

**Comparative Religion II**  
**METHODISTS**




1

**Comparative Religion II**  
**METHODISTS**  
**METHODIST CHURCHES**





2

**Comparative Religion II**  
**METHODISTS**

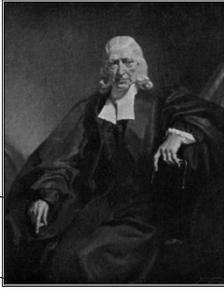



3

**Comparative Religion II**  
**METHODISTS**  
**FOUNDER – JOHN WESLEY**




A YOUNG JOHN WESLEY



AN OLDER JOHN WESLEY

4

**Comparative Religion II**  
**METHODISTS**



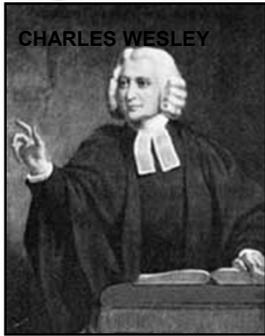
Wittenb



GENERAL CONFERENCE 2004  
PITTSBURGH, PA

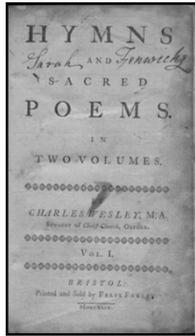
5

**Comparative Religion II**  
**METHODISTS**

CHARLES WESLEY

FOR 57 YEARS THE WESLEY'S WROTE AN AVERAGE OF THREE HYMNS PER WEEK!



HYMNS  
Sacred Poems  
IN TWO VOLUMES.  
CHARLES WESLEY, M.A.  
Bristol: Printed and Sold by PARSFORD & CO. 1739.

6

**Comparative Religion II**  
**METHODISTS**

© 2004 Ambassador Bible College

7

**Comparative Religion II**  
**METHODISTS**

© 2004 Ambassador Bible College

8

**Comparative Religion II**  
**METHODISTS**

© 2004 Ambassador Bible College

9

**Comparative Religion II**  
**METHODISTS**

**PROTESTANT TREE OF DENOMINATIONS**

© 2004 Ambassador Bible College

10

**Comparative Religion II**  
**METHODISTS**

**United States in 1850**  
Methodist Churches by County

© 2004 Ambassador Bible College

11

**Comparative Religion II**  
**METHODISTS**

© 2004 Ambassador Bible College

12

**Comparative Religion II**

**METHODISTS**

---

**BACKGROUND**

**FOUNDER** – John Wesley (1703-1791)

**GOD** – A Trinity. God, the Creator Father; God, the Redeemer Son; God, the Abiding Spirit

**SCRIPTURES** – The Holy Bible is their only authority. The *BOOK OF DISCIPLINE* is used for articles of faith

13

**Comparative Religion II**

**METHODISTS**

---

**BACKGROUND**

**HISTORY** – One of nineteen children born to an Anglican priest, Samuel Wesley. Susanna, John’s mother was the force in the family and influenced John profoundly.

Ordained a priest at the age of 25, John along with his brother strove for greater spirituality. They studied in a disciplined manner and took communion weekly.

14

**Comparative Religion II**

**METHODISTS**

---

**BACKGROUND**

**HISTORY** – At first they were Anglicans, but their actions set them apart sufficiently that a new church had to be established.

Called “Bible Moths”, “Holy Clubbers”, and “Enthusiasts” because of their thorough discipline and dedication.

They were “societies” then they became a church.

15

**Comparative Religion II**

**METHODISTS**

---

CALLED “BIBLE  
MOTHS” FOR THEIR  
DEVOTION TO  
THE SCRIPTURES

16

**Comparative Religion II**

**METHODISTS**

---

**BACKGROUND**

**HISTORY** – John took his version of Protestantism to America.

He did not have much success because he expected too much of the Indians among whom he worked. Returned to England feeling a failure. Moravians whom he met on the voyage gave him a sense of deeper conversion.

Methodism spread rapidly in America because of

17

**Comparative Religion II**

**METHODISTS**

---

**BACKGROUND**

**HISTORY** – the famed Circuit Riders. Peter Cartwright and Francis Asbury being two notable ones.

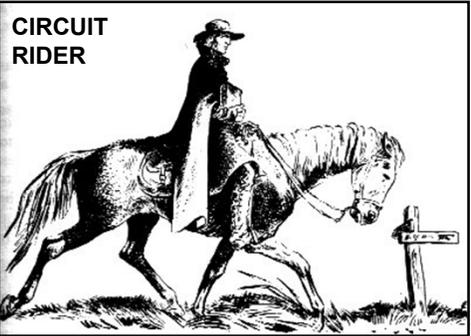
These itinerant preachers took Methodism to the logging and fur-trading camps in the new territories.

