



# CHRISTIANITY & LIBERALISM

**WEEK 7**

**CHAPTER 1.  
INTRODUCTION**

*1923/2023 "Is There Hope?"*

  
**REDEEMER**  
Presbyterian Church | PCA

*January 21, 2024*

We are finally to Machen's text of *Christianity & Liberalism* today! We were initially scheduled to go through chapters 1 and 2 this morning, but we will only make it through Machen's opening chapter today.

## **LIVESTREAMING:WEBSITE**

Despite a "Mac" glitch last week, we continue to *livestream* the series. The links, notes and other Machen and *Christianity & Liberalism* items remain available on the "Sunday School" section of the website at [www.redeemermckinney.com](http://www.redeemermckinney.com). Thanks again to our great team!

## **THE CLASS GOES THROUGH THE END OF FEBRUARY**

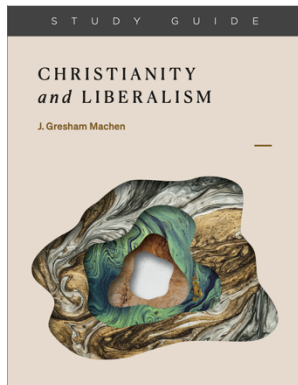
Thank you for all of the comments and encouraging words. We have five (5) weeks remaining after today, as the class goes through the end of February.

I hope you are as amazed as I am at how relevant Machen's 100-year-old text is. Although I do not think Machen would be. We will see a couple of glimpses into the future (predictions) from Machen in his opening chapter that are spot on. Welcome to the text!

*Mark*

Pastor Mark

## WEEK SEVEN OUTLINE: “INTRODUCTION”

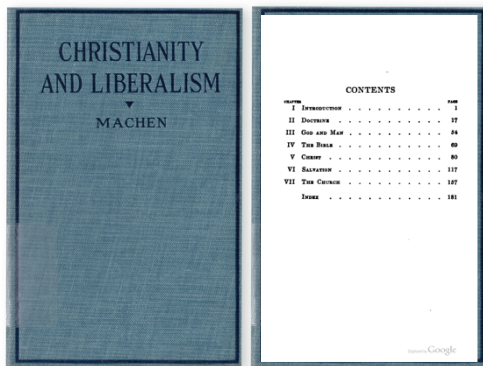
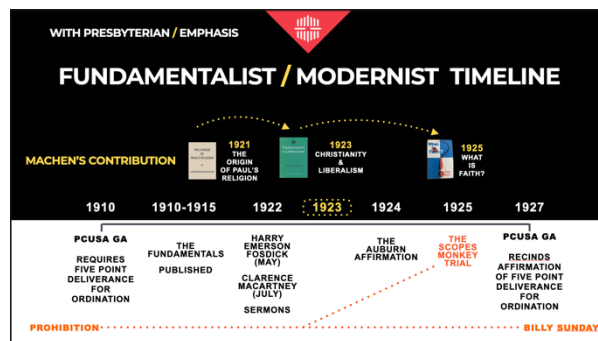


One of the best general outlines for Christianity & Liberalism can be found for download from the Ligonier Ministries website at a cost of \$1.00. It can be found at [www.store.ligonier.org/christianity-and-liberalism-digital-study-guide](http://www.store.ligonier.org/christianity-and-liberalism-digital-study-guide). (I’ll post a link on the website too)

Although I am not following the outline exactly, it is a useful tool and highly recommended as you go through the 100-year-old text. Although easy to understand, Machen does have a very good vocabulary and uses a few words that are obsolete.

### Part I – Background / Timeline

It may not “feel like it,” but we are still February of 1923 when *Christianity & Liberalism* is published. Although not mentioned by name in the book, Machen alludes to Harry Emerson Fosdick’s sermon, “Shall the Fundamentalists Win” and wrote the book as an answer.



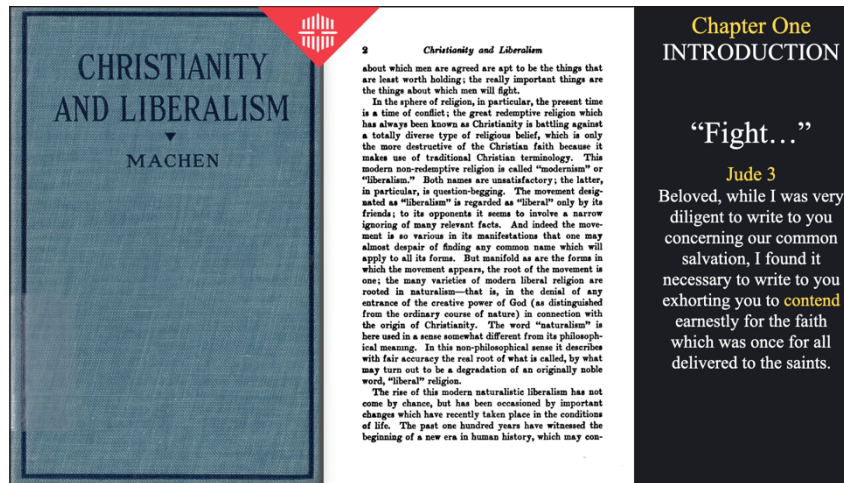
After Machen’s Mother Minnie published her book *The Bible in Browning*, through the popular publisher MacMillan Company. MacMillan became the “family” publisher.

