

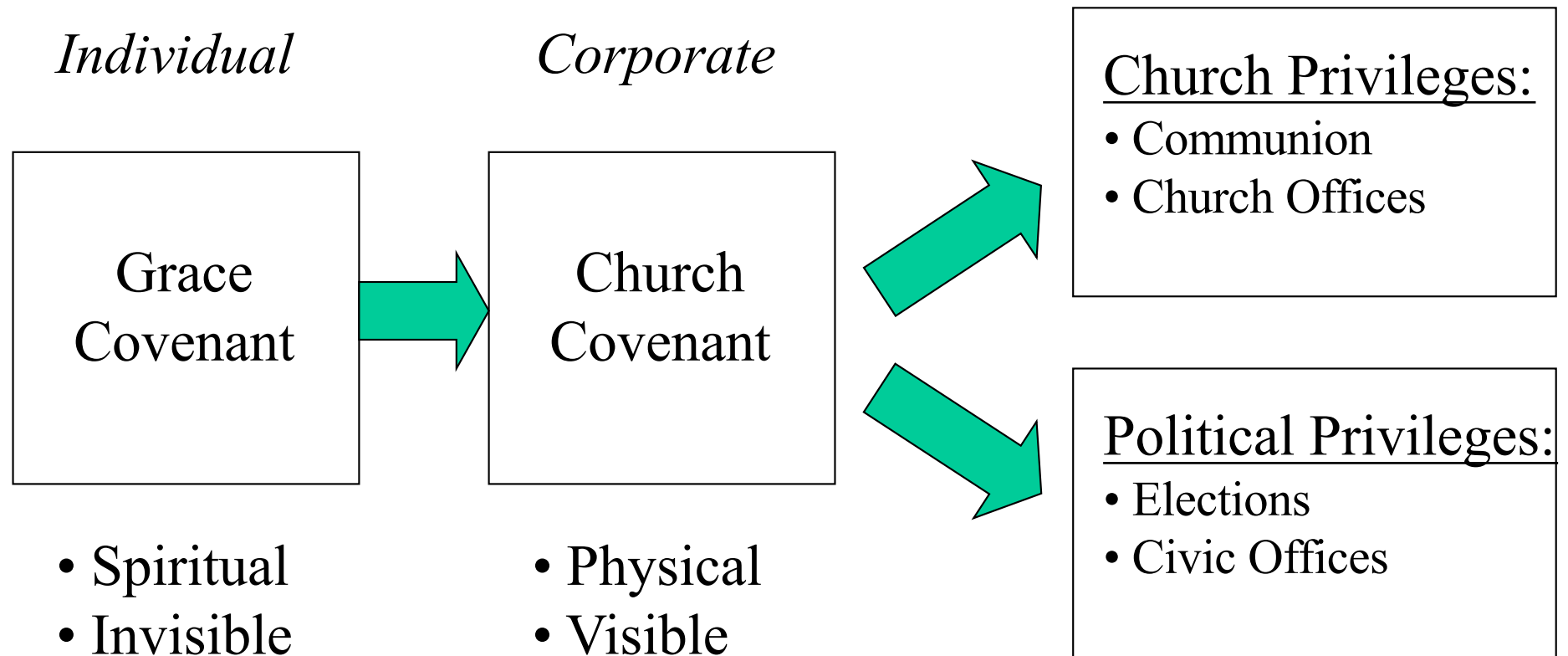
What Does It Mean to be *Evangelical* Great Awakening, Part 1: **Revivalism**

