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Christian History Made Easy (Rose Bible Basics)

28. What You Should Know About Christian History (1906–2009)

A quick-reference chapter covering the events, people, and terms that shaped 20th-century Christianity. It maps the rise of Pentecostalism and the ecumenical movement, and the split between liberals, fundamentalists, and evangelicals.

Key takeaways

- The 1906 Azusa Street Revival under William Seymour launched the still-growing Pentecostal movement, built on speaking in 'unknown tongues.'
- The 1910 Edinburgh missions conference sparked the modern ecumenical (church-unity) movement.
- Bible work advanced sharply: Wycliffe Bible Translators (1934) pushed translation into 1,600+ languages, and the 1947 Dead Sea Scrolls confirmed today's Hebrew Bible closely matches ancient copies.
- Liberal theologians (Tillich, Fosdick, Schweitzer, Teilhard) reworked doctrine to fit modern thinking, questioning things like Scripture's inerrancy and the Virgin Birth.

- Key terms to keep straight: 'fundamentalists' (strict, separatist conservatives), 'liberals' (adapted theology to the modern age), and 'evangelicals' (unity plus Scripture's authority, salvation by grace through faith in Christ, and evangelism).
- Postmodernity replaced the Modern Age's focus on reason and the material world with a focus on personal experience and the spiritual realm.