

WHAT IS REFORMED THEOLOGY?

Basics of Our Faith





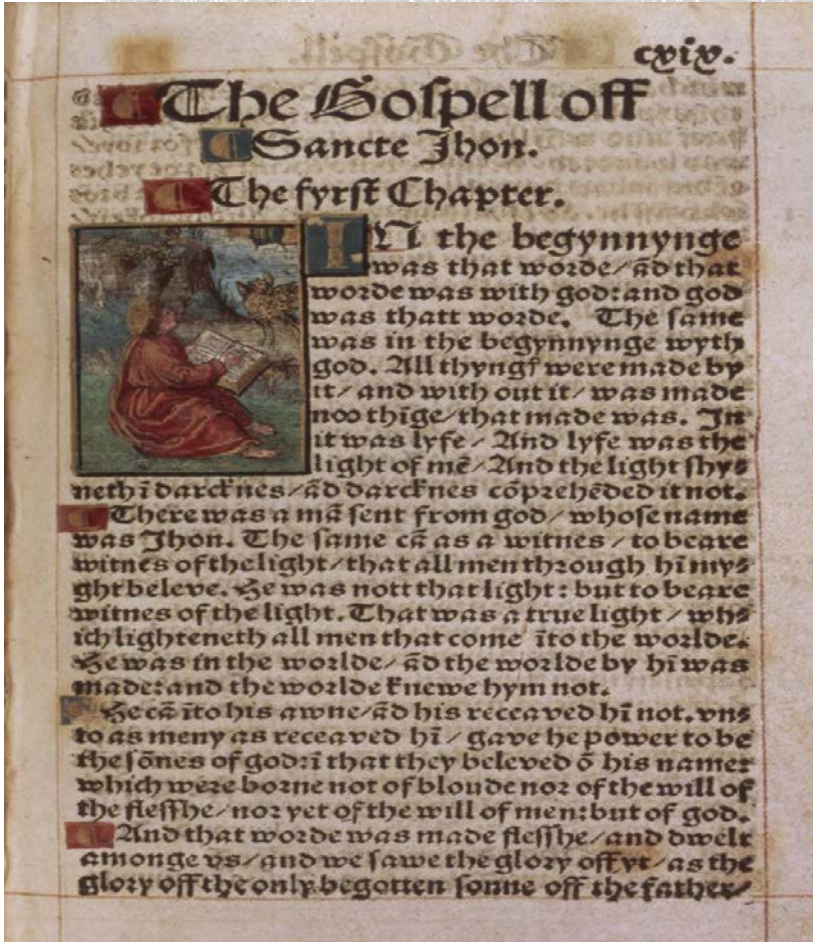
WRAP UP



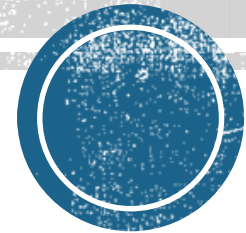
Week 14

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

THEOLOGY

- Theology is “The systematic study of the person and work of God”
- Sola Scriptura: Scriptures are authoritative, inerrant, breathed-out and sufficient (2 Tim 3: 16-17)
- God makes Himself known to man through General and Special revelation (WCF I.1; Psalm 19:1-2; Rom 2:14-15).
 - Semen religionis / Sensus divinitatis => however, not sufficient to get saving faith
 - We know about God through creation, but not know (love) Him and His will
 - Read Eph. 2:8-10 – Special revelation is necessary => Heb. 1:4 and enough!!!



