

Seth Mick

SESSION 4 | Where Do We Stand? Machen and Missions

I. INTRODUCTION: PRESERVING THE VALUABLE

II. THE CONTROVERSY

A. Liberalism in the Presbyterian Church USA

1. Liberalism: Freeing the church from tradition

2. The Auburn Affirmation – 1924

B. The Board of Foreign Missions

1. Missionaries were not preaching the gospel

2. Pearl Buck

Jesus was potentially just “the essence of man’s highest dreams.” (Nichols, 65.)

Machen’s analysis: “The new task of missions was to seek the truth, not present it.” (Ibid.)

C. Machen

1. New Testament Professor

2. Machen’s Demands of his Denomination
 - a. 100 page report

 - b. Missions funding

“Funds dedicated to the propagation of the gospel by godly men and women of previous generations or . . . are in nearly all the churches being used *Partly* in the propagation of what is diametrically opposed to the evangelical faith” (Christianity and Liberalism, p. 141).

c. Machen’s call to purify the ranks in the Mission’s agency

D. Consequences

1. Sacrificing his place in the PCUSA
2. Sacrificing his reputation

“He failed, but he was undoubtedly right.” H.L. Mencken, Journalist for the Baltimore Sun.

III. APPLICATION

A. Watch your Doctrine

1. “Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers.” I Tim. 4:16

2. Statement of Faith

B. The false dichotomy between theology and practice

C. Unity and Division

“Every really great Christian Utterance, it may almost be said, is born in controversy. It is when men have felt compelled to take a stand against error that they have risen to the really great heights in celebration of truth” (Machen, quoted in Piper, *Contending for Our All*, 472).

D. Evangelism

E. The Danger of Ideologies

F. Christian Courage: Fear of God and Fear of Man

IV. CONCLUSION: KEEPING THE GOSPEL THE MAIN THING

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WHERE DO WE STAND?: THE LIFE AND TEACHING OF J. GRESHAM MACHEN

“what privilege to proclaim [the message of the cross] to the souls of people who sit in nominally Christian churches and starve for lack of the bread of life!” Machen