

## WESLEY

In the history of the church, or more specifically Christianity, the name “Wesley” is of critical importance. Two characters, John and Charles, are the subjects of this letter and, in particular, the contribution they made in God’s work and reform to the early church.

From Encarta, the following brief on John and Charles Wesley.

John Wesley was born in the rectory at Epworth, Lincolnshire, on June 17, 1703, the 15th child of the British clergyman Samuel Wesley. He was educated at Charterhouse School and Christ Church, University of Oxford. Ordained deacon in 1725 and admitted to the priesthood of the Church of England in 1728, John Wesley acted for a time as curate to his father. In 1729 he went into residence at Oxford as a fellow of Lincoln College. There he joined the Holy Club, a group of students that included his brother Charles Wesley and, later, George Whitefield, who was to become the founder of Calvinistic Methodism. The club members adhered strictly and methodically to religious precepts and practices, among them visiting prisons and comforting the sick, and were thus derisively called “methodists” by their schoolmates...

Note, that much is not included regarding their lives and work; yet, both were directly involved in “The Great Awakening”: a revival that occurred in the U.S. during the early and mid 1700’s, this movement brought both increased activity

Charles Wesley (1707-1788), English clergyman and hymnist, born in the rectory at Epworth, Lincolnshire, and educated at Westminster School and Christ Church, University of Oxford. While at Oxford, he was a member, with his older brother John, of the Holy Club.

In 1735 Wesley was ordained in the Church of England. Later that year he went to Georgia with his brother John as secretary to the colonial governor James Edward Oglethorpe. Ill health forced him to relinquish that post, however, and he returned to England the following year.

On May 21, 1738, Charles Wesley experienced a religious awakening similar to that which his brother John was to undergo three days later. Charles subsequently was closely associated with the Wesleyan movement and traveled extensively as an evangelical preacher. After 1756 he carried on his work chiefly in Bristol and in London, where he lived from 1771 on...

as well as controversy and division in the early American churches. Other leaders of this movement included Jonathon Edwards and George Whitefield whom, as itinerant ministers, carried the Gospel and revival to all corners of our land.

Again, some controversy occurred from mainline or home-based ministers who saw this emotional wave or fervent condition as unsettling at the least. What do you think of the reformed church, of revival and other related topics?

In a **WORD**