Only 7 chapters *Christianity & Liberalism* is relatively short book – Machen wastes no words driving he points “sharply and clearly.”

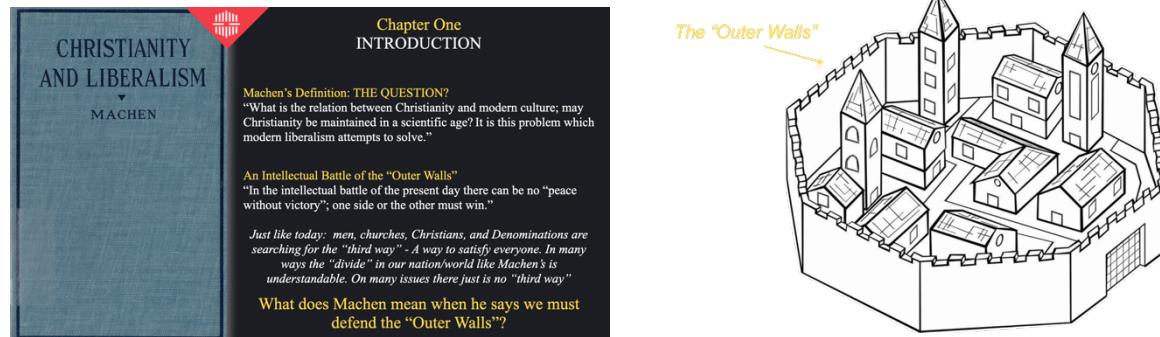
Notes:

## Part II – “The Text”

“Fighting” and “Fighter” are words associated with J. Gresham Machen. Think about what we have learned so far about Machen and the Jude 3. How does this relate to what Machen says is his “purpose for the book” in the opening sentence of chapter 1?



Machen describes the fundamental doctrines of the faith that the liberals deny as the “outer walls.” Do you agree with Machen that conceding the outer walls to the enemy is a “fools errand?”



Notes:

## Part III – Machen’s “Honest Look at the “New World” and “Hope”

### An Honest Look at the “New World”

#### Scientific Advancement

Advancements are “grossly exaggreated”

Advancements are in physical and material life - but at what expense?

The losses represent a “lamentable decline”

#### The Losses

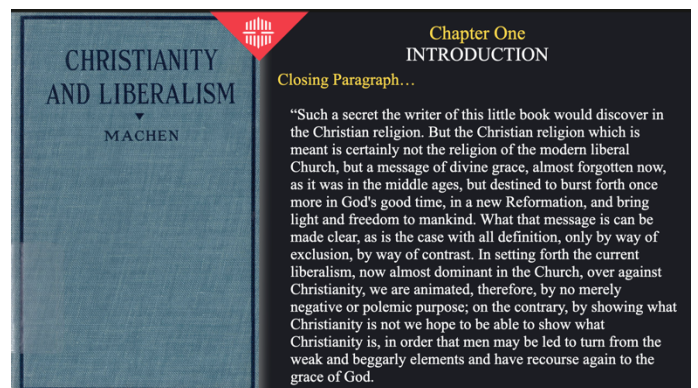
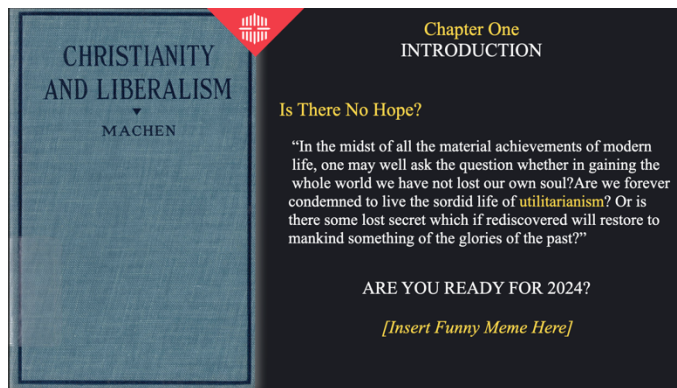
##### 1. Art & Literature

Where are the “great poets, musicians, sculptors?” Modern art and literature to Machen were either imitative or simply ‘bizarre’

##### 2. The Loss of Individual Liberty, and the Rise of Socialism

“The great principles of liberty are being thrown relentlessly to the winds”

### What is Machen’s “Hope” – The “Closing Paragraph”



#### Notes: