

WHAT IS REFORMED THEOLOGY?

Basics of Our Faith



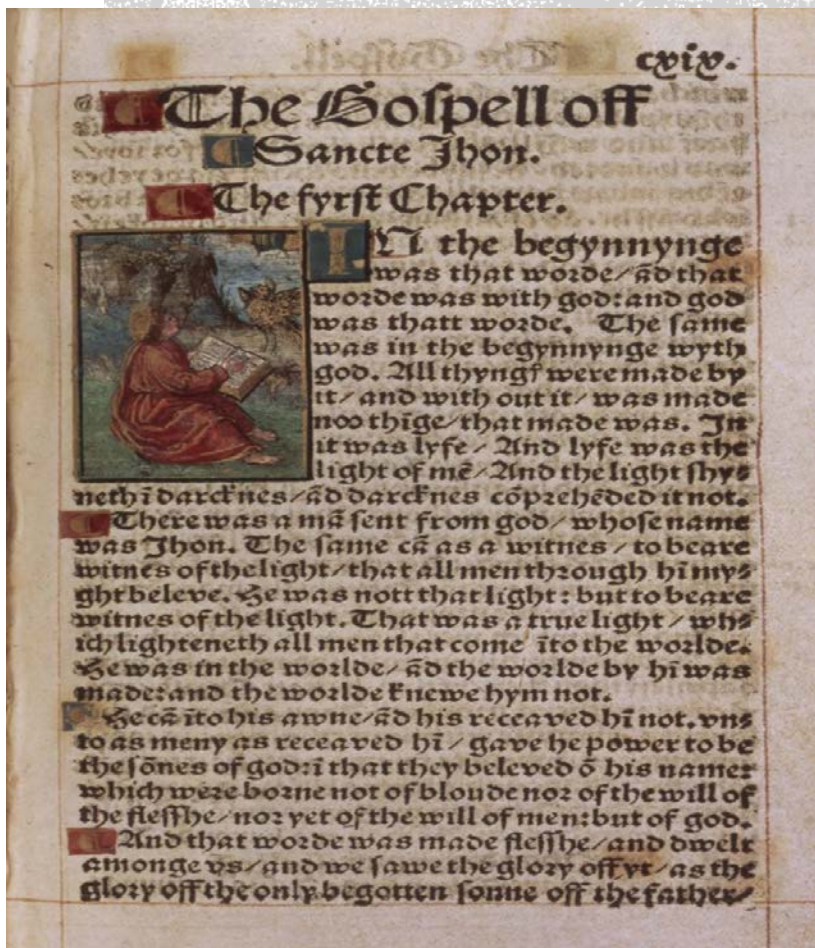


REFORMED WORSHIP

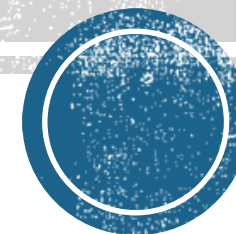
Week 11

Outline

Class plan



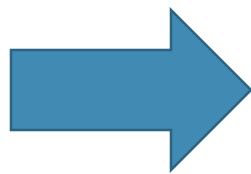
- Definitions in Theology.
- Reformed theology is systematic
- Sola Scriptura
- Covenant Theology
- *Ordo salutis*
- Faith Alone
- Five points of Calvinism I,II
- The Church
- **Worship**
- Baptism
- The Lord's Supper



14 weeks plan

REVIEW: TULIP

1. **Total Depravity**
2. **Unconditional Election**
3. **Limited Atonement**
4. **Irresistible Grace**
5. **Perseverance of the Saints**



