Social Effects of the Second Great Awakening

Presented by Doug Taylor
Liberty University Graduate Research Symposium
March 2015

Images courtesy of PresenterMedia – www.presentermedia.com
Social Effects of the Second Great Awakening
What About the Old Testament?

Actually said little...

Psalm 72:8-14 (all kings will bow, all nations will serve)

Isaiah 11:6-9 (lion / lamb passage)

Zechariah 14:15-17 (the LORD comes and reigns)
Postmillennial Ideology

Scholars included Charles Hodge, Shedd, Warfield, A.A. Hodge, and Strong

Central Issue: Literal or Figurative Fulfillment?
Postmillennial Ideology

Viewpoint that Christ will return after a long period of expansion and spiritual prosperity for the church, brought about by the preaching of the gospel; the Spirit’s blessing; and the church’s work toward righteousness, justice, and peace. The period is not a literal thousand years but extended time of spiritual prosperity.
The Goal of Education

- Eradicate Intemperance through Education
- Eradicate Profanity through Education
- Eradicate Sabbath Breaking through Education
Education

Read the Bible

Combat skepticism and atheism

Teach Christian Worldview
A. W. Pink

1. Simply being in the Church does not make one a Christian.

2. Education is simply laying the foundation for the Holy Spirit to be able to work in a life.

We cannot mistake having the right answers as being the same thing as being a Christian.
SLAVERY DID NOT END

Slavery existed in the Old Testament

Slavery existed in the New Testament

“Public” Slavery doesn’t exist, but just because it is not on the street in front of us does not mean slavery is gone.
18th Amendment to the Constitution

Volstead Act

Eph 5:15-18

Body as Temple of Holy Spirit

Need for Self Control

Lyman Beecher – Credited with growth of Movement
Stalker (1901)

*all drunkenness is a sin*

---

*Defacement of Divine Image*

*Temporary dethronement of the power within man that ought to govern*

*A casting of his crown of glory in the dust*

---

Addressing Image of God, not Positional Relationship
CONCLUSION

There was a lot of work going on to make society better following the Second Great Awakening.
Some good came from the push for Sunday School and broader Educational work. Failed to have lasting effects in society – after all, God has been evicted from the classroom.
Abolitionist Movement

Forced lifetime servitude as a formal institution in the United States was eradicated. Failed to have lasting effects in society – Human Trafficking has simply become “the man behind the curtain”
Temperance Movement

The 18th Amendment and the Volstead Act Failed miserably.

Alcohol is readily available, as are “kits” to manufacture spirits and brews at home.
A Final Thought...

Man cannot change the hearts of men through their own power.

“Programs” can only serve as vehicles to help get a message across, but

Only Jesus is capable of changing the heart of men.