

Cornerstones of Congregationalism III: Antislavery, Women's Rights, and the Social Gospel

First Congregational Church of Naperville

18 February 2007

Outline

I. Lyman Beecher and the Second Great Awakening

Revivalism (Charles Grandison Finney and the "anxious bench")

Reform (Lyman Beecher and the temperance pledge)

Reconsiderations (Catherine Beecher and "domestic feminism"; Horace Bushnell and Christian Nurture)

Reading: Robert Abzug, Cosmos Crumbling; Richard R. John, Spreading the News, ch. 5.

II: Antislavery and Women's Rights

The Challenge of Slavery (Leonard Bacon and "the good slaveholder"; Joshua Leavitt, immediatism, and political antislavery)

The Crisis of Women's Rights (Antoinette Brown, the first ordained Protestant minister in the United States; Angelina Grimke's censure by the Massachusetts Congregational Association; Seneca Falls)

The Crossroads of Reconstruction (Elizabeth Cady Stanton versus Lucy Stone on whether the present was the "negro's hour")

Reading: Abzug, Cosmos Crumbling; Katherine Kish Sklar, Catherine Beecher

III: The Social Gospel

The Problem (Josiah Strong's covenant: Our Country)

The Solutions (Washington Gladden, social investigation, and social action committees)

The Legacy (Charles Loring Brace, youth programs, and the juvenile courts; Richard Ely, municipal reform, and social security)

For additional information

Henry May, Protestants and Industrial America

Sydney Ahlstrom, A Religious History of American People, Vol. 2, chap. 47

Robert Handy, The Social Gospel in America: Gladden, Ely, Rauschenbusch

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