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#### Modernist/Fundamentalism

- What were the social factors that influenced the modernist/fundamentalist debate? They were immigration, temperance, science, and many others!
- We can still feel the tension from this movement. For example, think of the various strong opinions on Christians drinking alcohol!
- Dispensationalism grows in popularity during this time period.

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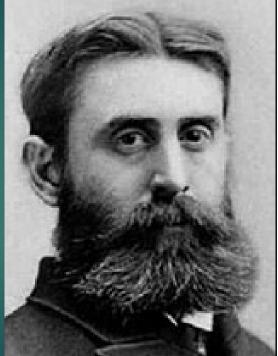
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#### Modernist/Fundamentalist

- The modernist/fundamentalist controversy has dominated American religion and Presbyterianism in particular.
- However, what if there is a third option that is never discussed?
- Let's call this third option the "confessionalism option."



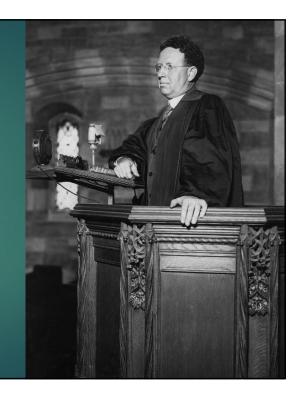
#### J. Gresham Machen

- Machen is one of the more interesting characters from the modernist/fundamentalist debate.
- His family would have known famous people from Woodrow Wilson's family.
- He was a "rich boy" who embodied the high life of Presbyterians.



# **Henry Fosdick**

- Fosdick was ordained a Baptist.
  But, he served First Presbyterian Church in New York City.
- He preached a famous sermon "Shall The Fundamentalists Win?" He believed that the Bible was not the literal word of God and he believed in human progress.
- His defense lawyer was liberal Presbyterian John Foster Dulles, whose son was Cardinal Avery Dulles.

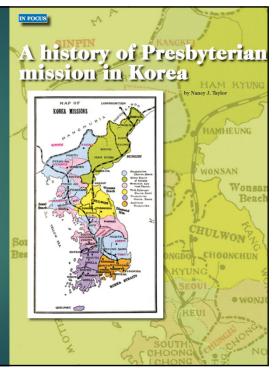


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# **Presbyterian Split**

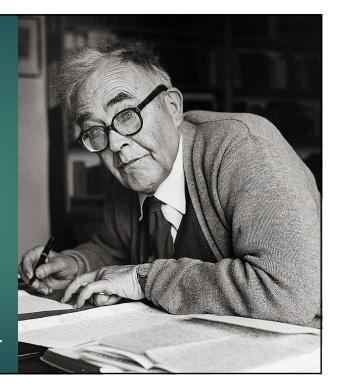
- Machen's original beef with the PCUSA was over missions. He believed they were moving away from proclamation to humanitarian work.
- He was rung up on charges and kicked out of the mainline Presbyterian church.
- He used up a lot of his money (remember, he was a rich boy!) to start Westminster Theological Seminary and the Orthodox Presbyterian Church.





### Machen's Courage

- Machen should be admired because he had a lot to lose socially.
- I have read that Princeton Theological Seminary has essentially scrubbed him from their halls.
- He did not have much interaction with Karl Barth who went onto really influence Princeton Theological Seminary.



# **Scopes Trial**

- Machen took his confession very serious and does not fit neatly into the modernist/fundamentalist debate.
- For example, he was called by William Jennings Bryan as a special witness during the Scopes Trial. He declined.
- Bryan (Presbyterian and friend of Woodrow Wilson) fit the mold of a moralist. Machen did not.

