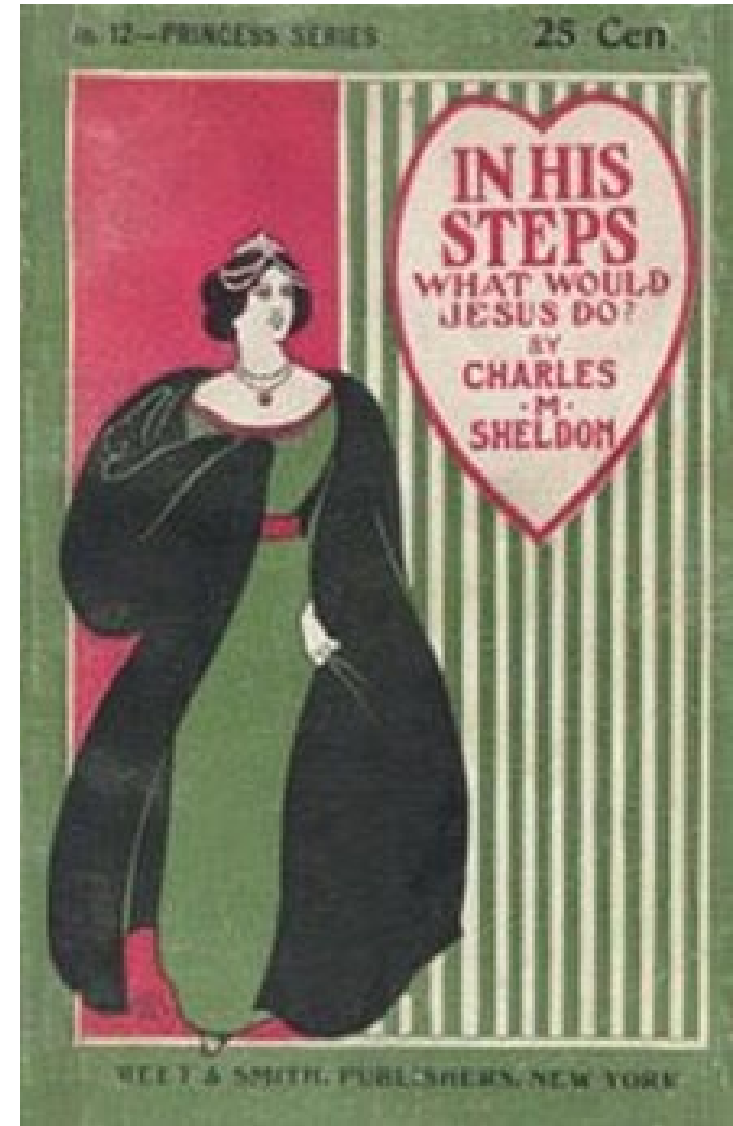


Justice in the World

Background

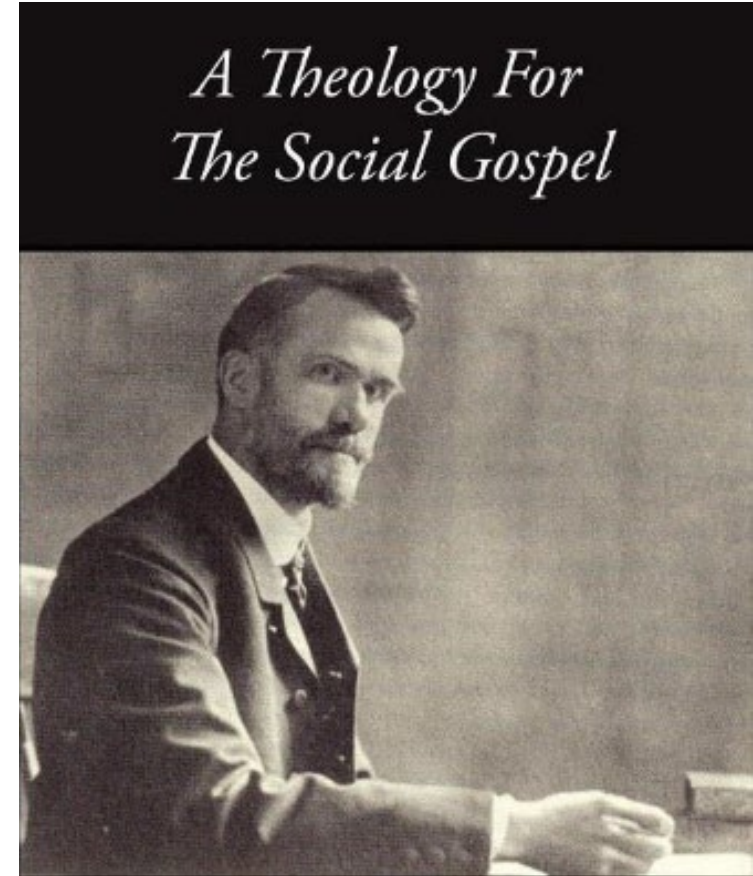
- Long history of social involvement
- 18-19th century: engagement
- Early 20th century: “social gospel”