REFORMED THEOLOGY

- “Re-formed”, give another form, shape, go back to the origins
- Reformed Theology is God centered
- The Reformation did not start with Luther, but centuries before:
 - Scripture alone are authoritative
 - Only two sacraments
 - Salvation is from Christ alone (grace alone, faith alone), not the church
 - Preaching must be Scripture-centered
 - Reading the Bible in vernacular languages
 - Reject indulgencies

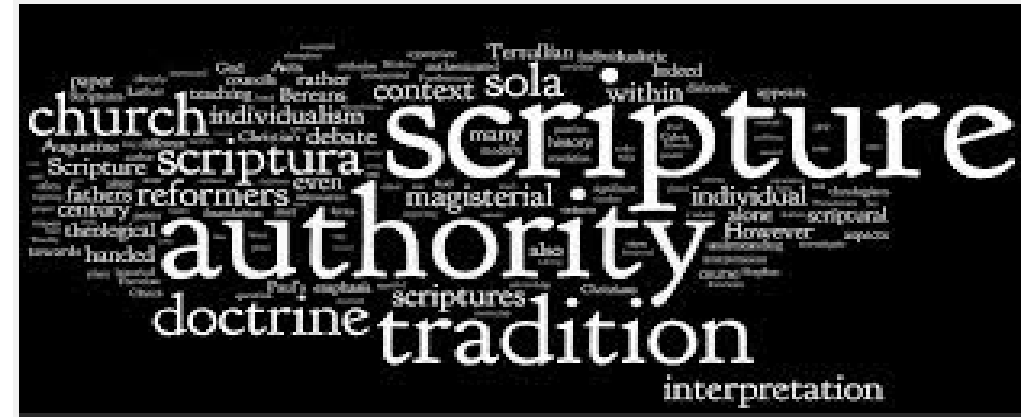


KNOWING GOD

- 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 *emminentia*
- 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.



SOLA SCRIPTURA



- **Cause of Reformation**
- **Material cause:**
Sola fide, justification by faith alone
- **Formal cause:**
Sola Scriptura, binding authority



SOLA SCRIPTURA

- *Theopneust*: Breathed-out by God (passive)
- *Theodidaktos*: Taught by God (passive)
- Doctrine of Inspiration: God enabled human writers to be agents of divine revelation.

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

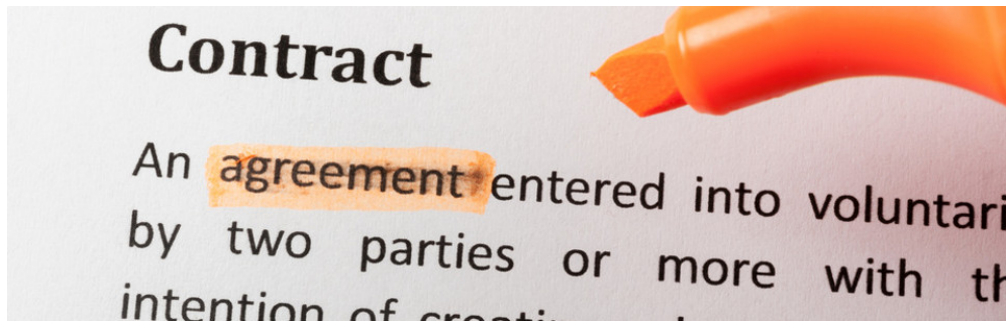
- Authority resides in the Bible and God, not in man

- Sixty six books, Apostolic association, Christ-honoring content, edification of the Church

- The church received the canon but did not give authority to the books



WHAT IS A COVENANT?



- An Agreement
- A Relationship
- More than a promise
- An Oath-Bound Promise
- “*A bond in blood sovereignly administered*”



COVENANT OF WORKS

1. God and Adam – *Adam represents all men*
2. Obedience – *Perfect, personal obedience*
3. Eternal Life – *Communion with God forever*
4. Death – *Spiritual, physical, judicial*



COVENANT OF GRACE

1. Parties
2. Condition
3. Promise/Blessing
4. Penalty/Curse

1. God and Christ
2. Faith in Christ
3. God is our God
Forgiveness of sins
4. God always fulfills!



SALVATION AND COVENANT

- **Salvation is in the context of a relationship**
- **Salvation is about more than what is done to us, or even for us**
- **It is about being united with Christ**