Methodism became the largest Protestant Church in America and was the largest until 1920.

18

**Comparative Religion II**  
**METHODISTS**

**CIRCUIT RIDER**



TREMENDOUS GROWTH FOR 50 YEARS 1786 – 1836 BECAUSE OF CIRCUIT RIDERS

19

**Comparative Religion II**  
**METHODISTS**

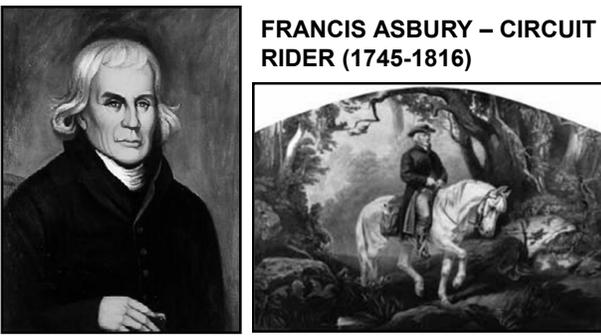
THE CIRCUIT RIDER – 2/3 OF THE FIRST 672 RIDERS WERE ABLE TO CONTINUE FOR ONLY 12 YEARS.



20

**Comparative Religion II**  
**METHODISTS**

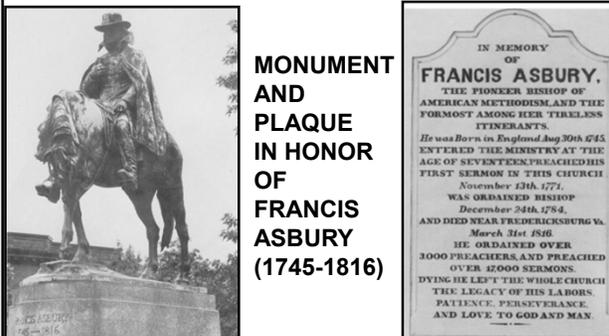
**FRANCIS ASBURY – CIRCUIT RIDER (1745-1816)**



21

**Comparative Religion II**  
**METHODISTS**

**MONUMENT AND PLAQUE IN HONOR OF FRANCIS ASBURY (1745-1816)**

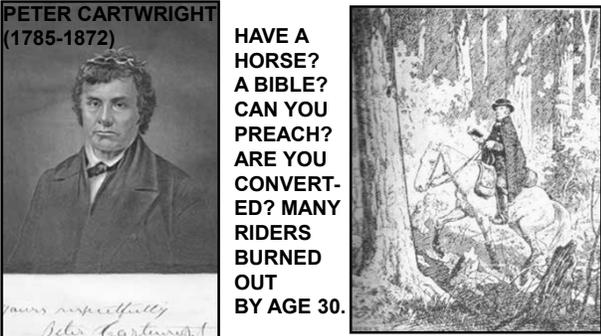


IN MEMORY OF FRANCIS ASBURY. THE PIONEER BISHOP OF AMERICAN METHODISM AND THE FORMOST AMONG HER TIRELESS ITINERANTS. He was Born in England Aug 29th 1745 ENTERED THE MINISTRY AT THE AGE OF SEVENTEEN PREACHED HIS FIRST SERMON IN THIS CHURCH November 23th 1773. WAS ORDAINED BISHOP December 24th 1794. AND DIED NEAR FREDERICKSBURG Va. March 31st 1816. HE ORDAINED OVER 3000 PREACHERS AND PREACHED OVER 42000 SERMONS. DYING HE LEFT THE WHOLE CHURCH THE LEGACY OF HIS LAZORS. PATIENCE. PERSEVERANCE. AND LOVE TO GOD AND MAN

22

**Comparative Religion II**  
**METHODISTS**

**PETER CARTWRIGHT (1785-1872)**



HAVE A HORSE? A BIBLE? CAN YOU PREACH? ARE YOU CONVERTED? MANY RIDERS BURNED OUT BY AGE 30.

