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CHBC Core Seminars

Global Christianity

Week 3



The History of the Protestant Church in China

Why study the history of the church in China?

I. Pre-Protestant Christianity in China

- Nestorians: 7th century.
- Franciscans: 13th century.

II. Beginnings of the Protestant Church

- Robert Morrison (马礼逊) (1782 - 1834)
Translated the Bible into Chinese
- First Opium War (1839 – 1842)
Opened China & burdened the gospel
- Taiping Rebellion (太平天国) (1850 - 1864)
Hong Xiuquan – self-proclaimed “Heavenly King”
- Hudson Taylor (戴德生) (1832 - 1905)
Founded China Inland Mission (CIM)
- Boxer Rebellion (义和团运动) (1899 - 1901)

II. Indigenous Christian Movements

- John Sung (宋尚节) (1901 - 1944)

- Watchman Nee (倪柝声) (1903 - 1972)

III. Three Self Patriotic Movement (三自教会) (TSPM)

Self-governance, self-support, and self-propagation

IV. Persecution

- Great Leap Forward (大跃进) (1958 - 1961)

- Cultural Revolution (文化大革命) (1966 - 1976)

- Reform and Reopening (改革开放) (1978)

V. The Church in China Today

- Three Self vs. house churches

- Persecution
Challenges for the growth of healthy churches.

- Unreached peoples and cities

VI. Conclusions

Lessons from the last 200 years

- Cultural associations with the gospel matter
- Theological liberalism doesn't survive persecution
- Persecution isn't an insurmountable obstacle
- The importance of theological training

How can we help?

- Caring well for CHBC members from China
- Translation and publishing
- Training pastors
- Prayer