



# Review

## Lesson 1: Definitions

- Systematic theology understands doctrines in a coherent and unified way
- Inspiration brings unity, so doctrines are interrelated
- The way we understand God determines how we understand all other doctrines => God centered vs. man centered
- Reformed theology recognizes traditions, as far as they do not contradict ultimate authority of Scriptures
- Reformed theology is evangelical: Scripture's authority + justification by faith alone

# Review

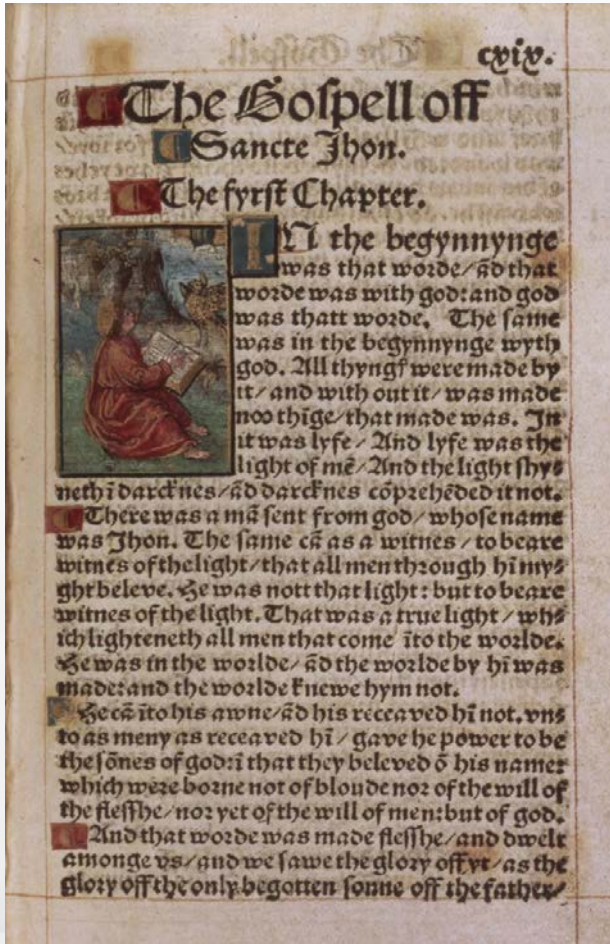
## Lesson 1: Definitions

- God is incomprehensible: but He reveals himself to us so we can know Him enough for our salvation and His glory
- *Vias* to explain God: *negationis*, *affirmatas* and *eminentia*
- God is self-sufficient: He is the only ground of His own being
- God is holy and different and equal to us
- Reformed theology is dogmatic: Dogma are the accepted doctrines of the church
- Christians must believe and preach the whole counsel of God
- Rigorous attention and devotion to the biblical doctrine is the only way Christians have to get to know God.



# Outline

## Class plan

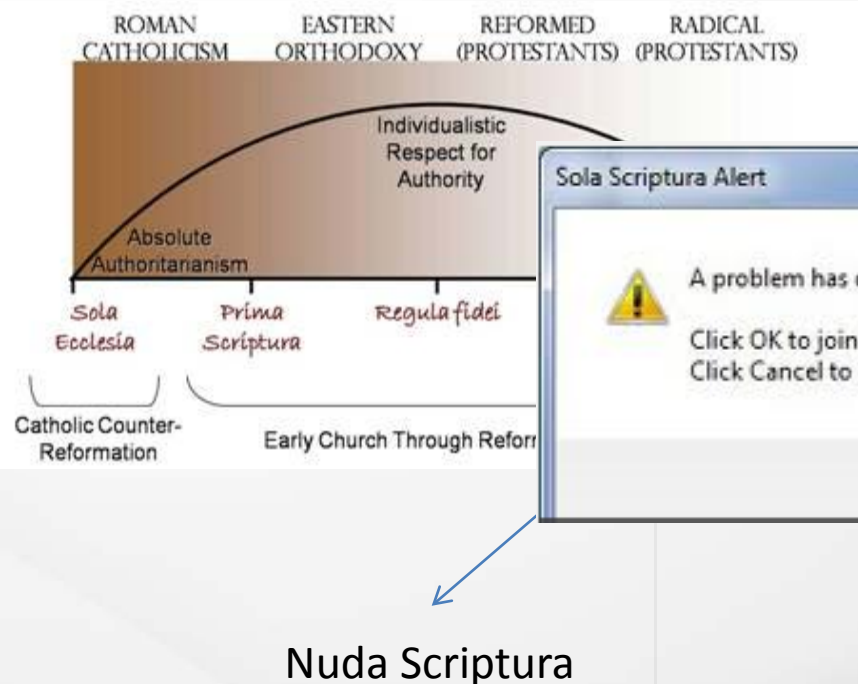


- Definitions in Theology.
- Reformed theology is systematic
- **Sola Scriptura**
- Covenant Theology
- Faith Alone
- *Ordo salutis*
- Five points of Calvinism
- The Church
- Worship
- Baptism
- The Lord's Supper

13 weeks plan

# Sola Scriptura

## Lesson 2: Systematic Theology



- We are not Bible-idolaters
- The Bible is inseparable from God, it is His Word, not God, just His Word which we love



- God's words are actions
- Jesus is the Word
- OT/NT point to the cross

Ultimate authority never resides in Scriptures for Roman Catholics!  
=> Popes and councils don't err!

