

Annual Reformation Lecture 2011

The French Huguenots

Introduction

The origin of the term “Huguenot”

The Reformation and France **Lefèvre and Margeruite**

Jacques Lefèvre d' Étaples (1455-1536)

Marguerite de Valois, the sister of Francis I

Calvin and an Organized and Persecuted Church

Calvin flees Paris in 1533

First edition of the Institutes, 1536

Francis I (d 1547) there was sporadic persecution of the Protestants.

Henry II (1547-59) established courts to try the “heretics.”

Marguerite became Queen of Navarre, which became a center for Protestant, Reformed Christianity.

The no toleration policy was codified in 1559. The Huguenots held their first national church synod and what followed was an Edict strictly prohibiting all “heretical” worship.

Jeanne d' Albrecht and St Bartholomew's Day

Marguerite, Queen of Navarre, had a daughter, Jeanne D' Albrecht.

Jeanne's son, Henry, would become the military leader of the Huguenots.

August 23-24, 1572 would be known as the St Bartholomew's Day massacre.

“Paris is Worth a Mass” and The Edict of Nantes

Henry of Navarre (Henry IV), the Huguenot leader, was in line to be the king. In 1593 he became King.

Henry of Navarre, now King Henry IV, issues the Edict of Nantes in April 1598

King Louis XIV (1643-1715) would reinstitute repressive measures: quartering soldiers with Huguenot families, requiring children to be educated by Roman Catholics and ultimately revocation of the Edict of Nantes (Oct 18, 1685).

John T. McNeill, "The tragedy of the Huguenots was the tragedy of France. The nation lost their service and their moral strength. The triumph of their enemies was the triumph not of faith but of intolerant power. The refugees carried away with them much of the soul of France."

Appendix One: John Calvin and the French Mission

Appendix Two: Huguenot political theory

The end result was a political theory that asserted the limited power of government, the sovereignty of the people, and the right to resist tyrants in the name of divinely granted liberties (Kelly, 48).

Conclusion

Where are they today?