EVANGELICAL THEOLOGY IN THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING WORLD DURING THE NINETEENTH CENTURY

The Evangelical theology which dominated English-speaking Protestantism during the nineteenth century emphasised the Bible, the cross, conversion and activism. It was greatly indebted to the legacy of the Enlightenment. Jonathan Edwards remained a powerful influence, but Arminianism was the teaching of the growing Methodist movement. A Romantic reaction against Enlightenment attitudes, however, advanced premillennialism, holiness by faith and faith missions. Romanticism also generated liberal theological tendencies The social gospel also emerged towards the end of the century. Resistance against the newer inclinations was headed by C. H. Spurgeon, but the polarisation of the twentieth-century Fundamentalist controversies had not yet arisen.

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