



A SURVEY OF THE REFORMATION

ITS HISTORY & DOCTRINE

HISTORY

1. Intro & Overview of Church History
2. Forerunners of the Reformation
3. The Protestant Reformation
4. Puritanism & the Legacy of the Reformers

DOCTRINE

1. **Reformation Doctrine: The Big Picture**
2. Total Depravity & Irresistible Grace
3. Unconditional Election & Particular Redemption
4. Perseverance of the Saints & Answering Objections
5. The Other "Points" of Calvinism
6. Why the Reformation Matters Today



RECAP OF REFORMATION HISTORY

A.D. 100-1600

WHY STUDY THE REFORMATION?

- American Christians suffer from **historical amnesia**.
- Remembering church history will **safeguard us from error** now. Examples: Jehovah's Witnesses (Arianism), Evangelicals & Catholics Together.
- The Reformation was the **virtual recovery of evangelical doctrine** – and we are still being blessed because of this (often forgotten) event.
- Studying the doctrine of the Reformation may help us **reform the Church today**, and recover the passion for God that characterized that era.

EARLY CHURCH HISTORY

- Early Persecution & Growth
- Church Fathers: Encouraging, Defending & Protecting the Church
- The Christianized Empire & a Drift in Faith
- Church Councils, Orthodoxy & Heresy
- Monastics & Asceticism
- The Rise of the Papacy
- The Saints, Mary & Eucharist
- Split of East & West



THE FORERUNNERS OF THE REFORMATION

- Gothic View of Life
- Collapse of the Empire & Rise of Feudalism
- Crusades & the Idea of a Christian Warrior
- Medieval Scholasticism & High Theology
- Bubonic Plague Decimates Europe
- Papal & Priestly Decline (Avignon Papacy)
- Early Renewal Movements: Franciscans, Dominicans, Waldensians, Albigenses (Cathars), Rhineland Mystics
- Forerunners of the Reformation: John Wycliffe, Jan Hus
- The Renaissance & Christian Humanism

THE PROTESTANT REFORMATION

- Political Background of the Reformation
- Invention of the Printing Press & Rise of Literacy
- Erasmus' "Golden Egg"
- Martin Luther's Epiphany & His "Spark"
- The German Reformation: Luther, Melanchthon
- The Swiss Reformation: Zwingli, Calvin, Bullinger, Bucer, Oecolampadius
- The Radical Reformation: Michael Sattler, Menno Simons
- The English/Scottish Reformations: Cranmer, Tyndale, Knox



EUROPE DURING THE REFORMATION

c. A.D. 1550

~ adapted from *Exploring Church History* by
Howard F. Vos (Thomas Nelson, 1994), pg. 101

PURITANISM & THE LEGACY OF THE REFORMERS

- Puritanism took the Reformation a step further.
- Separatists left the Church (Pilgrims), Puritans were eventually forced out (and later let back in)
- Legacy:
 - Spread of Bible Translations
 - Missionary Zeal
 - Personal Bible Study
 - Schism, Unitarianism, Ripe for Growth of Cults
 - Church Worship Reform & Emphasis on Preaching
 - Worldview, Political Thought & Church Government
 - Literacy, Education, & the Puritan Work Ethic
 - High view of Marriage & Family



REFORMATION DOCTRINE: THE BIG PICTURE

FIVE SOLAS, SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD

REFORMATION DOCTRINE: THE BIG PICTURE

- The Roman Catholic View of Salvation
- The Reformer's Response ("Five Solas")
 - ***Sola Scriptura*** (Scripture Alone)
 - ***Sola Fide*** (Faith Alone)
 - ***Sola Gratia*** (Grace Alone)
 - ***Solus Christus*** (Christ Alone)
 - ***Soli Deo Gloria*** (to the Glory of God Alone)
- The Sovereignty of God



THE ROMAN CATHOLIC VIEW OF SALVATION

FAITH + WORKS, MERIT + PENANCE

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC VIEW OF SALVATION

- **GRACE** from Sacraments (baptism, matrimony, extreme unction)
- **FAITH**ful adherence to Church doctrine
- Infused, personal **RIGHTEOUSNESS** & good **WORKS**
- External **MERIT** appropriated through rituals & **PRAYERS**
- The **MEDIATION** of Mary & the Saints
- **PENANCE & CONFESSION**
- Subservience to **CHURCH** authority, tradition & Church-sanctioned interpretation of Scripture
- **EUCCHARIST** blessings (communion)
- More penance in **PURGATORY** (if no indulgences)

ONE CAN ONLY HOPE YOUR
EFFORT TIPS THE SCALE!