Bill Petro

your friendly neighborhood historian

billpetro.com/compass

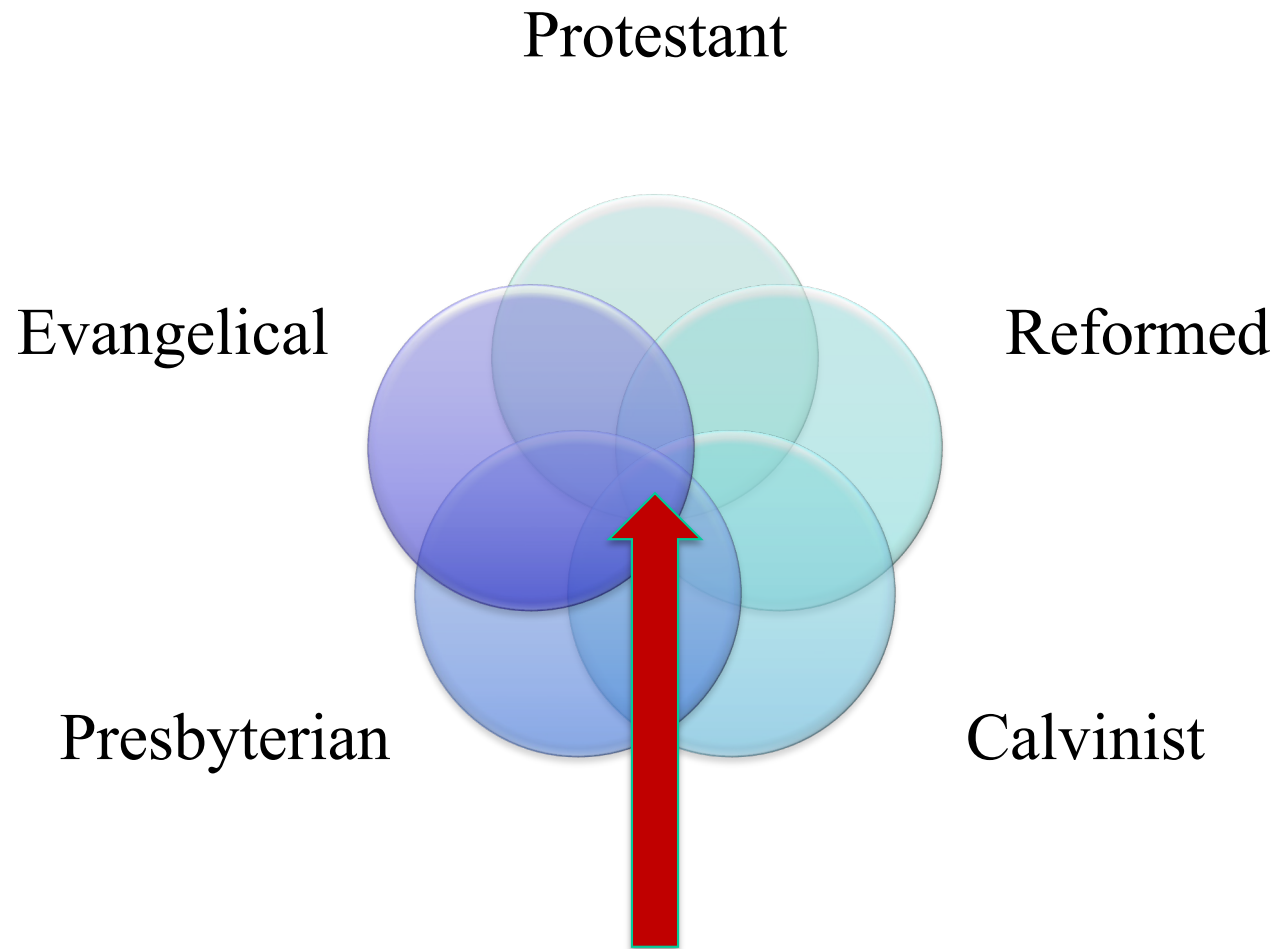
Puritan Experiment: Ecclesiastical Theory in *Two Covenants*



Decline of New England Theology

- 1643: 11% church membership
 - *Preaching of the “Jeremiad”*
- 1657: Half-Way Covenant
 - *Secularized state: church disconnected from state*
- 1677: Stoddardeanism: *Very open* Communion
 - *Secularized church*
- 1691: Province of Massachusetts became a Royal Colony
 - *Religious bans eliminated: need not be church member to vote.*

Village Seven Presbyterian is:



Objectives

By the end of this session, you should be able to

- Trace development of the **Great Awakening**
- Understand the initial American meaning of *Evangelicalism*
- Identify the key players: **3 Ws**

Over 30 Years Later...

Revivalism

1. God's saints are revived
2. They share their faith locally
3. Missionary enterprise beyond the locale
4. Social outreach.



Course of Revival in Colonies



Middle Colonies: Course of Awakening

- 1720's: **Theodore Fruelinghuysen**

N. New Jersey Dutch pastor – Rariton River Valley

- He noticed some of his Deacons were becoming converted

- New Brunswick, NJ – Presbyterians

Scottish **William Tennent** and his sons...

William Tennent

- 1673-1745
- Presbyterian evangelist
- Log Cabin College.



Northern Course of Awakening

- 1734-37: Conn River Valley

Congregationalists:

Northampton to the Atlantic

- Died down for 2-3 years
- 1739-41: **Whitefield:**
Boston, Salem, Portsmouth,
all of New England
- Leadership and writings of
Jonathan Edwards.



“*Evangelicalism*”

εὐαγγελίζω

- Premise: conversion “new birth,” by the Word
- Puritans: public profession
- 1730s, 40s: “Awakenings”
England, Wales, Scotland, Colonies
- Mass conversions, open-air preaching of the Word of God
- Split churches: “New Lights” vs. “Old Lights.”
- *N.E. New Lights* => Separate Baptists

Southern Course of Awakening

- **Presbyterians** in N. Virginia
- **Baptists** from (Separate Congregationalists – Regenerate Members) in New England (Connecticut) expands to *Separate Baptists* in N. Carolina
- From 6,000 – 20,000 in 3 years, foundation of **Southern Baptists.**

Baptists

- In America since 17th century. *Providence & Newport, RI*
- Galvanized by Great Awakening
- Today: 30-40M in US, 1/3 of all Protestants.