God's Sovereign

John Calvin

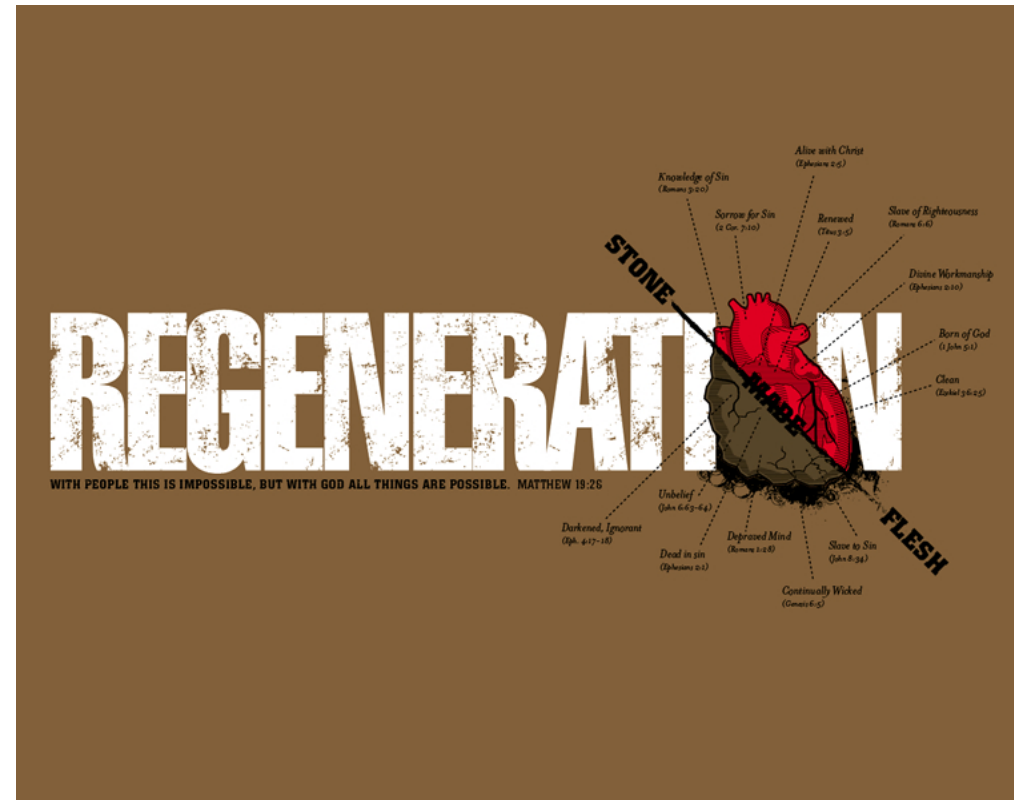


Portrait attributed to Hans Holbein the Younger



REVIEW: REGENERATION

- Which comes first:
faith or
regeneration?



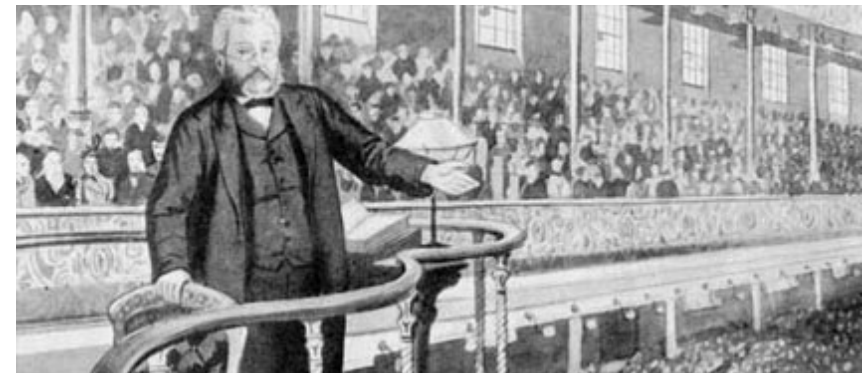
REVIEW: GOLDEN CHAIN ROM. 8:28-30



REVIEW: FUNCTION OF LOCAL CHURCH

- Preaching of the gospel
- Administering the sacraments
- Outreach and missions
- Oversight and care of her members
- Discipline
- Mercy ministries

Matt. 28:19, Act 2:41, Act 8:35-36





WHY DO WE WORSHIP?



WHY WORSHIP?