THE REFORMATION RESPONSE

THE “FIVE SOLAS”

THE “FIVE SOLAS”

Protestant	Roman Catholic
Scripture alone (<i>sola Scriptura</i>)	Scripture and tradition
Faith alone (<i>sola fide</i>)	Faith and works
Grace alone (<i>sola gratia</i>)	Grace and merit
Christ alone (<i>solus Christus</i>)	Christ, Mary, & intercession of saints
Glory to God alone (<i>solī Deo gloria</i>)	God, saints, and church hierarchy

~ adapted from *Living for God's Glory: An Introduction to Calvinism* by Joel R. Beeke (RHB, 2008), pg. 5

SCRIPTURE ALONE

- The Scripture was **liberated** for the common people.
- Reformers insisted on Scripture's supreme **authority**.
 - The Scripture decided the issue for competing traditions.
 - Reformers didn't intend to shirk all tradition, but to elevate Scripture to its proper place.
 - The Reformers believed the Church Fathers sided with them on many of their views, and corroborated their understanding of Scripture.
- Scripture was held as **infallible** & **inerrant**.
- Scripture was **preached** – preaching and Scripture reading took pride of place in the “order of worship,” and we still benefit from this today.

FAITH ALONE

- Justification, on account of Christ's work, through faith. (Faith doesn't save, Christ saves.)
- Faith, **not works**, is the condition for justification.
- Faith provides an “**alien righteousness**” – the works of Christ on our behalf (active and passive)
- Justification by faith is a **gift of God** – absolutely essential to the Reformation
- Justification **declares** us righteous, it doesn't start the process of **making** us righteous (sanctification).
- However, we are justified by faith alone, but not a faith that is alone. (No place for “easy-believism”)

“Where there is true faith, works necessarily result, just as fire necessarily brings with it heat.” ~ Ulrich Zwingli

GRACE ALONE

- Grace didn't just enable man to "pull himself up by his bootstraps"
- Grace for the Reformers, was **Sovereign**
- ***"the free favour of God... conferred... upon the unworthy"***
(19th Century Calvinistic Baptist, William Newman)
- Grace = "**unmerited favor**"
 - **G**od's
 - **R**iches
 - **A**t
 - **C**hrist's
 - **E**xpense
- Grace calls us (Gal. 1:15), regenerates us (Titus 3:5), justifies us (Rom. 3:24), sanctifies us (Heb. 13:20-21), and preserves us (1 Pet. 1:3-5).

CHRIST ALONE

- The Church does not **dispense salvation**, Jesus does – Acts 4:12
- Mary & the Saints are not the **mediator**, Jesus is the only mediator – 1 Tim. 2:5
- The Cross-work of Christ is **sufficient** for all the **merit** needed for salvation – Christ is “our righteousness.”
- The Cross-work of Christ is not repeated, but a **finished work** (no Eucharistic “re-run” of Christ’s sacrifice)
- Christ’s righteousness was both **passive** (submitting to death for us) and **active** (life that pleased God)
- Today, we need to remember that Christ alone is where salvation is to be found – not in other religions or philosophies (contra postmodernism and pluralism)

GOD'S GLORY ALONE

- Definition of glory:
 - *kabod* (Hebrew) = “weight”
 - Greek = “opinion”.
 - Means “value or worth, intrinsic to something and the value we externally place on it (in worship)”
- God's goal is to manifest His glory
- Man's chief end is to glorify God.
- Man's chief delight is to praise God.

