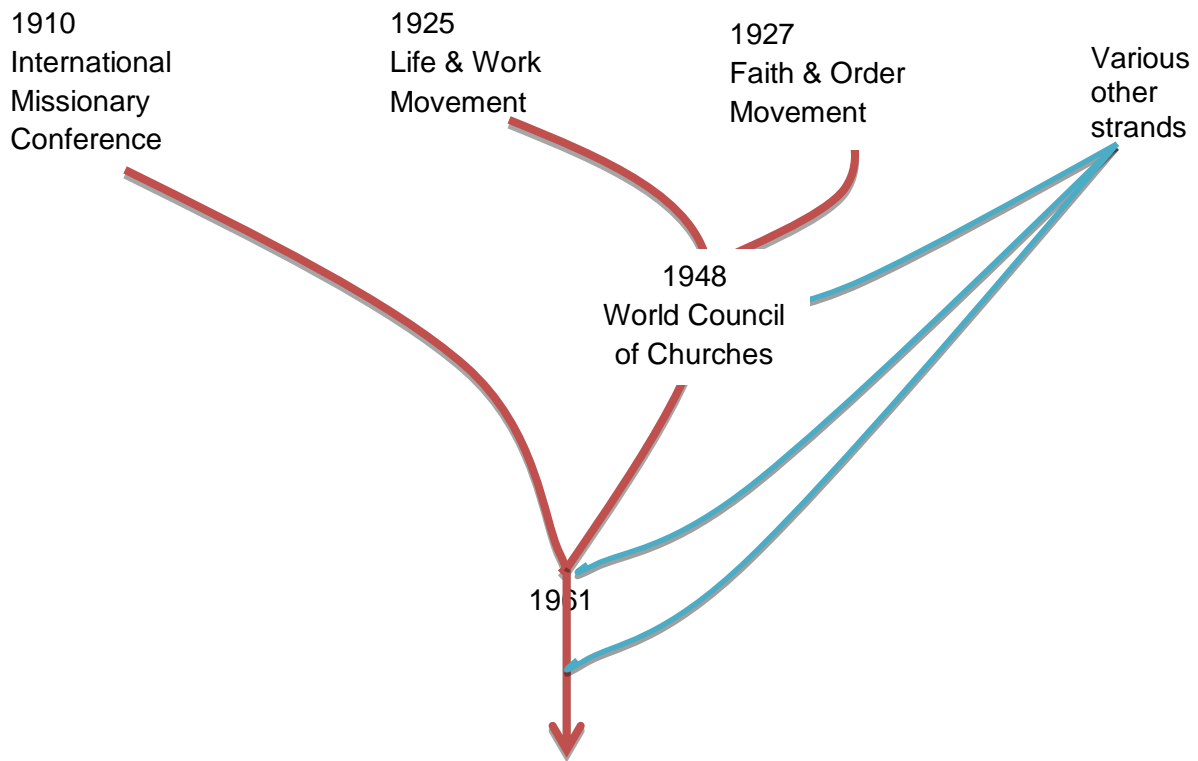
It is plainly sinful to remain in any church, denomination or movement where modernism is tolerated.

Those who remain in such bodies can only do so by defying Scripture. Their attitude to God's Word has, in practice, already become the same as the modernists'.

Next week: The ecumenical movement

Some Contemporary Issues: Group 1

7. THE ECUMENICAL MOVEMENT.



Some World Council of Churches views

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------|
| • The Bible | It is not regarded as authoritative. |
| • The Reformation | A shame, and a sin. |
| • Heresy | It is tolerated. |
| • Dissidents | These are regarded as intolerable. |
| • The future | It is unknown and uncertain. |

Our view of the World Council of Churches

It is clearly a movement perpetrating false doctrine.

We therefore underline what God's Word instructs us concerning false teachers:

- We are to have nothing to do with them. Romans 16:17-18, 1 Timothy 6:3-5, 20-21, 2 John 1:7, 10-11.
- We are to excommunicate them. Galatians 1:6-8. Titus 3:10.

It is plainly sinful to remain in any church, denomination or movement which is in fellowship with the World Council of Churches.

The Unity for which Christ prayed

See John chapter 17.

- Is a unity of individual elect persons, not institutions.
- A unity which Jesus prays should be kept, not created.
- A unity of essence, not of form - enjoyed by all born-again people; visible to them, but not complete until the last of God's elect is saved.

Evangelical CHURCH unity

New Testament churches were seen to be in fellowship with each other.

