



# The Great Awakening



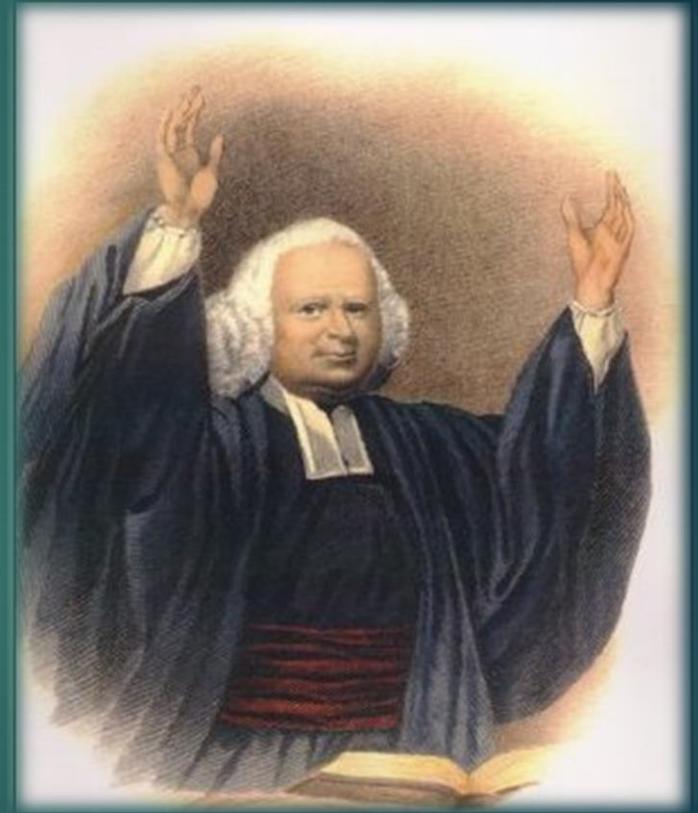
The Great Awakening 1730-1740 gave colonists a shared national religious experience. It was a religious revival that impacted the colonies in America during the 1730s and 1740s. The movement came at a time when the idea of secular rationalism was being emphasized, and passion for religion had grown stale.

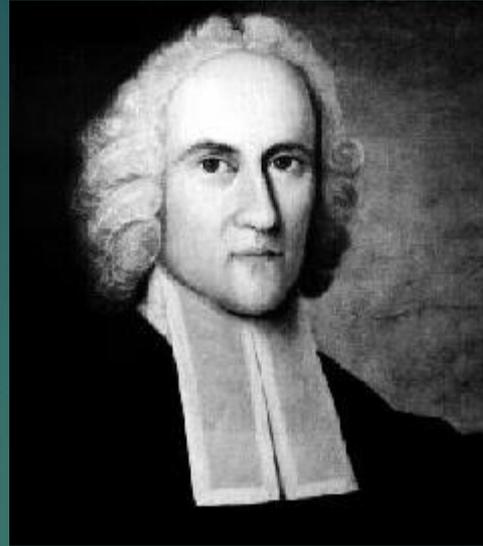
# Reasons for The Great Awakening

- ▶ People felt that religion was dry, dull and distant.
- ▶ Preachers felt that people needed to be concerned with inner emotions as opposed to outward religious behavior.
- ▶ People in New England can read and interpret the Bible on their own.

# George Whitefield

- ▶ Puritan Minister who used raw emotional sermons to reach all classes of colonists
- ▶ Preached that “good works” and “godly lives” would bring you salvation
- ▶ Forced to give sermons in open areas (revivals)





**Jonathan Edwards**, a Yale minister who refused to convert to the Church of England, a Puritan, terrified listeners with his sermon *“Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God”*

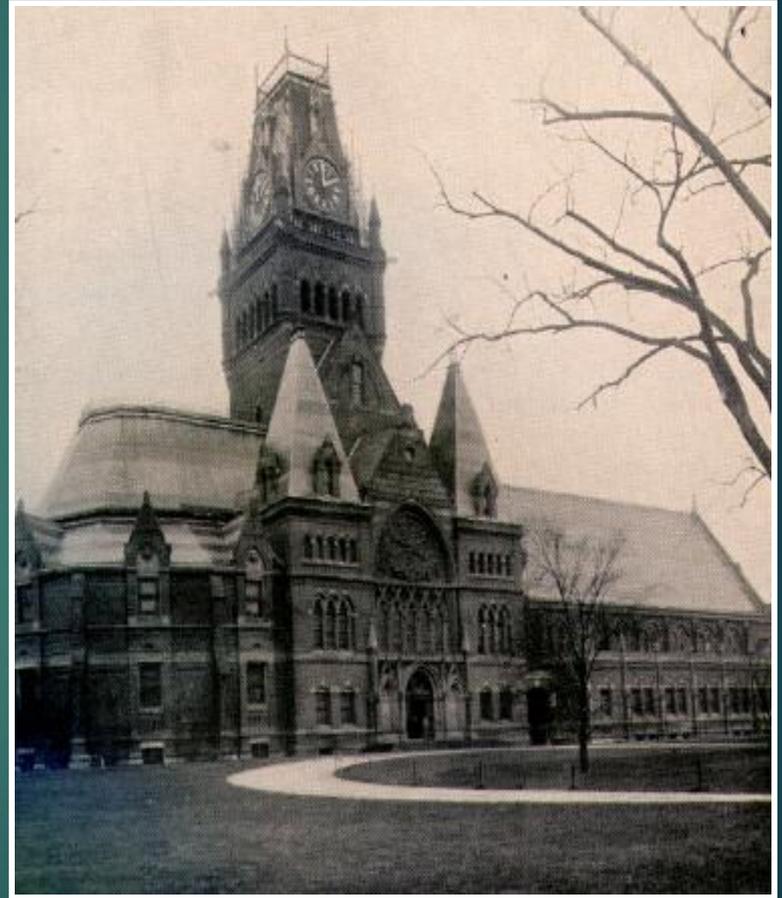
**Edwards** believed that people found the pursuit of wealth to be more important than Calvin's religious principles.

