

Session 1: Prologue and Chapter One (pp 7 – 31)

Question to Consider:

What is at the center of the Christian life?

Text Analysis:

1. Is there a difference between revival and revivalism? Can human beings create revival?
2. What is the difference between gradual conversion and crisis conversion?
3. What is the altar call?
4. What made the political and religious situations of the 18th century so complex?
5. How did the rise of individualism impact the shape of Protestantism in early American history?
6. Why did the change in preaching style and the spread of lay preachers go hand-in-hand with camp meeting revivalism?

Cultural Analysis:

1. How does our current culture tend to oversimplify the story of American origins?
2. What might an unbeliever think of the emotional appeal found in an altar call?

Biblical Analysis:

1. Read Isaiah 32:13 – 19. What is the only real remedy for a ruined country?
2. Read Acts 4:31-33; 11:15-16; 13:52- 14:1. To what can spiritual prosperity and growth be traced?