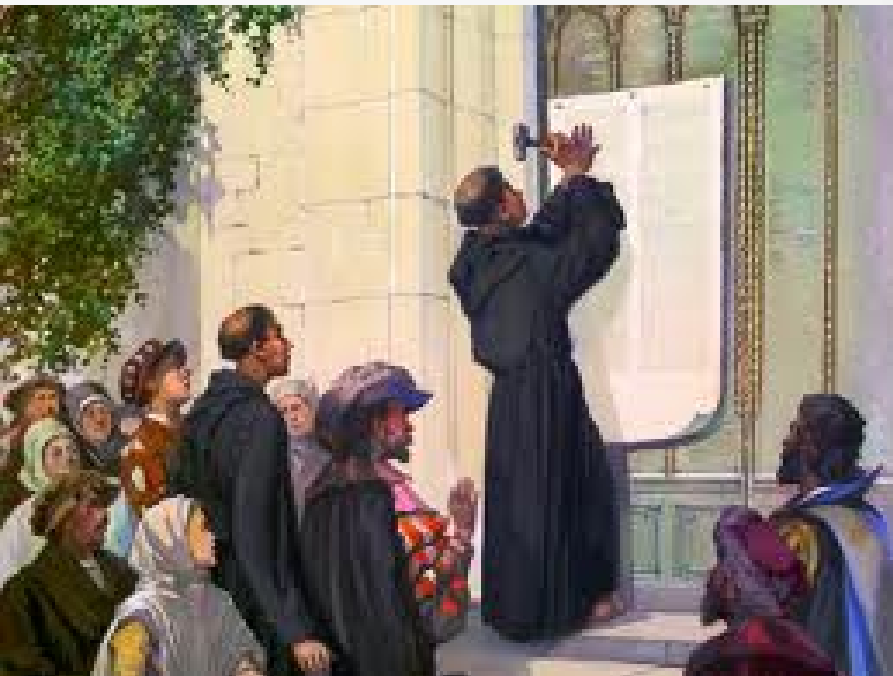


What is Reformed Theology

Basics of our faith

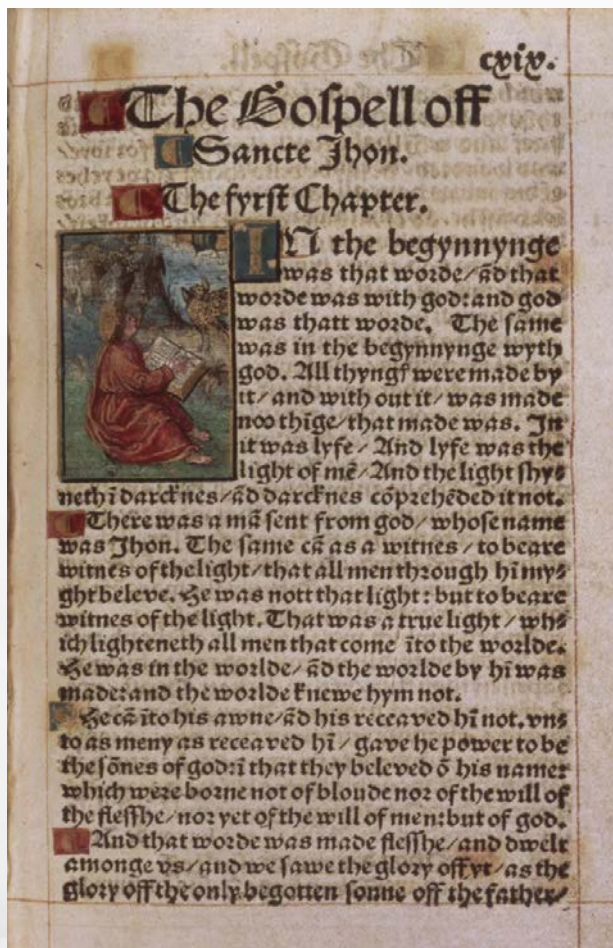


Lesson 1: Introduction

Pastor Fred Greco
Arnaldo Espinel

Outline

Lesson 1: Introduction



- Definitions in Theology.
- Reformed theology is systematic
- Sola Scriptura
- Covenant Theology
- Faith Alone
- *Ordo salutis*
- Five points of Calvinism
- The Church
- Worship
- Baptism
- The Lord's Supper