Some were even beginning to suggest that predestination was wrong and that good works might save a soul. Edwards barked out from the pulpit against these notions. "*God was an angry judge, and humans were sinners!*" he declared.

He spoke with such fury and conviction that people flocked to listen. This sparked what became known as the **Great Awakening** in the American colonies.

# Outcomes of the Great Awakening

- ▶ Birth of deep religious convictions in the colonies.
- ▶ New churches built to accommodate new members.
- ▶ Colleges founded found to train new ministers.
- ▶ The new faiths that emerged were much more democratic in their approach.

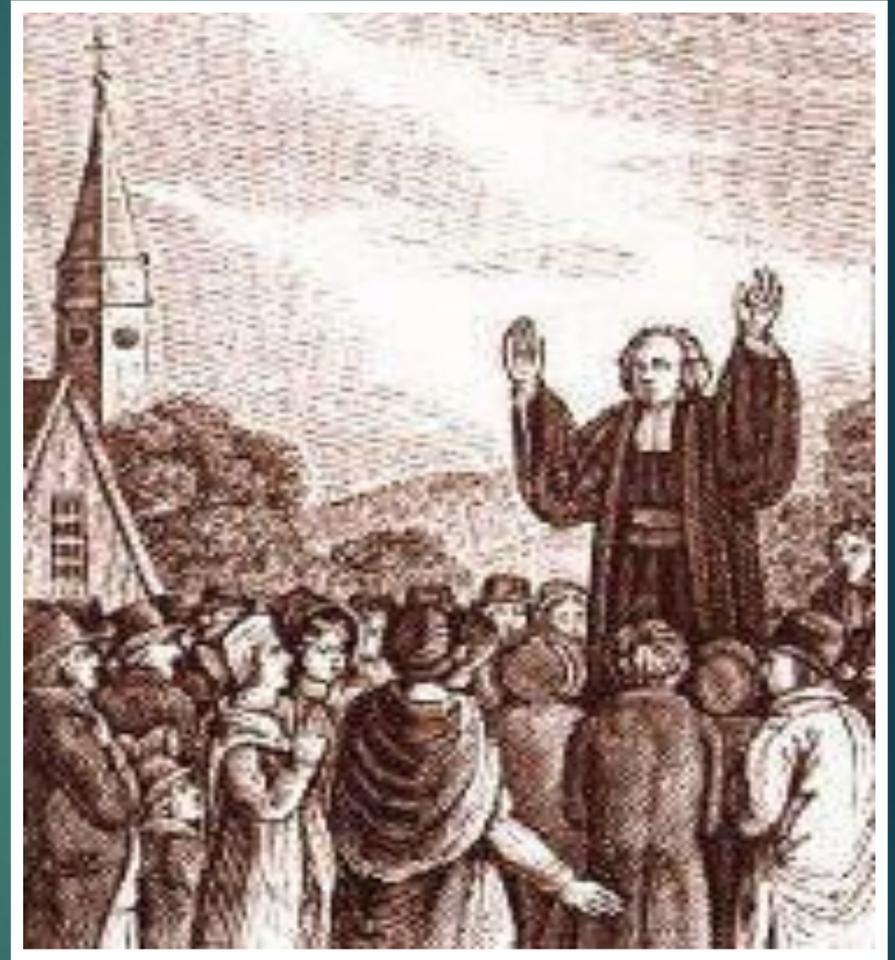


Awakening, or **New Light**, preachers set up their own schools and churches throughout the colonies. **Princeton University** was one such school.

The **Old Light** ministers refused to accept this new style of worship. Despite the conflict, one surprising result was greater religious toleration.

With so many new denominations, it was clear that no one religion would dominate any region.

- ▶ Encouraged ideas of equality and right to challenge authority
- ▶ Birth of charity and charitable organizations.
- ▶ Although the Great Awakening was a reaction against the Enlightenment, it was also a long term cause of the Revolution.



