

But neither one of them is desirable in the sight of God. But England was then filled with dead orthodoxy. Essentially before that England had been a land in which there was very little doctrinal preaching. England, a century before that or a little more had sunk to as low a depth as it had ever sunk: in morals, in attitudes toward the Bible. Blackstone, the noted commentator went to many of the great church in London. He wrote he could not find a single one where he could tell from the man's preaching whether he was a follower of Christ, of Confucious, of Buddah, or of Mohammed. That was the depth to which England sank. Then God raised up J. Wesley and C. Wesley and Whitfield and these three men and their associates changed the religious face of England.

The founding of a church which resulted from the activities of the Wesleys -- the Methodist church. As far as England was concerned it was a relatively small part. They affected all denominations and England was changed and became a great land of faith in God. One of the greatest Christian lands in the world as a result of that great awakening of the 18th century, but when Darwin came along, the awakening had had a few decades to die down lower and lower and lower. It had ~~gotten~~ gotten to the point where there were a great many people who wanted to throw out their ~~allegiance~~ allegiance to the Bible but didn't quite dare say so. They were in that situation where people were looking for something to grab hold of as an excuse for turning away from Christianity when Darwin's book came out. I think that explains ~~to~~ to a very great extent the great success of the book.

One other thing to mention, the name of Darwin is not the great name to mention in the spread of evolution. Darwin was the great figurehead. Darwin was the picture of the great imperterbable scientist who gave respectability to it. But the man who made evolution accepted in England was Huxley. Darwin called him his "bulldog." He said == No, Huxley said, I'm Darwin's bulldog. Darwin said he was his general manager. But Huxley talked == talked at great length to Darwin and Darwin gave him his theories and Huxley said I don't believe a word of it. Darwin wrote his book and showed Huxley the manuscript. Huxley read the manuscript and said, I don't believe it. But Huxley as a young man attended churches where ~~they~~ there was dead orthodoxy preachers who gave long, long tedious sermons expounding some minor point of theology and Huxley got so sick of it, he said, A Bishop could never be right on anything! He was bitterly anti-Christian. When Darwin's book came out and all the leaders of dead-orthodoxy in the country, people who held to the wording of the Bible but did not show the power of it in their lives, and they began attacking Darwin. Huxley said he re-read the book in print and he saw it was all true, when before it had sounded to him imaginary and entirely false. He said he was only convinced after he saw the book (inprint). There may have been various psychological things that entered into ~~it~~ his change, but Huxley went out and debated it and it was Huxley's efforts that made it acceptable. Right here it was Huxley tying up Darwin's theory with the ideals of justice, of rightoueness, of fairness, which people had derived from the Bible, and using it against those who held to the wording of the Bible that made the big change.

q There was a big debate in Oxford, and they invited Huxley to come, to this meeting. They invited Darwin and he hardly ever went anywhere. He always let Huxley do it. Huxley went to the debate.