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CHURCH HISTORY MONTHLY

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Timeline of Topics

- Quote
- Amy Carmichael, missionary to India
- Early Church
- Early heresies
- Global South
- Amy Carmichael
- Etc.
- Funny answers to tests over the years

New, free, online class for this summer:

"How to grow in Christian Maturity": Readings in Christian Spiritual Classics from 1500 years of Church History

- This will be a different kind of class: It will not focus on teaching new information but in reflecting on how to grow your faith. Also, although it is 8 weeks long, each week is independent, so you can miss some weeks and not worry about catching up. It will have quizzes, but they will be short and are only intended to remind you of what you read that week.
- Each week, we will cover readings in 1-2 different Christian Spiritual classics from our rich Christian past to learn what they have to teach about gaining Christianity maturity.
- If you need a time of self-reflection or if you feel like you have plateaued in your faith, this might be the class for you. These books were written from 1700 to 200 years ago, so their messages have been tried and proven by many, many Christians. We will discover where they are similar and where they are different.
- It will start on June 6.
- To join, click here.

Amy Carmichael:

A Missionary for 56 years without a break

Amy Carmichael was born in 1867 in Ireland to a Christian family. She grew up strong in her faith and dedicated her life, from a young age, to bringing people to Christ. For example, in her late teens, she started a popular Sunday school class for poor girls (who did not attend school, which was common at that point). The class quickly grew and--needing space and before the age of 21--she secured money to build a building for the class. When she was 21 years old, she heard Hudson Taylor, a missionary to China, speak about missions and decided to become a missionary. She applied to his group, the China Inland Mission, and was accepted. But, just prior to leaving for Asia, she was rejected due to a chronic illness and short stature (around five feet tall). Undaunted, she applied to and joined a different mission agency, the Church Missionary Society.

Through this group, she was sent to Japan but grew ill due to her condition. She was sent home to Ireland and, after recuperating, traveled to Sri Lanka. She then traveled to Bangalore (now Bengaluru), India, and eventually moved to almost the southern tip of India, began a ministry, and remained there for the rest of her life.

Her ministry was targeted to young girls. Sometimes these girls were unwanted, given up by their parents, and forced into prostitution. She had preached against the practice of child prostitution but believed she needed to act. Amy worked to provide a welcoming family atmosphere at her ministry. After World War I, she opened a home for boys, some of whom had been born to prostitutes.

Amy also continued a practice of indigenization that Hudson Taylor--another missionary to India--and other early missionaries began. She dressed in local clothes and changed her skin to a darker color by dyeing it with coffee in order to "fit in" better.

When she was 63, she fell and injured herself, and remained bedridden the rest of her life. No matter to her: she continued her mission work and even wrote books. She remained in India from 1895 to 1951: 56 years, without a break to go back home..

“When I consider the cross of Christ, how can anything I do be called sacrifice?”

Amy Carmichael

FUNNY ANSWERS TO TESTS I HAVE RECEIVED OVER THE YEARS

1. Question = List one miracle of Jesus: Answer = feeding the hungry fish
2. When Moses was at the Burning Bush, he asked God what the Jews should call Him. God replied “Yahweh” which is Hebrew for “I am.” I have received these spellings for Yahweh: Yawhee, Yal ma, Yehweh, Yellweh, and Euro.
3. Questions: _____ means not getting the punishment you deserve. Answer: Mercy
--One student put “lucky”
4. What is a psalm? An angel sent by god
5. Why did God tell Noah to build the Ark? To wash away the sins of the world.
6. Why did Jesus not baptize anyone? He was hydrophobic. This is “afraid of water.” I asked the student about it and she said, well, Jesus walked on water.
7. Answer student gave (I forget the question): Abraham was circumcised after he was crucified.
8. How was Paul killed? Answer: beheaded. One student wrote “deheaded.” (I did give the student credit because, technically, she was right.). Another wrote: “turned upside down and stoned.”
9. Instead of writing “God,” a student wrote “Got.”
10. When was Jesus crucified? Student wrote: December 25
11. Why did the Jews not accept Jesus as Messiah? Student wrote: The Jews only wanted to worship Muhmmad.
12. In Titus, what did Paul say to do with a person who likes to argue”. Answer: warn once, twice, and ask to leave. Student’s answer: rapture him.
13. Student could not think of the phrase “The Good Samaritan” and so wrote “The story of the Jew on the ground.”
14. At the Last Supper, Jesus began what Christian ceremony?
Answer: Communion. Student’s answer: Communism
15. What does incarnation mean? Student’s answer: God was humanized.

Heresies of the Early Church Period

Basic Christian ideas have long been questioned. Basically the questions focus on the incarnation, that God took on human form and the Trinity, that there is one God with three aspects [Father, Son, Holy Spirit]. But this kind of doubting has occurred before. This summary will present some of the heresies (false teachings) against the incarnation which occurred in the first 300 years after Jesus. These were people who heard that Jesus was both God and man, yet they came up with different ideas.

--The Alogi (200s)(a group) denied the divinity of Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

Anomoeans (300s)(a group) believed that Jesus was divine but was of a different essence (source) than God.

Artemon (200s)(a person) believed that Jesus was only a man, although he was greater than the prophets.

--Bardesanes (200s)(a person) believed that Jesus was divine, but that he was a phantom (he only appeared real but was just a spirit). In other words, Bardesanes believed that God could not take on human form (denied the incarnation) but did come to Earth in the form of a phantom. This is also called Docetism. According to some Docetists, Jesus did not die on the cross, instead (do you want to guess?) Simon of Cyrene died on the cross. He was the guy who the Romans forced to carry Jesus’ cross once Jesus could no longer carry it.

--The Homoeans (300s) believed that the Son was like the Father, but not the same as the Father.

--The Messalians (300s) believed that each person, because of Adam’s sin in the Garden of Eden, has a demon united with his/her soul. Baptism will not remove the demon, only prayer will accomplish this division. Once the demon has left, the person will receive a vision of the Trinity.

--Noetus (200s)(a person) said that God the Father was the one to be born, suffer, and die. In other words, he did not believe in the Father and the Son, only the Father; he claimed that belief in the Father and the Son was ditheism (worship of two gods; monotheism is worship of one god).

--Paul of Samosata (200s) believed that Jesus was a man and that the power of God came to rest upon him. So Jesus was God in that the power of God came upon him, but Jesus was not the same as God.

--Theodotus (200s)(a person) believed that Jesus was a man who was anointed with the Holy Spirit once he was baptized by John the Baptist, and then he became Christ.

Questions, comments, or want to join
a free class contact Mark at
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