

The Life, Ministry and Theology of John Wesley (1703-1791)



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- * Father—Samuel Wesley (1662-1735)
- * Mother--Susanna Wesley (1669-1742)—mother of nineteen children
- * Brother—Charles (1707-1788)



The Life, Ministry and Theology of John Wesley

Epworth, England— “a brand plucked from the fire”



The Life, Ministry and Theology of John Wesley

Christ Church, Oxford University, England



The Life, Ministry and Theology of John Wesley

Lincoln College, Oxford University, England



The Life, Ministry and Theology of John Wesley

John Wesley's Room at Lincoln College



The Life, Ministry and Theology of John Wesley

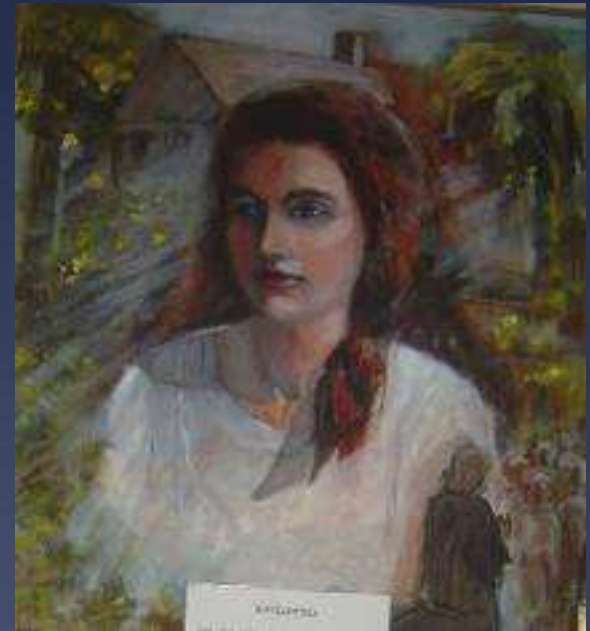
Journey to Georgia in 1735

Wesley on the ship



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- *Sophy Hopkey
- *Grace Murray
- *Mary Vazeille



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January 24, 1738: Entry in Wesley's journal:

"I went to America to convert the Indians, but O! who shall convert me? Who. . .shall deliver me from this heart of unbelief? I have a fair summer religion. I can talk well; nay, and believe myself while no danger is near; but let death look me in the face, and my spirit is troubled. . . .O who will deliver me from this fear of death?"

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The Aldersgate Experience— “I felt my heart strangely warmed” (May 24, 1738)



The Life, Ministry and Theology of John Wesley

- *Scripture

- *Reason

- *Tradition

- *Experience

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The Wesleyan Revival—1738-1791



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- *Preaching the Gospel
- *The Class Meetings
- *Ministering to the poor
- *The use of lay preachers
- *Singing the hymns of Charles Wesley

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“And can it be that I should gain
An interest in the Saviour’s blood?
Died he for me who caused His pain,
For me who Him to death pursued?
Amazing love! how can it be
That thou, my God, shouldst die for me?”

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Francis Asbury (1745-1816)

The Christmas Conference (December 24, 1784)



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The doctrine of holiness: The state of the Anglican Church in the eighteenth century

- * Prevenient grace
- * Convincing grace
- * Justifying grace—we are justified and initially sanctified
- * Sanctifying grace—perfected in Christ (*telos*)
- * Accompanying grace
- * Glorifying grace

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Prevenient Grace—John 1:9: “The true light that enlightens every person was coming into the world.”

- * Basic knowledge of God
- * Knowledge of God's moral law
- * Ultimate origin of conscience
- * Restoration of some measure of free will
- * Restrains human evil

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Matthew 22:34-40:

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. All the law and the prophets hang on these two commandments.”

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Social Holiness



J. Wesley Writes to W. Wilberforce

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Wesley's Home and Chapel on City Road, London