# The Causes

## Lesson 2: Systematic Theology

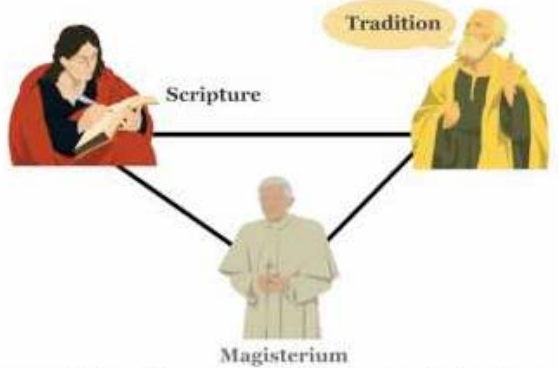
- Material cause: Sola fide, justification by faith alone
- Formal cause: Sola Scriptura, binding authority Melanchthon, *et al*

Sola Scriptura:  
- Authority  
- For what?



To bind the conscience of believers!  
Church, creeds, confessions are subordinate

Fallible authorities cannot be ultimate authority  
The Word of God is infallible, inerrant and authoritative



Scripture, Tradition, and the Magisterium are so closely united with each other that one of them cannot stand without the others.



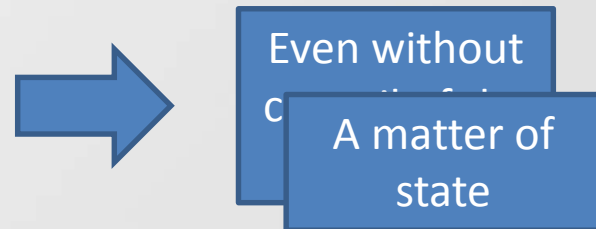
Roman Catholics also believe in the infallibility of Scriptures, but put tradition and magisterium at the same level, and even make tradition complementary to the Bible



# “Infallibility” of the Pope

## Lesson 2: Systematic Theology

- Successor of Peter?
- Peter was the bishop of Rome, same as the current Pope
- Damasus I (366-384) was the first bishop called *Papa* (*Pope in Latin*)
- No papacy yet: Gregory I (590-604) created the papacy
- Corruption, power and politics (synonyms?)
- Infallibility of the Pope when talking *ex cathedra*, by Pio Nono, or Pius the Ninth, last Pope-King
- Infallibility pretention started before the Reformation:
  - Boniface VIII (*Unam Sanctam*, 1302)
  - Pius IX (*Ineffabilis Deus*, 1854)
  - Eugene IV (*Cantate Domino*, 1441)
  - Pius XII (*Munificentissimus Deus*, 1950)





# Private interpretation

## Lesson 2: Systematic Theology

“Houston, we have a problem”



Many interpretations

But one infallible –divine- source

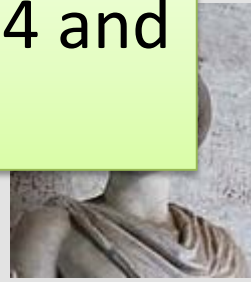
Genre analysis, metaphors, simile, parables,

Literal interpretation refers to the literally form of Scripture: include the context! Psalm 14 and

Matt. 5:29

- Infallibility
- Inerrancy
- Authority

ἐρμηνεύω (*hermeneuō*, 'translate' or 'interpret').<sup>1</sup>



Hermes: messenger, liar, interpreter, inventor of language , thief, etc.





# Inspiration

## Lesson 2: Systematic Theology

- Authority comes from divine inspiration (2 Tim 3:16-17)
- *Theopneust*: Breathed-out by God (passive)
- T “(Scriptures are to be believed as) to
- D have come from heaven, as directly as writers to
- b if God had been heard giving
- N utterance to them” - Institutes
- O
- John 16:13 20:9 · Heb 3:7 · Psalm 95
- P “Listen for the Word of God” – what is wrong here?
- what it was intended to mean and be



# Infallibility

## Lesson 2: Systematic Theology

Origin in God

God cannot err



His Word has no error



Omniscient  
Morally perfect

If inspired by God, infallible in its origin, has no error

Infallible = cannot err; Inerrant = does not err

See notes

Originals are infallible, but we have good copies to assert that our Bible has no error!