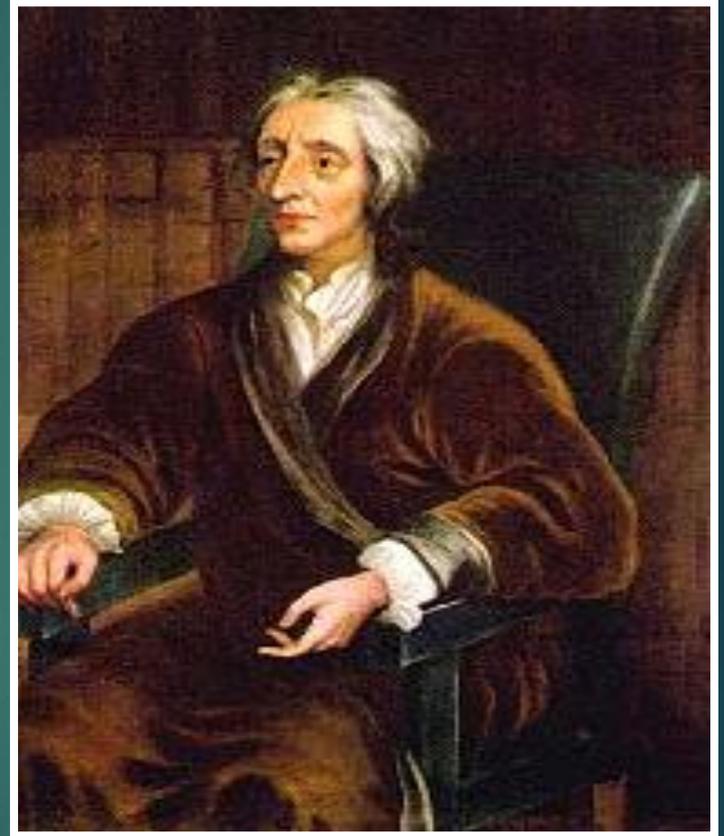
# The Enlightenment

- ▶ A movement in the 1700's that rejected traditional ways of life and looked for a more rational and scientific way to explain the world.
- ▶ It was an emphasis on the sciences and reason to explain things.



# Enlightenment Arguments

- ▶ Generally we are good and it our environment that influences us.
- ▶ The use of science and reason could answer life's mysteries.
- ▶ Science and reason could also answer man's questions concerning government and himself.



**John Locke**

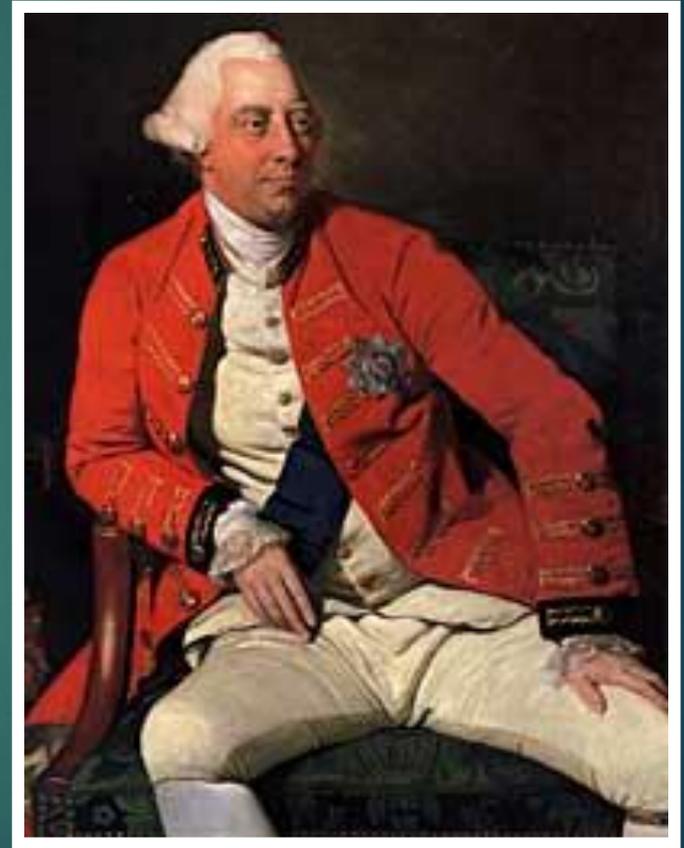
# Outcomes of the Enlightenment

- ▶ Great surge of literacy in the colonies.
- ▶ Newspapers and book publications increase.
- ▶ Schools are synonymous with new towns and villages.
- ▶ **Deism**, God is the great clock maker.



# The Enlightenment and Revolution

- ▶ People are born with natural rights.
- ▶ Government has an obligation to protect those natural rights.
- ▶ Kings have no right to govern people, people empower government.



Enlightenment ideas help spur the American colonies to shed British rule and create a new nation.

**John Locke**      A government's power comes from the consent of its people.

**Montesquieu**      Separation of powers

**Rousseau**      Direct Democracy

**Voltaire**      Free speech, religious toleration

**Beccaria**      Accused have rights; no torture.