**J. Gresham Machen**

*(1881 - 1937)*

This great defender of the faith was born July 28, 1881, to godly parents in Baltimore, Maryland. Displaying outstanding intellectual skills as a young man, Machen entered Johns Hopkins University in 1898 and graduated first in his class. After completing graduate study at Princeton in 1905, he went to Germany and attended the Universities of Marburg and Goettingen.

In 1906 he returned to Princeton to teach. He was ordained as a Presbyterian minister in 1914 and served as professor of New Testament literature and exegesis at Princeton Theological Seminary until 1929.

During his tenure at Princeton Machen grew concerned over increasing modernism and compromise at the school. He became a staunch defender of conservative theology and wrote a brilliant treatise in 1923 entitled *Christianity and Liberalism*. When the situation at Princeton worsened, and was finally seen to be a hopeless battle, Machen withdrew from the school. With the help of men such as Robert Dick Wilson and O.T. Allis, he founded Westminster Theological Seminary in 1929. He later formed the Independent Board for Presbyterian Foreign Missions in June 1933.

When Machen's license was revoked by the Presbyterian Church in the USA, he and several others founded the Orthodox Presbyterian Church. Six months later, in 1937, Machen died of pneumonia while on a preaching engagement in North Dakota.

J. Gresham Machen is remembered as an outstanding conservative theologian and apologist. He took a militant stand for sound doctrine in such books as *The Christian Faith in the Modern World* and *The Virgin Birth of Christ*. He was also a profound Greek scholar; his *New Testament Greek for Beginners* is still widely used in seminaries throughout the country. The following sermon by Machen was his last address at Princeton before he left to begin Westminster Theological Seminary.

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