

**SELECTED SERMONS  
OF GEORGE  
WHITEFIELD**

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Selected Sermons of George Whitefield by George Whitefield & A. R. Buckland

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**GEORGE WHITEFIELD & A. R. BUCKLAND**

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OF GEORGE  
WHITEFIELD**





GEORGE WHITEFIELD.

*After the painting by Hone.*

SELECTED SERMONS OF  
GEORGE WHITEFIELD

With an Introduction and Notes

by the

Rev. A. R. BUCKLAND, M.A.

Morning Preacher at the Foundling Hospital

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### GEORGE WHITEFIELD

Born at Gloucester, Dec. 16, 1714.

Entered as a Servitor at Pembroke College, Oxford, 1732.

Ordained Deacon, 1736.

First Visit to America, 1738.

Ordained Priest, 1739.

First Open-Air Sermon at Moorfields, April 29, 1739.

Second Visit to America, 1739-41.

Third Visit to America, 1744-48.

Fourth Visit to America, 1751-52.

Fifth Visit to America, 1754-55.

Sixth Visit to America, 1763-65.

Last Sermon in England prior to last Embarkation for America,  
Sept. 16, 1769.

Last Sermon in America, Sept. 29, 1770.

Died at Newburyport, Mass., Sept. 30, 1770.

## INTRODUCTION

### WHITEFIELD AS A PREACHER

IT is usual to say of George Whitefield's printed sermons that they do not explain his unparalleled influence as a preacher. The criticism marks the high expectation of the reader, and warns us to look beyond the preacher's words for the secret of his power. Other men have outshone Whitefield in force of reasoning, in charm of diction, in all the literary qualities of the sermon-writer. Other men have been as sincere in their faith, as eager in their ministry, as clear in their statement of the Gospel message; but they were not used, as Whitefield was, to change the lives of thousands in Great Britain and America. Remembering with reverence the power which alone can make preaching effective, it may still be worth our while to see what circumstances and qualities offer, on

the human side, an explanation of Whitefield's success.

The times were favourable to a ministry delivering such a message as that of Whitefield and in such a manner. The eighteenth century is often blamed beyond its deserts. Whitefield's contemporaries, both amongst Churchmen and Nonconformists, included men of piety and zeal as well as of learning and orthodoxy. The Church of Butler, of Secker, of Gibson, of Sherlock and of Waterland could not lack worthy leaders; nor were the ranks of the clergy at large without men of real devotion. But the period was one of moral depravity and decaying faith. Arianism, developing into Socinianism, infected Church and Non-conformity alike. Theological learning was of little repute. The Universities had sunk into intellectual obscurity. The observance of the Lord's Day and the practices of religion had decayed. The type of preaching most common was that of the written sermon composed of cold and polished phrases which left the hearer untouched.

The preaching of the men who began the