23

**Comparative Religion II**  
**METHODISTS**

**BACKGROUND**

**ORGANIZATION** – The General Conference is the highest legislative body of the church. Meets every 4 years. A council of Bishops is elected by the clergy and laity and forms the executive branch. Democratic in their general approach and are extremely detailed in their committees, and church groups. Laymen have prominent roles in the Methodist Church

24

**Comparative Religion II**

**METHODISTS**

---

**BACKGROUND**

**CREED** – The Apostles’ Creed is recited every Sunday

**SALVATION** – Is by the grace of God and involves living life according to the gospel. Heaven and hell are not only literal places but some believe they are merely states of mind.

25

**Comparative Religion II**

**METHODISTS**

---

**BELIEFS**

- Traditional Protestant theology with slight variations. Similar to Anglican theology.
- Two rites (baptism and Lord’s Supper)
- Sprinkling is commonly used for the spiritual experience of baptism. Called a ceremony for induction into the Kingdom.
- Lord’s Supper is observed as a memorial with bread and grape juice as symbols.

26

**Comparative Religion II**

**METHODISTS**

---

**BELIEFS**

- They believe in the separation of Church and State
- Liquor – have opposed the use of liquor to the point of supporting prohibition. Carry Nation and her WCTU group took the axe to many bars.
- Socially active for many community causes and are quite ecumenical.
- Universal Redemption – Christ died for all

27

**Comparative Religion II**

**METHODISTS**



**CARRY NATION AND THE WCTU**




28

**Comparative Religion II**

**METHODISTS**



**CARRY NATION AND HER HATCHET FOR DESTROYING SALOONS**



29

**Comparative Religion II**

**METHODISTS**

**THE WCTU PRAYING OUTSIDE A SALOON**



Crusaders praying outside neighboring saloons in Bucyrus, OH. (late 1800's)

30

**Comparative Religion II**  
**METHODISTS**  
**BELIEFS**

□ Three major beliefs:

1. Final Perfection – what Methodism gave to Protestants – you can achieve perfection in degrees in this life
2. Regeneration – A new birth – the process by which one receives the spirit
3. Witness of the Spirit – A person can know they are a child of God

31

**Comparative Religion II**  
**METHODISTS**  
**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

- Methodism has wide appeal to various ethnic groups
- Wide latitude of beliefs from congregation to congregation
- Liberalism has become widely accepted and they have lost membership over the last several decades
- More American Indians follow this faith than any other. One of two Japanese American Christians is a Methodist

32

**Comparative Religion II**  
**METHODISTS**  
**PROMINENT LOCATIONS**

- United States
- Canada
- Attendance over 8 million in North America where Methodism is most prominent

33

**Comparative Religion II**  
**METHODISTS**  
**ATTENDANCE CHARTS**

Chart 3  
 United Methodist Member vs. Attendance  
 1971 to 2000

Attendance fell from over 10 million in 1970's to 8 million in 2000's

34

**Comparative Religion II**  
**METHODISTS**  
**ATTENDANCE CHARTS**

United Methodist Membership Compared to US Population

35

**Comparative Religion II**  
**METHODISTS**  
**WHAT AM I?**

1. LIQUOR IS PROHIBITED
2. FINAL PERFECTION
3. SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE
4. HEAVY EMPHASIS ON HYMNS IN SERVICES
5. WIDE LATITUDE OF BELIEFS

36



## Comparative Religion II

### METHODISTS

#### WHAT AM I?

**1. LIQUOR IS PROHIBITED**

Jesus first miracle – John 2:3-10; Matthew 11:19; Psalm 104:15; Matthew 11:19; I Timothy 5:23

**2. FINAL PERFECTION**

Hebrews 6:1-2; Matthew 5:48; Ephesians 4:13; Philippians 3:14; Jude 24 – A process that God will complete

37



## Comparative Religion II

### METHODISTS

#### WHAT AM I?

**3. SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE**

Galatians 3:28; John 18:36; Leviticus 26:13-15; Acts 5:29; Matthew 22:21

**4. HEAVY EMPHASIS ON HYMNS IN SERVICES**

Ecclesiastes 5:1-2; I Chronicles 25:1-5; Psalms 95:1; Psalms 9:11; Ephesians 5:19; II Timothy 4:1-2

38



## Comparative Religion II

### METHODISTS

#### WHAT AM I?

**5. WIDE LATITUDE OF BELIEFS**

I Corinthians 1:10; Philippians 2:2; Ephesians 4:4; Philippians 1:27; Amos 3:3; John 17:21-22

39



## Comparative Religion II

### METHODISTS



**THE END**

40

