

in Series 12/27/78
Copy for Commission on History column:

THE GREAT DIVISIONS OF THE CHRISTIAN WORLD

Christianity, as loosely defined by the world in our time, is divided into three great divisions. Namely: Baptist, Catholic and Protestant. Some uninformed or prejudiced-minded people have attempted to classify the Baptists as Protestants. But all informed historians know better.

The Baptists had their beginning with Christ and the Apostles about 31 or 32 A.D. The Catholics parting from the Baptists in the third century, formed an alliance with the state under Emperor Constantine in 312 A.D. The first Pope was Boniface who was made such by Emperor Phocas about 606 A.D. The Protestants had their beginning about 1530 with Martin Luther and the great reformation.

ORIGIN OF THE DENOMINATIONS

BAPTISTS: By Jesus Christ during His earthly ministry about 31 or 32 A.D.

CATHOLICS: Driven out from the Baptists in the third century because of their heretical doctrines; they formed an alliance with the state under Emperor Constantine in 312 A.D. The first Pope was Boniface, who was made such by Emperor Phocas about 606 A.D.

LUTHERANS: BY Martin Luther about 1530 to initiate the great Protestant Reformation.

PRESBYTERIANS: By John Calvin in 1535.

EPISCOPALIANS: (Church of England): By King Henry VIII in 1540.

CONGREGATIONALIST: Seceded from the Church of England in 1602.

QUAKERS: By George Fox in 1684.

METHODISTS: By John Wesley in 1729.

FREEWILL BAPTISTS: By Benjamin Randall in 1780.

CHURCH OF CHRIST (Campbellites) By Alexander Campbell in 1827.

MORMANS (Latter Day Saints): By Joseph Smith in 1830.

PRIMITIVE BAPTISTS (Hardshell Baptists): By Daniel Parker in 1832.

SEVENTH DAY ADVENTISTS: By William Miller in 1843.

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES: By Charles Taze Russell in 1870. Also known as the Watch Tower Society established in 1884. Sometimes called Russelites, Rutherfordites and Millennial Dawnists.

NAZARENES: By S. F. Breese in 1885. Mostly from this group came the various Holiness sects as Holiness, Church of God, Assembly of God, Pentecostals and others beginning from about 1914.

-- L. S. Walker