Figure 2: Early German Baptism in Neckar River. 1837



The 3 Ws



George Whitefield

Whitefield



Wesley

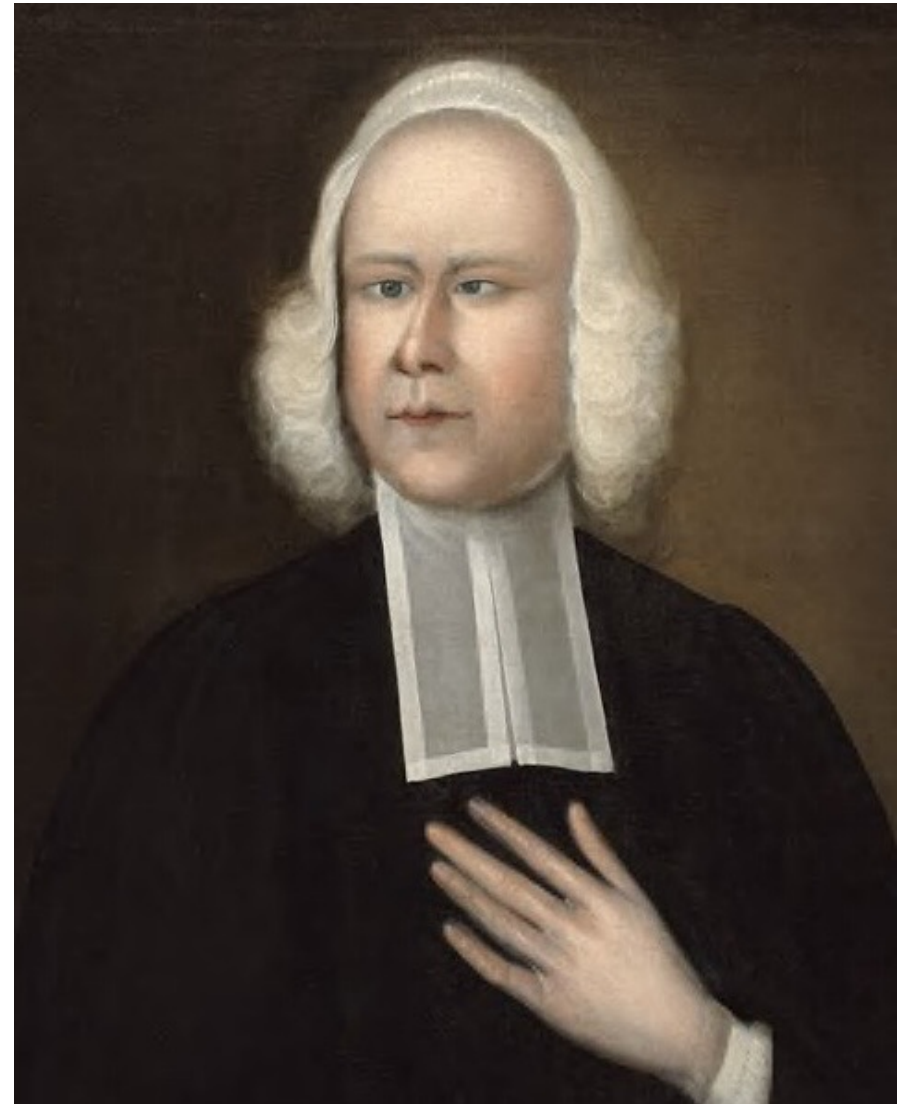


Edwards

George Whitefield

Awakener of the Awakening

- 1714 - 1770
- In 1738 made 1st of 7 visits to the America
- Ordained Anglican
- “Great Itinerant”
- Member of **Wesley**’s Oxford “Holy Club”
- Popular as **Geo. Washington**
- Huge crowds: 30,000.



Preaching in the Field

- Collapsible Field pulpit
- 2,000 sermons



The New Birth

- John 3:1-8
- Whitefield:
*“How this glorious
Change is wrought in the
Soul cannot easily be
explained.”*



Ben Franklin on Whitefield

- Heard Whitefield preach in Colonies & England:
- Built **Philadelphia Hall**
- Georgia orphanage issue
- Calculated size of crowds
- *Pleased* with discourse



More: billpetro.com/history-of-ben-franklin

John Wesley

- 1703 - 1791
- “a brand plucked from the burning”
- Oxford: Holy Club → *Methodism*
- High Church Anglican



1-Word Summary

• Pilgrims	Separatists
• Puritans	Saints
• Whitefield	Dramatic
• Wesley	Methodism
• Great Awakening	Fire