13 weeks plan


Sources and recommended reading

Lesson 1: Introduction

- R.C.Sproul, “What is Reformed Theology”
- D. Steele, C. Thomas, S. Lance Quinn, “The Five Points of Calvinism”
- J. Calvin, “Instruction in Faith”
- Wilhelmus A Brakel, “The Christian’s Reasonable Service”
- C. Brown, “The Five Dilemmas of Calvinism”
- R. Peterson, “Election and Free Will”
- K. Gentry, “A Biblical Defense of Predestination”
- L. Boettner, “The reformed Doctrine of Predestination”
- O. Palmer Robertson, “The Christ of the Covenants”

Definitions of Theology




Lesson 1: Definitions

the·ol·o·gy  *noun* \thē-'ā-lə-jē\

: the study of religious faith, practice, and experience : the study of God and God's relation to the world

: a system of religious beliefs or ideas

plural **the·ol·o·gies**


Full Definition of THEOLOGY   

1 : the study of religious faith, practice, and experience; *especially* : the study of God and of God's relation to the world

2 a : a **theological theory** or system <Thomist *theology*> <a *theology* of atonement>

b : a distinctive body of theological opinion <Catholic *theology*>

3 : a usually 4-year course of specialized religious training in a Roman Catholic major seminary

 See [theology](#) defined for English-language learners »

See [theology](#) defined for kids »

“The systematic study of the person and work of God”


<http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/theology>




“...Is the same difference between God and man”
(Sproul)



Definitions of Theology

Lesson 1: Definitions

re-formed  *adjective* \ri-'formd\

Definition of REFORMED   

1 : changed for the better

2 *capitalized* : **PROTESTANT**; *specifically* : of or relating to the chiefly Calvinist Protestant churches formed in various continental European countries

First Known Use of REFORMED

1563

Browse

- Next Word in the Dictionary: [reformed spelling](#)
- Previous Word in the Dictionary: [reformatory \(noun\)](#)
- All Words Near: [reformed](#)

“**Seen & Heard**”

What made you want to look up *reformed*? Please tell us where you read or heard it (including the quote, if possible).

“Re-form”, give another form, make again...

“Christ Church finds its historical roots in the Reformed and Presbyterian tradition, holding to those classic formulations of theological truth that came out of the Reformation. We are com
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The average Evangelical church has given up studying theology

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More Definitions...

Lesson 1: Definitions

“Reformed” refers to the historic movement in the 16th century and following years when God called His Church back to the state of orthodoxy and holiness of the early centuries of the Church. The sovereignty of God in salvation was a particular emphasis of the Reformation as were the gracious covenants that God has established with man. During this time there was a fundamental rethinking of the worship of God, the significance of the sacraments, the importance of biblical preaching, the use of God’s Word for public and private worship, and the **application** of the Christian faith to all of life.

Scriptura (writings)

Lesson 1: Why to Study the Bible?

- The Bible
 - Normative depository of divine revelation
 - *Verbum Dei, vox dei*
 - Supernatural revelation
 - Comes from the mind of God (remember, God is a person)
 - Received as supernatural revelation
 - The Gospel OF God... it is His!
 - Written by men but under His inspiration

Scriptura (writings)

Lesson 1: Why to Study the Bible?

- History
 - Historical theology: people writing about theology
 - Religious thinking (human opinions) vs. lessons learned from God
- *Sola Scriptura*
 - Authoritative, inerrant, breathed-out and sufficient (2 Tim 3: 16-17)
 - We know that, but people out there don't! What are we doing about it?

Scriptura (writings)

Lesson 1: Why to Study the Bible?

- Nature
 - The design claims for a designer
 - Natural theology derived from natural revelation:
Romans 1
 - A theater of divine revelation – general revelation
 - Not enough for salvation... we need special revelation (specific revelation not found in nature or anywhere else but in Scriptures)
 - **Read Rom 1:18-21.. “without excuse”**

Scriptura (writings)


Lesson 1: Why to Study the Bible?

- Related sciences:
 - Theology => Soteriology + Christology + Anthropology (from God's view)
 - Anthropology => Sociology + Culture + Religion + Theology (from man's view)

General Comments

Lesson 1: Why to Study the Bible?

- People just read, don't study
- Real study permits increase knowledge, get the grace and form character... what is character? "That's the way I am" vs. sanctification; Christian worldview
- What is the vehicle for the plan of God? The covenant
- How do we know that God is our God and we are His people if we don't read the Bible?
- Plan of Action?



A little history...