**“Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy Him forever.”
~ Westminster Shorter Catechism, Question 1**



THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD

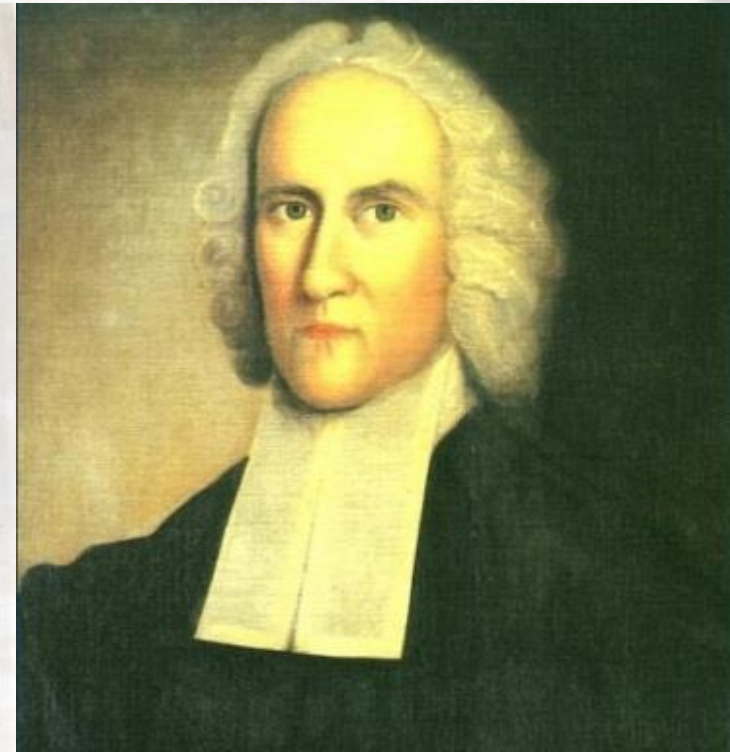
GOD-CENTERED THEOLOGY

GOD-CENTEREDNESS

- The Specific Focus of the Reformed faith, often known as “Calvinism,” is its **emphasis on God**.
 - Sin is horrible, as an affront to God
 - Salvation is wonderful, since it gives glory to God
 - Heaven is glorious because it is where God is
 - Hell is awful because it is where God manifests his wrath
- You don’t understand the “points of Calvinism” aright, if they don’t move you to wonder and worship.

JONATHAN EDWARDS ON GOD

“The enjoyment of God is the only happiness with which our souls can be satisfied. To go to heaven, fully to enjoy God, is infinitely better than the most pleasant accommodations here. Fathers and mothers, husbands, wives, or children, or the company of earthly friends, are but shadows; but God is the substance. These are but scattered beams, but God is the sun. These are but streams, but God is the fountain. These are but drops; but God is the ocean.”



(1703-1758) Preacher, helped start the Great Awakening

~ quoted from *Living for God's Glory* by Joel R. Beeke (RHB, 2008), pg. 43

SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD

- God is the Sovereign & no one's will can diminish His.
- God's sovereignty is displayed in Providence & Predestination.

God "works all things according to the counsel of his will." (Eph. 1:11)

God "does according to his will among the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay his hand or say to him, "What have you done?" (Dan. 4:35)

PROVIDENCE

- God providentially controls:
 - Over **Nature & Weather** – Jer. 10:12-13, 14:22, Amos 4:7, Job 37:6-13, Matt. 5:45
 - Over **Animals** – Ps. 104:27-29, Matt. 6:26, Dan. 6:22
 - Over **“Chance” Events** – Prov. 16:33, Matt. 10:29
 - Over the **Womb** – Gen. 20:17-18, 29:31, Dt. 28:4, 1 Sam. 1:5, Ps. 127:3
 - Over **Kings & Nations** – Prov. 21:1, Job 12:23, Ps. 22:28, Acts 17:26
 - Over the **Lives of Men** – Ex. 4:11, Job 14:5, Ps. 139:16, 1 Sam. 2:7, Prov. 16:1,9, 19:21, 20:24, Jer. 10:23, 1 Cor. 4:7, Ps. 33:14-15
 - Over **Trouble & Suffering** – Is. 45:7, Amos 3:6, Job 2:10
 - Over **Life and Death** – Dt. 32:39; 1 Sam. 2:6
 - Over **Sin Itself** – Gen. 50:20, Prov. 16:4, Acts 4:27-28 with 2:23, Ex. 14:17, Judges 14:4, 1 Sam. 16:14, 2 Sam. 24:1,10 with 1 Chron. 21:1

PROVIDENCE VS. FATE

"What is fate? Fate is this - **Whatever is, must be.** But there is a difference between that and Providence. Providence says, **Whatever God ordains, must be;** but the wisdom of God never ordains anything without a purpose. Everything in this world is working for some great end. Fate does not say that...." - **Charles Spurgeon**

"God causes all things that happen, but... he does so in such a way that he somehow upholds our ability to make **willing, responsible choices...** that have **real and eternal results,** and for which we are held accountable." - **Wayne Grudem**

PREDESTINATION

- God “pre” establishes our “destination”
- Christians believe this because of Scripture:
2 Thess. 2:13, 1 Thess. 5:9, 1 Pet. 1:1-2, Rom. 8:28-30, Eph. 1:3,11
- The questions come in how God predestines, on the basis of his foreknowledge of actions we choose, or does God predispose us to take those actions?