# Authority

## Lesson 2: Systematic Theology

- Formal cause: Authority resides in the Bible and God, not in man
- Jesus Lords in our lives through the Bible, His Word
- We need to know what does He wants from us
- The church has not the ultimate authority, but Jesus Himself



Creeds, confessions, teachings and any other human writing or organization (church) receives its authority from Scripture

# Perspicuity

## Lesson 2: Systematic Theology

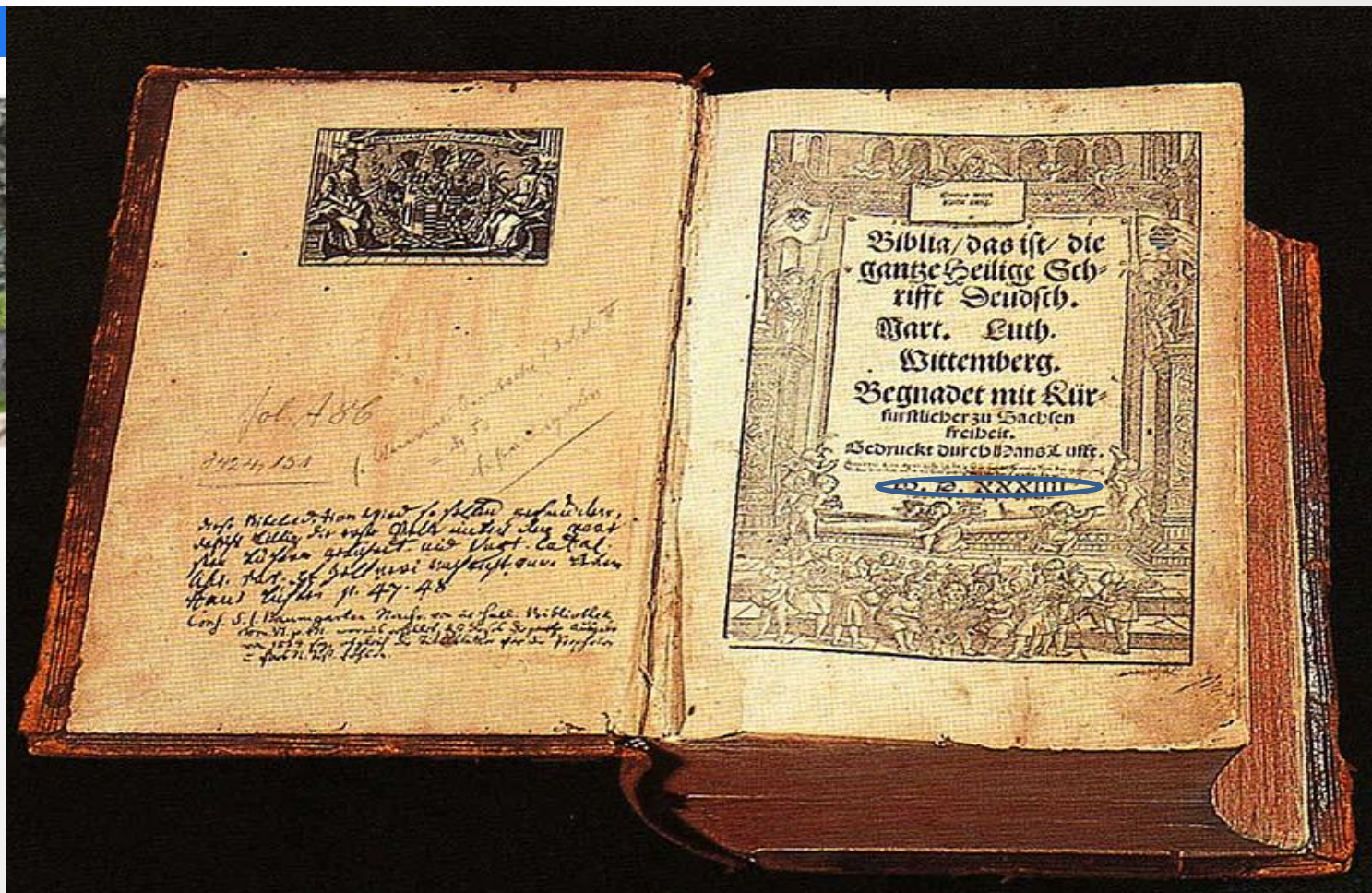
- Some things are harder to understand for some people
- Not everything is equally clear and not for all (we need the Holy Spirit)



But what is needed for salvation is clear for all believers  
We get understanding by ordinary means – takes work

What about non-believers?