A History of Grace

Lesson 1: Introduction

- The Scriptures tell a clear story of God working sovereignly through his people
- After the Apostles die the Church deals with a number of important issues
 - Who is God?
 - Is Jesus both God and man?
- The Church does not deal right away with God's grace vs. man's will



Augustine

Lesson 1: Introduction

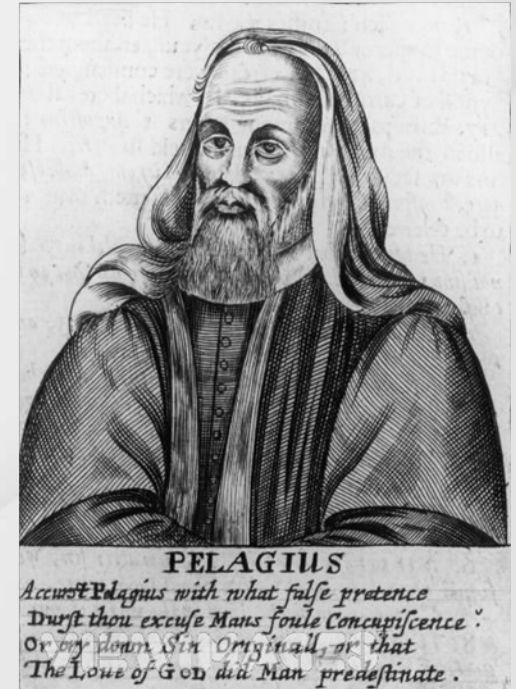
- In the 4th century the great theologian Augustine writes several works dealing with issues of grace that create a debate over the issue
- Of particular note is his *Confessions* in which Augustine bemoans his great sinfulness and God's grace in dealing with him



Pelagius

Lesson 1: Introduction

- Pelagius was a monk who came to Rome to teach the people how to live Christian lives
 - He read The Confessions and was alarmed
 - He believed this talk of man's inability to do good apart from God would result in unethical behavior
- Pelagius's teaching:
 - We are born neutral, not sinners
 - We can choose to sin or not sin
 - Most people sin not because they have sinful natures but because they have lots of bad examples to follow



Augustine vs. Pelagius

Lesson 1: Introduction

- Augustine on original sin:
 - We are born sinners and thus need God's grace to save us, not just to help us make moral decisions
- For Pelagius, Christian communities should be full of super saints who have chosen to do good



Augustine vs. Pelagius

Lesson 1: Introduction

- Augustine on original sin:
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Pelagius (Cont.)

- The Church sides with Augustine and condemns Pelagius as a heretic
 - Synod of Carthage (418)
 - Council of Ephesus (431) condemns a variant of Pelagianism
- Despite these official blessings of Augustine's theology the teachings of the monasteries tended away from these clear teachings concerning grace
 - Augustine's teaching was perceived as being out of accord with the teachings of many of the Church Fathers
 - There was an Asceticism in the monasteries that emphasized the meritorious nature of good works

Doctrines of Grace – Looking Forward

- Synod of Orange (529) seems to embrace Augustinianism but makes compromises
- The Medieval Roman Catholic Church emphasizes the cooperation of God's grace and man's will in obtaining salvation
- The Reformation was the great revival of Augustinianism
 - Luther, *The Bondage of the Will*
 - Calvin, *The Institutes of the Christian Religion*



Medieval Sacramentalism

- One of the questions that Medieval theologians faced was how God confers grace to His people
- The sacraments played a central role in this process
- Peter Lombard in the 12th century identified seven sacraments
 - Baptism
 - Confirmation
 - Eucharist
 - Penance
 - Extreme unction
 - Marriage
 - Ordination



In Search of Reformation



Peter Waldo

- Peter Waldo was a merchant who became convinced that he should sell his earthly possessions and preach to the people in their own language
- The Waldensians held that:
 - The Scriptures alone were the final source of truth
 - There were only two sacraments
 - Salvation was not dependent on the Church



John Wycliffe

- Wycliffe was an English theologian of the 14th century
- Wycliffe elevate the preaching of the Scriptures
- He began a project to translate all of the Bible into the English language
- He believed in the Augustinian doctrines of grace



Jan Hus

- Jan Hus was a Czech pastor born in 1370
- He held to the same basic theology as Wycliffe and preached to the people in their own language
- He stressed that indulgences could do nothing and God alone could pardon sins



The Reformation

- Reformation inspired by:
 - Renewed interest in study of the Scripture
 - Re-emphasis in the historic doctrines of grace

