

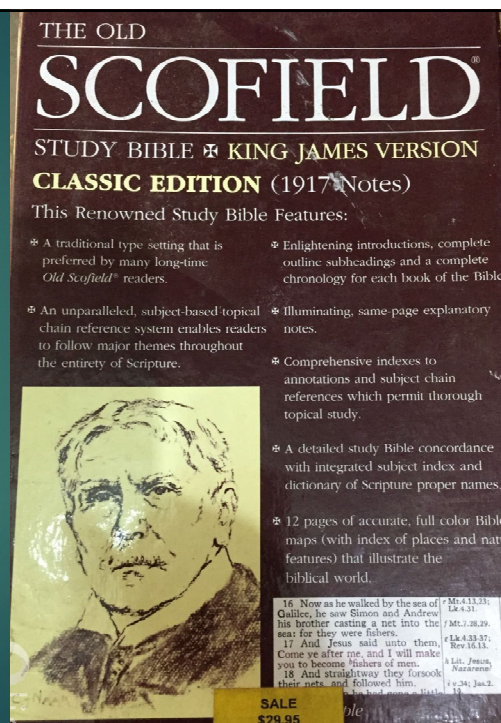
Week Three: Modernism and Fundamentalism



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Modernist/Fundamentalism

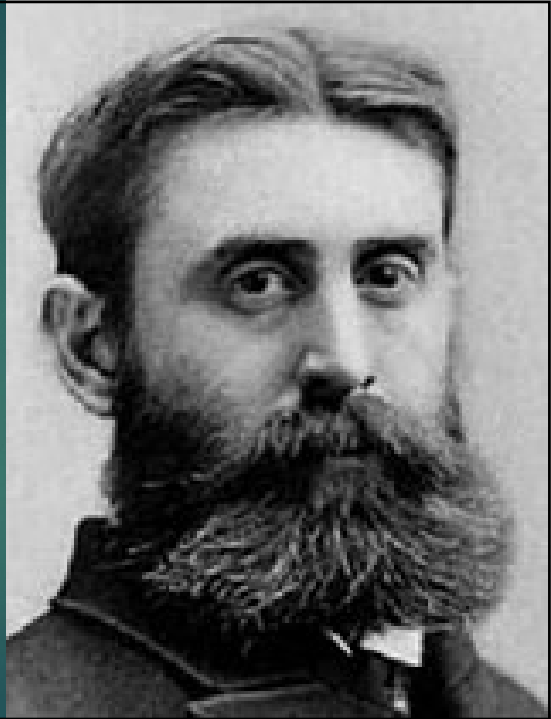
- ▶ What were the social factors that influenced the modernist/fundamentalist debate? They were immigration, temperance, science, and many others!
- ▶ We can still feel the tension from this movement. For example, think of the various strong opinions on Christians drinking alcohol!
- ▶ Dispensationalism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



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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.”



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J. Gresham Machen

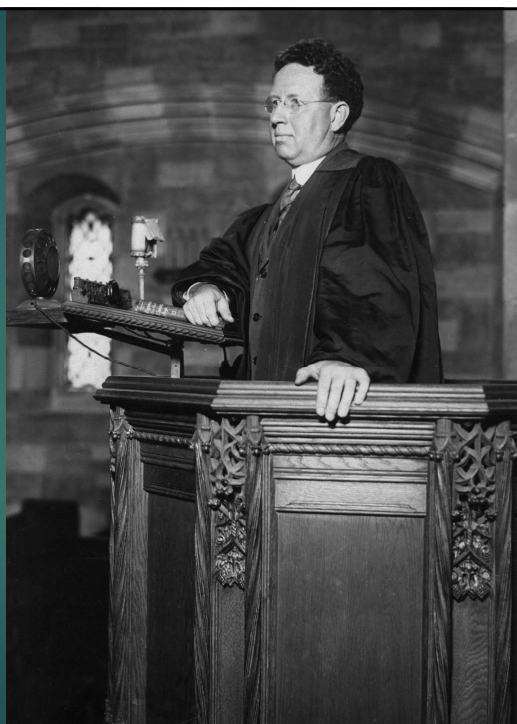
- ▶ Machen is one of the more interesting characters from the modernist/fundamentalist debate.
- ▶ His family would have known famous people from Woodrow Wilson’s family.
- ▶ He was a “rich boy” who embodied the high life of Presbyterians.



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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

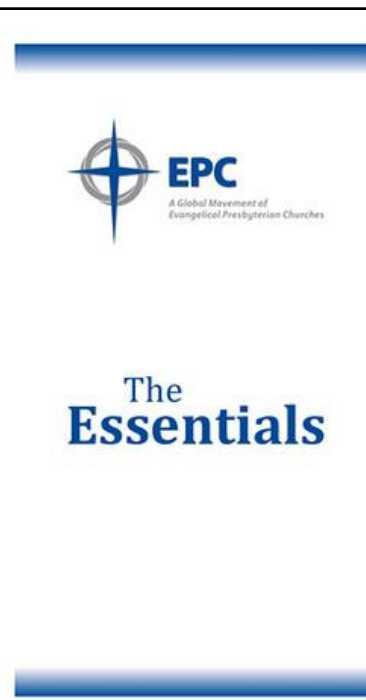
- ▶ Machen’s original beef with the PCUSA was over missions. He believed they were moving away from proclamation to humanitarian work.
- ▶ He was rung up on charges and kicked out of the mainline Presbyterian church.
- ▶ He used up a lot of his money (remember, he was a rich boy!) to start Westminster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



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Presbyterian Split

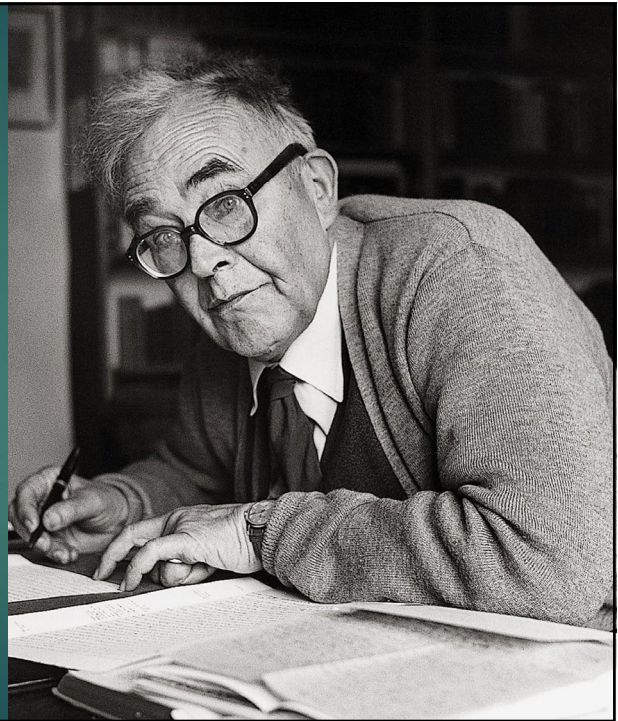
- ▶ The Presbyterian split in many ways foreshadowed to the split between the PCUSA and the PCA and EPC.
- ▶ Perhaps there is hope in the future of a big tent theologically orthodox church?
- ▶ Our essentials are the tenants that fundamentalists signed in various confessional documents.



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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.



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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.



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