- New Testament is filled with examples showing it is essential to corporately worship God
 - *And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. (Acts 2:42)*
 - John 20:19
 - Acts 1:13-14; 2:1; 20:7
 - 1 Corinthians 11:17-20



OBLIGATION OF WORSHIP

- And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, **not neglecting to meet together**, as is the habit of some, **but encouraging** one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. (Hebrews 10:24-25)



OBLIGATION OF WORSHIP

- What does it mean **“not to neglect”**?
 - A Christian does not abandon corporate worship, or consider it unimportant
 - It also means that a Christian may not “partially” abandon worship by being inattentive or careless





THE DUTY OF WORSHIP



THE DUTY: “ENCOURAGE”

- strengthening the souls of the disciples, **encouraging** them to continue in the faith, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God. (Acts 14:22)
- I **appeal** to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. (Rom. 12:1)
 - See also 1 Thessalonians 3:2



WORSHIP ERRORS

- There are two main errors that modern Christians fall into with respect to worship:
 - (1) denying the **vital importance** of corporate worship
 - (2) denying God's **covenantal right** to establish acceptable worship



WHO IS WORSHIP FOR?

- The church is a place for God's glory to be seen
 - “to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations” (Eph. 3:21)
- It seems self-evident that worship is to be “God centered”
- What does that preclude?



WHO IS WORSHIP FOR?

- If worship is direct toward, about and for God, then it is dangerous when the worshipper is concerned about:
 - **what he “gets out of worship”**
 - **if “his needs are being met”**



WHO IS WORSHIP FOR?

- If worship is directed toward, about and for God, it is dangerous when the worshipper is concerned about:
 - **having his personal tastes gratified**
 - **imposing non-Biblical worship on others**



WHAT IS PROPER WORSHIP?

- We have no ability on our own to come to God
- God redeems us by grace
- Doesn't it make sense that He would have something to say about worship?
- Wouldn't that include:
 - Who we ought to worship?
 - what that worship should be?
 - how (in what manner) we ought to worship?





PROPER WORSHIP



THE 1ST COMMANDMENT

- **God says Who we ought to worship:**
 - *You shall have no other gods before Me (Exodus 20:3)*
 - Religious worship is to be given to God, the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost; and to him alone: not to angels, saints, or any other creature: and, since the fall, not without a Mediator; nor in the mediation of any other but of Christ alone. (WCF 21.2)



THE 2ND COMMANDMENT

- **God says what worship He wants:**
 - You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me (Exodus 20:4-5)



THE 2ND COMMANDMENT

- God, who has lordship and sovereignty over all...is therefore to be feared, loved, praised, called upon, trusted in, and served... **the acceptable way of worshipping the true God is instituted by himself**, and so limited by his own revealed will, that **he may not be worshipped according to the imaginations and devices of men...or any other way not prescribed in the holy Scripture.** (WCF 21.1)



THE 2ND COMMANDMENT

- The **reading of the Scriptures** with godly fear; the **sound preaching**, and conscionable hearing of the word, in obedience unto God, with understanding, faith, and reverence; **singing** of psalms with grace in the heart; as also the due administration and worthy receiving of the **sacraments** instituted by Christ; are all parts of the ordinary religious worship of God (WCF 21.5)



THE 2ND COMMANDMENT

- *in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.*
(Matthew 15:9)
- *These have indeed an **appearance of wisdom** in promoting self-made religion and asceticism and severity to the body, but they are of no value in stopping the indulgence of the flesh.* (Colossians 2:23)
 - Deuteronomy 4:15-20



DOES GOD REALLY CARE?

- Leviticus 10:1-5
- 1 Chronicles 13:3-14
- Exodus 25:12-15
- Numbers 7:5-9



THE 3RD COMMANDMENT

- God says how we ought to worship
 - You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain. (Exodus 20:7)
 - You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. (Deuteronomy 6:5)



THE 3RD COMMANDMENT

- God is to be worshipped every where in spirit and in truth; as in private families daily, and in secret each one by himself; so more solemnly in the public assemblies, which are not carelessly or willfully to be neglected or forsaken (WCF 21.6)



THE 4TH COMMANDMENT

- God also tells us when we ought to worship
- This does not limit our worship
- It gives us the ability to gather corporately, on the Lord's schedule
- It serves as a reminder of: God's creation and God's redemption



NEXT WEEK:

- **The Sacraments**