For this to be recovered, the following steps are necessary:

- True believers must leave compromised churches.
- and must join or form churches according to the New Testament pattern & doctrine.
- Such churches must then work out in practice Scriptural inter-church relationships:
 - the connecting link being the churches' spiritual leaders.
 - individual churches looking not only to their own needs, but the material and spiritual needs of other churches.
 - free interchange of news being encouraged between church and church
 - particular interest being shown in churches which are nearer.

None of this will occur unless both individuals and churches give themselves to the work of REFORMING their life according to the Word of God.

Next week: The modern tongues movement.

Some Contemporary Issues: Group 1

8. THE MODERN TONGUES MOVEMENT.

From time to time in history unorthodox groups have claimed 'the gift of tongues'. But now men and women who call themselves Evangelicals are doing the same.

1. What is the first Biblical occurrence of tongues?

The Day of Pentecost - Acts 2:1-13.

- Jerusalem; the Spirit's presence fills a private house.
- Only the apostles spoke in tongues. Acts 1:26. 2:7, 13-14, 37.
- Without special seeking, laying on of hands, or praying for each other.
- The tongues were not the only signs of the Spirit's coming.
- It was speaking in tongues and dialects known to the hearers.
- It did not replace preaching in a generally-known language.
- The tongues had no evangelistic significance.

2. What was the significance of these tongues?

Pentecost was the fulfilment of Christ's promise about the coming of the Spirit.

- The various phenomena announced this really had taken place. Acts 2:22, 33.
- They were a concrete demonstration that the Spirit really had come.
- They have the same significance later in Acts, convincing sceptics that unexpected groups had truly received the Spirit - but there was no repetition of the phenomena when others of the same groups were saved.
- So we do not expect such tongues today.

Tongues at Corinth had a different significance. (See 1 Corinthians chapters 12-14).

- They were a gift of the Spirit, not possessed by all.
- They were given for the edification of the church.
- When interpreted, they equal prophecy.
- In the Bible, the term 'prophecy' always implies new revelation.
- When revelation is complete there is no more place for tongues, prophecy, or special gifts of knowledge.
- this is precisely what Paul teaches in 1 Corinthians 13:8-13,
- You cannot believe both in a final Bible, and in current tongues.
- The battle against the tongues movement is a baffle for the Bible - it is exactly the same battle as against the modernists, except that the enemy is now wearing a different uniform.

3. What precisely were these tongues?

They were foreign languages.

- The Greek word 'glossa' is used in many ways in the New Testament.
- But whenever it is used of speaking, it refers to foreign languages.
- See. Revelation 5:9, 7:9, Mark 16:17, Acts 2:6, 8-9,11, 10:46, 11:15, 17, 19:6'.

Corinthian tongues were different in purpose, but similarly languages.

- See 1 Corinthians 12:10, 28. Many kinds, but all languages.
- 'Interpret' always means in New Testament to translate from a foreign language.
- In the Bible, angelic tongues (13:1) are no different from human ones.
- Acts was written after 1 Corinthians; the precise Luke would have used a different word if the phenomenon of Acts was different; but he uses the same word - for Acts tongues and Corinthian tongues ARE the same in expression.
- Corinthian tongues were a miracle indeed, and incapable of simulation.

4. What is the truth about modern tongues?

- A gross confidence trick, linguistic fraud, display of ludicrous gibberish, and embrace of irrational nonsense.
- the truth is that the apostles possessed miraculous gifts and the power to transmit them - and this was to vindicate them as bearers of revelation (2 Corinthians 12:12, Hebrews 2:3-4, Acts 2:43, 5:12, 14:3, Romans 15:17-19). Historically these gifts ceased as apostles & recipients died.
- A few claims about genuine languages prove nothing. Pagan religions, both ancient and modern, have such tongue-speaking.
- many features of the movement are blatantly opposite to Scripture - private use of tongues; switching off the mind; linking tongues to a 'second experience'; praying for others to 'receive'; making such a big thing of it all; ignoring of tongues as a sign of judgment on the Jew; etc...
- It is a movement married to neglect of serious Bible study, doctrinal confusion, superficiality, non-use of the mind, experientism, naive credulity, pre-Reformation views of sanctity, and ungodly ecumenism.
- It shows no signs of being a work of the Spirit, and more sign of being a 'strong delusion'. No believer in his right, mind should what anything to do with it.

Good Reading: The Modern Tongues Movement, by Robert Gromacki. (Pres. & Reformed).
Baptism and Fullness by John R. W. Stott. (I.V.P.)
Signs of the Apostles by Walter Chantry. (Banner of Truth).