

Editor's Notes: A Passion for Purity

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“Formality starves duty.... Duty without fervor is as a sacrifice without fire. We should ascend to heaven in a fiery chariot of devotion.”

-Thomas Watson in *The Lord's Prayer*.

For many, the words “Princeton Seminary” or “Charles Hodge” conjure up black-and-white images of sour-faced men in tight collars droning out lectures to glassy-eyed students for hours at a time, only to graduate those students so they in turn can go out and bore their congregations to death.

But to us here at WRS, these words represent the best of American theology in days gone by. Hodge and company were anything but stodgy old men with nothing better to do than think deep thoughts. Their theology-the theology of Reformed Christianity-had been the foundation of the First Great Awakening, and the source of the impetus to found Princeton in the first place. It is a theology that is eminently practical and fervent while avoiding the simplistic errors of less careful theologians. “In him was conspicuously seen, how warm and loving a heart may beat beneath what some would regard as the cold steel of a Calvinistic coat of mail,” observes C. A. Salmond (*Princetoniana*.)

We are delighted to honor the bicentennial of Charles Hodge's birth by looking at his life, his influence, and the school he called home for more than fifty years. May his example serve as the benchmark for our own faithfulness to the truths of orthodox Christianity in a century of accommodation to wickedness.