

## A SEQUENTIAL BLOW BY BLOW OF LAST WEEK'S SERMON (10.29.2017)

1. The Catholic Counter Reformation arose to claim other lands, and to seize the next generation through Catholic education and governmental influence.
2. One of the results was Religious War – *The 30 Years War*
3. The loss of confidence in religion brought on The Enlightenment where philosophy replaced the bible as a means of truth.
4. The Protestant response to philosophy's coldness and Europe's "pulpit wars" was Pietism, a religion of the heart.
5. In America, with The Enlightenment challenging Christian foundations, our answer was the three revivals from 1740 to 1858. Each revival moved the nation's moral compass back to the right.

There were four torpedoes that slammed into the Protestant Christian ship.

1. The Industrial Revolution : Science would now save us
2. Darwin's evolutionary theory: Science would tell us who we are
3. German "Higher Criticism": Scholarship would tell us who God was
4. Hegelian Idealism: Philosophy would tell us who God was

All these torpedoes had one thing in common: "Modern Man was progressing onward and upward, getting better every day in every way."

6. How would fundamental Christianity survive? We would change to fit the times. "Theological Liberalism" that eliminated the supernatural. The truth became a taxidermist's model.
7. The response of the true Christian? Fundamentalism – a staunch return to the Bible's basics.
8. Another response was Pentecostalism. Religious vitality through religious experience.
9. The coming of 20<sup>th</sup> century science. Einstein and Planck changed the thinking of natural laws and the nature of matter. What we thought was absolute was not.
10. Catholicism's response was to turn from modernity in the "Syllabus of Errors" in 1864.
11. But man's modern dreams of Utopia ended in WWI. Christian nations slaughtering Christians. Man was indeed evil.

12. The response? The fall of Theological Liberalism and the rise of Neo-Orthodoxy through Karl Barth. It was better than liberalism but was not true Protestantism. The bible was not the word of God but one could “encounter” the word of God in a “Christ event” and find Him.
13. The embracing of Modernism by the arts that diffused through all of society.
14. The inevitable end of Rationalism – “Existentialism” – man becomes God.
15. The response of Protestantism to the 20<sup>th</sup> Century – Fundamentalists withdrew with a fortress mentality. “Us against Them”
16. The response to the fortress mentality – Neo-evangelicalism. Christian involvement in the “lower story” of life.
17. So where are we today?