

# **The Ministry, Early Preaching, and Mission to Georgia**

Spring, 1735 – Fall, 1739



## **Introduction:**

In the fall of 1739, a mere 4½ years after his conversion, the almost 25 year old Whitefield was found sailing for the second time to America, to arrive, not in Georgia to the south, but to the middle colonies and Philadelphia. What had been accomplished by Christ in the 54 months since Easter of 35, seems more than what many ministers accomplish in 54 years. And to think, Whitefield, after his conversion, had decided not to pursue the ministry!

## **The Ministry**

1. Happy and effective without the ministry
2. Obstacles
3. The surprise
4. Back to Oxford; a very full, strict, and public examination on May 14; ordained in Gloucester Cathedral the following year, June 20, 1736

## **Early Preaching**

1. Back to Oxford

2. Invited to be pulpit supply in London for a month or two in the summer of 36
3. Various offers of calls; but one captures his heart – the need in Georgia in late 36, from John Wesley.
4. Early 37, to Bristol (brother Andrew's town) – invited to preach in several churches there; the mayor seeks to keep him there.
5. His popularity swelled, and pride became an enemy
6. "New Birth" sermon printed, with a preface which proved odious to many ministers; this would turn the tide against him among the leadership
7. His boat is delayed and postponed; would not depart until late December, 1737.
8. This delay is an open door of great ministry
9. His preaching – biblical, salvific, Calvinistic

## **Georgia**

1. Crossing paths with Wesley
2. A word on the voyage
3. Arriving in Savannah, May 7, finds the colony in disarray; departs for England in late Aug. 1738 (Wesley has been converted in May of that year)
4. Leaves to be ordained a priest, and to raise supplies regarding the need

## **Return to Bristol, London, Bath**

1. "Methodists" resisted as being full of the devil
2. Churches were barred to them
3. George's "Mad Step" (resisted by Wesley, but had already been attempted by Howell Harris)
4. The people and the place – hard coal-mining town; fearful people
5. The immediate effect