Justice in the World

Background

- Long history of social involvement
- 18-19th century: engagement
- Early 20th century: “social gospel”



Justice in the World

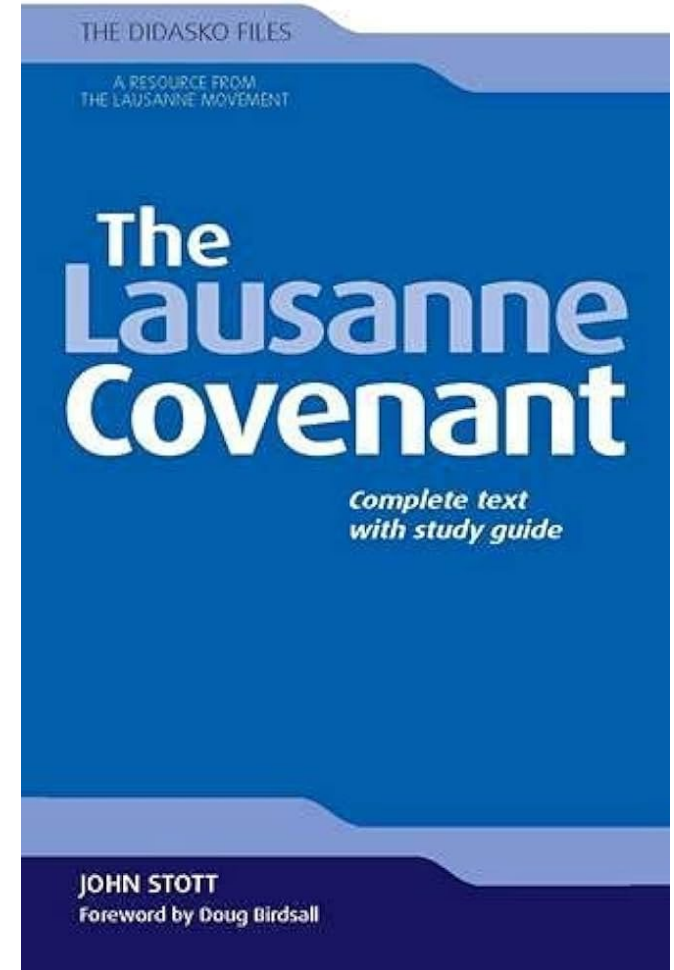
The social gospel is the old message of salvation, but enlarged and intensified. The individualistic gospel has taught us to see the sinfulness of every human heart and has inspired us with faith in the willingness and power of God to save every soul that comes to him. But it has not given us an adequate understanding of the sinfulness of the social order and its share in the sins of all individuals within it. It has not evoked faith in the will and power of God to redeem the permanent institutions of human society from their inherited guilt of oppression and extortion.