# The Canon



*This is the Bible, the Holy Scriptures translated to German, 1534*



# The Canon

## Lesson 2: Systematic Theology



Measuring rod or rule

- Sixty six books
- WCF 1.2 names them
- Given and received
- OT Canonical? Jesus
- Apostolic association
- Christ honoring content
- The church received the canon but did not give
- Synod of Hippo accepted the final form of the canon

# Contradictions in the Bible

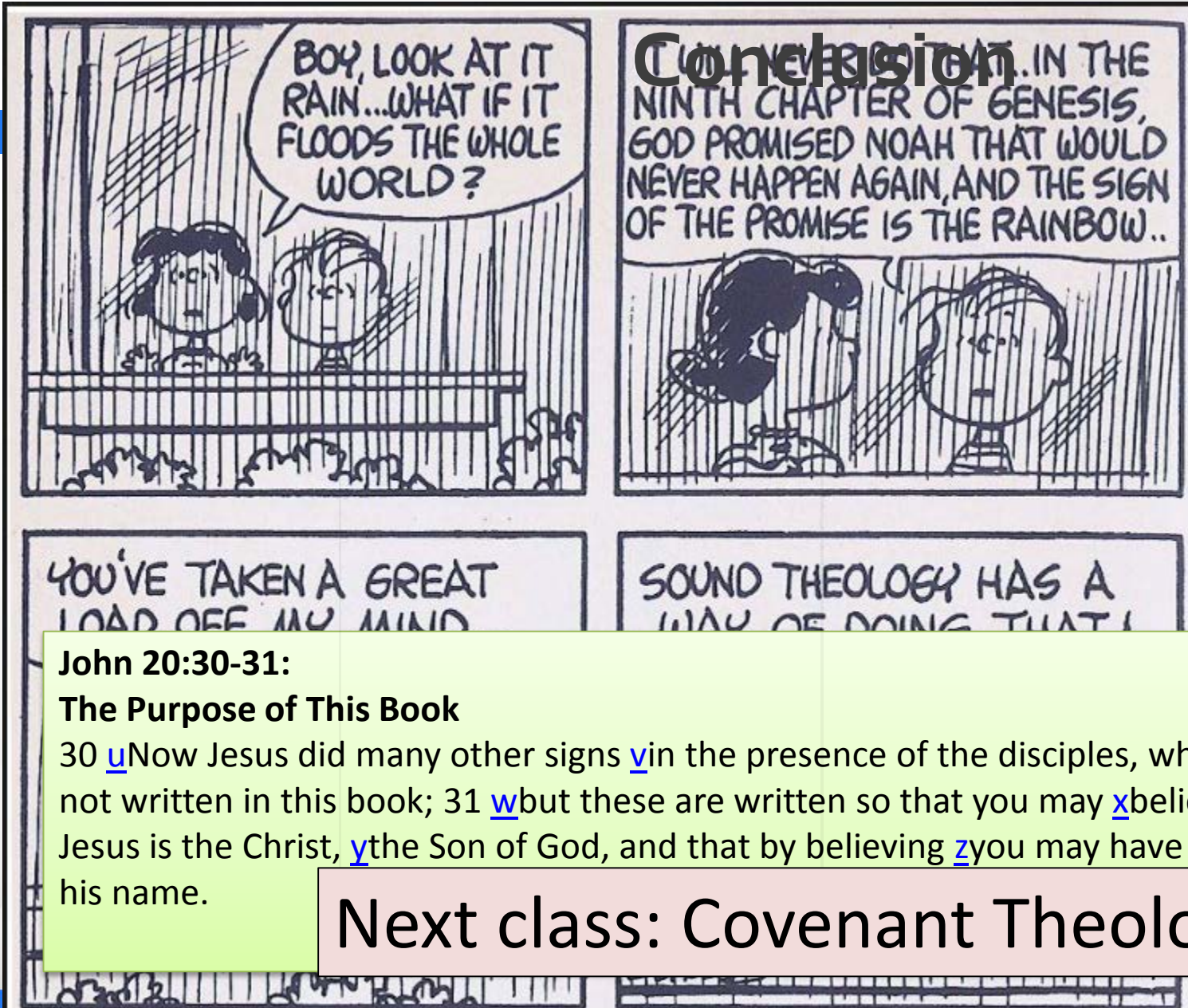
## Lesson 2: Systematic Theology

### Speaking anthropomorphically (the way we speak!):

- 1 John 1:8; 1 John 5:18; 1 John 3:9
- Job 1:8; Job 9:20; Job 7:21; Gal 2:17 (*Simul iustus et peccator*)
- 1 Samuel 15:29 vs v.35. God is using human figures of speaking to make us understand.
- - **Genesis 6:6**. God does not change His mind. Even using the same words.







**John 20:30-31:**

### The Purpose of This Book

30 now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; 31 bt these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

**Next class: Covenant Theology**