

**Heizenrater, Wesley and the People Called Methodists, 2nd ed.
Wesley Advocates**

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Preface to the First Edition

What does RPH mean when he writes, “In many cases, John Wesley had an intellectual conviction about what was right or true before he had an experiential verification (assurance) that such was the case. Empirical verification became important, even for religious or spiritual truths”?

Methodism and the Christian Heritage in England

Note: This first chapter you will find especially dense with important historical information, with crucial terms and names and dates—hence, lots of questions. I promise the second section will go more quickly and easily.

What physical changes occurred in churches as a result of the Reformation in England?

Who were the medieval Pietists? Why does RPH call Susanna Wesley a Pietist?

Please note that Heizenrater omits a clarifying word in first sentence under “The English Reformation”: “England was introduced to *Latin* Christianity in the sixth century. . . .” Most scholars believe that, long before the pope sent Augustine to Canterbury (597 CE), Christianity reached the British Isles, some believe during the 2nd century. Certainly we have documentation that Saint Columba, Saint Patrick, Saint Brigid, and others were active before Augustine arrived; when he came, he soon sought to meet with established British bishops and other clerics at the Synod of Chester. You will recall that Celtic Christianity was so powerful in the north of England as well as in Wales, Ireland, and Scotland, that in 664 CE Saint Hilda called the Synod of Whitby during which clerics voted on whether to unify Britain under Celtic or Latin Christianity.

How does the Reformation support the rise of English nationalism? *(For this question and subsequent ones, please confine each response responses to eight or ten substantial paragraphs.)*

What do you remember about conflicts between the RCC and the C of E from reading Spenser’s *Faerie Queene*?

What is an Erastian form of government?

What was the Act of Supremacy? What were the Ten Articles? The Six Articles? The Forty-Two Articles? The Thirty-Nine Articles? The Act of Uniformity?

What is “supralapsarian predestination”?

What was the Book of Common Prayer, and who wrote it? When and why? What was the Book of Homilies?

Describe Henry 8’s relationship with the church and pope before he sought a divorce from Katherine?

Who were the Marian martyrs? What is Foxe’s *Book of Martyrs*? Why is it important to the C of E? What was the Geneva Bible and why was it so important to English Protestants?

What do we usually call the strict English Calvinists?

In 1595, during the reign of Elizabeth I, Richard Hooker sought to explain church polity and doctrine in *Of the Laws of Ecclesiastical Polity*. He stressed the roles of scripture, tradition, and reason. What seems familiar in this scheme? Why?

Who was Jacob Arminius? How does his theology differ from Calvin’s with regard to free will and predetermination? Why does Arminius wish to diminish the idea and influence of predetermination? Which path does Wesley follow—and how do we know? What exactly is the role of free will for Arminius?

What do Luther, Arminius, others mean when they assert *sola gratia* and *sola fide*? What about *sola scriptura*? Where, if anywhere, do we find these pleas in Wesley’s Methodism?

At the Synod of Dort in 1619, the strict Calvinists insisted on a doctrine summarized in the acronym TULIP—what does that stand for? Where did Arminius stand with regard to TULIP?

Who were the solifidians? The antinomians? What are nonconformists? Dissenters?

What is “divine right”? Whence comes this notion? Who needed it, and who needed to hold to it?

What do you remember about creation of the Authorized Version?

How did Charles 1 and William Laud cross the various dissenting Protestants as well as mainstream C of E members? What happened to C1 and to Laud?

RPH says, “Religious freedom had resulted, in the view of an increasing number of people, in the rise of religious fanaticism—the country was becoming infested by every type of group imaginable: Presbyterians, Baptists, Congregationalists, Quakers . . . all, in their tendencies toward singularity of religious expression, quite foreign to the mediating tendencies of the by then traditional English mindset.” What does he mean? What do you think?

Who were the nonjurors? The Latitudinarians? The Cambridge Platonists? How do these groups respond to the earlier religious fanaticism arising before and during the Civil Wars? What was the Act of Toleration (1689), and why is the period particularly important to this legislation? Who ruled England—and how and why did they come to rule? What are the key provisions of the Act of Toleration? How did this act affect disenfranchisement?

What is “works-righteousness”? Who was susceptible to it? How did it affect the Wesleys and the early Methodists?

What is synergism? Deism? To whom did these ideas appeal? Why?

Describe the Pietist movement in Germany. What were the two principal camps of Pietism? What did they emphasize?

What was the SPCK, and why was it important to Wesley? What strikes you in the guide to holy living (see list on page 23)?

English religious societies like the SPCK aimed to affect believers so their endeavors rose out of what urges? What kinds of activities did the SPCK and like-minded groups undertake?

What was the SRM? The SPG? What did each society seek to achieve? What kinds of activities did each undertake?

Why was the term *Methodist* derogatory in some contexts?

Where in the Wesley family do we find nonconformists?

Describe Samuel Wesley, his background, education, ambitions, beliefs. Do the same for Susanna Wesley.

Describe the Wesley family at Epworth, their typical values and activities and concerns. What childhood event shaped John's belief that he was destined for important work?

How does John Wesley combine the "perfectionism of the Pietists, the moralism of the Puritans, and the devotionism of the Mystics in a pragmatic approach"?