A Theology for the Social Gospel, Walter Rauschenbusch (1918)

Justice in the World

Background

- Long history of social involvement
- 18-19th century: engagement
- Early 20th century: “social gospel”
- Later 20th century: increase in social concern



Justice in the World

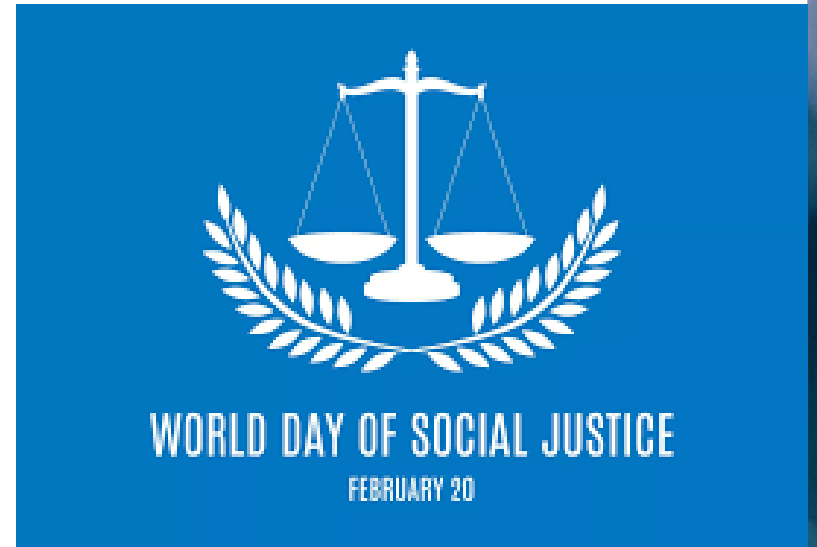
We affirm that God is both the Creator and the Judge of all. We therefore should share his concern for justice and reconciliation throughout human society and for the liberation of men and women from every kind of oppression. ... Here too we express penitence both for our neglect and for having sometimes regarded evangelism and social concern as mutually exclusive. Although reconciliation with other people is not reconciliation with God, nor is social action evangelism ... both are necessary expressions of our doctrines of God and humankind, our love for our neighbour and our obedience to Jesus Christ.

Lausanne Covenant (1974)

Justice in the World

Background

- Long history of social involvement
- 18-19th century: engagement
- Early 20th century: “social gospel”
- Later 20th century: increase in social concern
- 21st century: rise of “social justice”



Justice in the World

Terminology



Social
relief

Social
rehabilitation

Social
reform

Justice in the World

What are we responsible for?

- To show love

The second is this: "Love your neighbour as yourself." There is no commandment greater than these.' Mark 12:29-31

But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. Luke 6:35-36

Justice in the World

What are we responsible for?

- To reflect God's character

*He upholds the cause of the oppressed and gives food to the hungry...
The LORD watches over the foreigner and sustains the fatherless and the
widow, but he frustrates the ways of the wicked. Psalm 146:7, 9*

Justice in the World

What are we responsible for?

- To practise justice

*'This is what the LORD Almighty said: "Administer true justice; show mercy and compassion to one another. Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless, the foreigner or the poor. Do not plot evil against each other."
Zechariah 7:10-11*

Justice in the World

What are we responsible for?

- To practise justice

I put on righteousness as my clothing;

justice was my robe and my turban.

I was eyes to the blind and feet to the lame.

I was a father to the needy; I took up the case of the stranger.

I broke the fangs of the wicked

and snatched the victims from their teeth.

Job 29:14-17

Justice in the World

What are we responsible for?

- To honour people's value

Whoever oppresses the poor shows contempt for their Maker, but whoever is kind to the needy honours God. Proverbs 14:31

Justice in the World

What are we responsible for?

- To show love
- To reflect God's character
- To practise justice
- To honour people's value



Social
relief

Social
rehabilitation

Social
reform

Justice in the World

Reflection

- What do you think we are responsible for?
- Any questions?

Justice in the World

What is being achieved?

- Love being expressed
- People being cared for
- Kingdom coming
- “Reweaving” of society

Relief
Rehabilitation

Rehabilitation
Reform

Justice in the World

Connection to evangelism?

- Equivalence
- Equal partners
- Unequal / Asymmetric

Justice in the World

Who is responsible?

- Church
- Individuals
- Para-church

Justice in the World

Wider connections

- “Social justice” today
- Eschatology
- Christ and culture
- Kingdom theology

Justice in the World

Reflection

- What does this look like for your church currently?
- What changes might you want to consider?