

with these two leaders here. Whitfield preached up and down from Georgia north to main, back and forth time after time. He made trip after trip to the U.S. to help in the great awakening that did so much to reestablish the fervor which which this nation had started.

Another two or three decades passed and then came the Revolution-ary war. Many of the great Christian leaders had a great part in making the stand against English tyranny, for the right of the people on this continent to develop their own country in line with the teachings of the Bible as they understood it. But in any war there is a declension in morality. Some of those who helped in stirring up of people for the war were people like Thomas Paine or to a lesser extent like Thos. Jefferson who was were quite hostile to the teachings of Scripture. When that reaction that comes after a war, then the universities began to be affected.

So in Yale University which had been founded to stand more firmly for the Word of God than Harvard was standing than Yale was founded, in Yale it came about at the end of the 18th century ~~was~~ accord- ing to the rules of the school they had regular prayers at which all students attended. The professors never said anything contrary to the definite statements of the Word of God. It was expected that their main purpose was to train those who would present the Word of God, yet among the students there were large groups calling them- selves after Tom Paine, after Voltaire, after Rosseau. There was a strong movement against Christianity.

Into that came President Timothy Dwight, grandson of Jonathan Edwards. Timothy Dwight as president of Yale University was expected to oversee the debates that were held in the university. So he met with a group of students and said, Would you like to suggest a subject for debate? Somebody suggested among about 8 or 10 subjects, one was suggested that Christianity is an Old Superstition that No Longer Has Any Meaning For Modern Life. To their surprise out of the 8 or 10 subjected, they never dreamed they would be even permitted to discuss it, a subject like this, Timothy Dwight said, We'll have this subject!

So the students were assigned, some on the positive and some on the negative. They held the debate and in it the students who presented the side against Christianity gave able, forceful presentations, and those on the negative were rather ashamed of trying to defend something they did not believe and gave a pretty shoddy presentation. Then President Dwight said (when they finished), "I'd like to commend the fine presentation of those on the affirmative side. You did an excellent job, in handling the material. But you had a few defects and he pointed out some flaws in their arguments." Then he said, "I'm sorry not to see a better presentation made by the negative, but evidently there were a good many facts you were not familiar with." He proceeded to give them a lecture on the Evidences of Christianity, which so interested them that they asked him to give a series. So Presidetn Dwight gave a series on the Evidence of Christianity and within two or three years the university was so turned around that it became a great center from which ministers and missionaries preaching the true Word of God were going out all over this country.