

Lecture 11- Modern Missions (20); Latin America (21); Mission Theory (22)

Five observations that characterize the historical context since 1800:

**The modern mission movement emerged in a historico-cultural context suffused with Newtonian cosmology.*

**By 1800 science had become the authority, the standard against which other endeavors were measured.*

**The scientific method...was based on a careful and patient gathering of relevant data as the first step in working out inductively the pertinent laws and principles.*

**The missionary enterprise is inherently activist.*

**The Christian missionary enterprise has been decentralized from the days of the first apostles.*

-Shenk, p.34

Latin America's racial rainbow is matched by its religious mosaic, with overlapping pieces that can periodically confuse the observer. The original continental religions were practiced by the Indian peoples. Those religions were animisms that continue to permeate the Indians' worldview to this day. The Spaniards and Portuguese later brought a Christ, the other Spanish Christ, the hybrid conceived from Moorish medieval seeds and imported with conviction and force. In many ways that Christ was blended into the animistic beliefs, producing a syncretism evident today throughout the continent and particularly witnessed in popular Catholicism.

Nunez, p.133

Key Terms

Newtonian cosmology; scientific authority; scientific method; activism; decentralized; "mission movement;" "Half Spain's, half Portugal's;" "Conquistadors & missionaries;" pietism; "*Plantatio Ecclesiae*;" variety; geography; races; population; culture; 1492; conquest; revolution; peace; instability

Lecture Objectives

- Briefly describe the historical context of the modern missions movement and how it shaped approaches to mission.
- Evaluate Biblically the strengths and weaknesses of the modern missions movement as described in today's discussion.
- Identify key issues from today's discussion that impact your own understanding of your role in God's world mission. Briefly describe the cultural and historical context of Christianity in Latin America.
- Identify ways that today's discussion helps you understand more clearly issues facing you and your churches in your own culture.

Modern Missions

I. "Phase I"

A. Discussion of charts (see Appendix G)

B. Early Catholic missions

1. From West outward

2. Similar issues

II. The World: Half Spain's, Half Portugal's

III. Early and Later Pietism (Verkuyl, 176-178)

IV. *Plantatio ecclesiae* views (181-184; cf. 18-25 (not req))

Latin America

- I. Contemporary Panorama (GWM II)
 - A. Variety of "Latin America"
 - B. Geography
 - C. Races
 - D. Population explosion
 - E. Political scenario
 - F. Religious scenario
 - G. Culture
- II. Synopsis of History (GWM II)
 - A. Pre-/post-1492
 - B. Conquest and colonization: 1492-1810
 - C. Revolution and independence: 1810-1824
 - D. New republics: 1824-1880
 - E. Relative peace and development: 1880-1930
 - F. Instability: 1930-present
- III. Spiritual Dimensions
 - A. Holy Apostolic Roman Catholic church
 - B. Evangelicals

Search online for "Latin America" on Christianity Today's website. (www.christianitytoday.com) Articles such as "Pope Urges New Effort to Curb 'Sects' in Latin America" and "Latin American Protestants Gaining Sense of Identity" will be found.

Mission Theory

- I. Modern Mission Theory – Cf. Verkuyl (see Appendix H for charts)
 - A. German – 26-28
 - B. Dutch – 35-52
 - C. English – 52 (Cf. Thomas, 206-208), 53 (Thomas, 82-84), -59

The topic of Mission Theory is concluded in Lecture 12.