Ordo salutis

"order of salvation" | what God does to save me | (start at the bottom)

glorified

God will remove all trace of sin, and give me a body clothed in immortality that reflects his glory

preserved

God keeps me secure in my salvation, so nothing and no-one can ever snatch me from his hand

sanctified

God set me apart for his service, through which I am transformed into the image of Jesus

adopted

God included me in his family, giving me the full rights of a beloved son and heir.

justified

God credited to me all the righteousness of Christ, removing forever all the guilt of my sin.

converted

The Holy Spirit enabled me to respond to the call of the Gospel in repentance and faith.

regenerated

The Holy Spirit softened my heart, and made me willing to accept his call.

called

God called me to himself through the proclamation of the Gospel.

predestined

God set in motion his plan to bring me to my destiny: to be his adopted child.

elected

God unconditionally chose me to be one of many who would be redeemed by his Son.

foreknown

before he made the world, God planned to create me in his image, so that I may know him.

ORDO SALUTIS

- Salvation is done for us
- Ordo: Logical sequencing
- Benefits of redemption
- Union with Christ:
 - Applied by God
 - Once-for-all



EFFECTUAL CALLING

- “We are all born pelagian”
- Regeneration precedes faith
- Irresistible grace (WCF 10.1)
- Operative vs. cooperative grace
- God intents and does: turn spiritual death onto spiritual life
- Holy Spirit’s inward or secret operation on the soul: hearts are made alive!

- Grace is irresistible
- Man becomes a new creature



JUSTIFICATION

- Faith precedes Justification (even when they occur simultaneously)
- Analytical vs. Synthetical: Declared just or justice imputed
- Judicially declared just
- Actually, it is double imputation!



SOLA FIDE

- The article with and by which the church stands, without which it falls. Luther
 - Our works complete salvation, or Jesus's atonement was not necessary
- **Justification is** “the acceptance with which God receives us into His favor as if we were righteous... (through) the forgiveness of sins and the imputation of the righteousness of Christ” **Calvin**



SOLA FIDE

- *Simul iustus et peccator* . Luther (logic: happens in the same person at the same time, but not in the same relationship, Sproul)
- “*A believer must be just to be declared just*”... ok but how can we be just?
- Justice of Christ is the only justice God can see in man

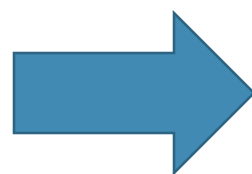




Portrait attributed to Hans Holbein the Younger

FIVE POINT OF CALVINISM

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



TULIP vs. Daisy



CALVINISM

- Five points of Calvinism are a response to Arminians
- Man-Centered: free will
- God foresees
- Man actions save
- Grace can be lost





Baily, David (1620), Jacobus Arminius.

ARMINIANISM

1. God foresees and saves according to man's choice to believe (faith is a work)
2. Christ died for all man but only believers are saved
3. Grace is necessary for faith and good deeds
4. Man can resist grace
5. They don't know if truly regenerated will persevere (they can lose their faith and salvation) – this point has been controversial



PROPER WORSHIP

- First table of the 10 Commandments
- God really cares!
 - Leviticus 10:1-5; 1 Chronicles 13:3-14; Exodus 25:12-15; Numbers 7:5-9



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



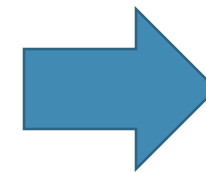
SACRAMENTS

Sacraments are holy signs and seals of the covenant of grace, immediately instituted by God, to represent Christ, and his benefits; and to confirm our interest in him: as also, to put a visible difference between those that belong unto the church, and the rest of the world; and solemnly to engage them to the service of God in Christ, according to his Word (WCF 27.1)



BAPTISM

- Assurance and sealing of the forgiveness of sins, regeneration, and incorporation to the church (Col. 2:11-12; Titus 3:5; 1 Cor. 12:13)
- However, efficacy of baptism is not in the external signs (not *ex opere operato*)
- Final change (regeneration) will come with the Holy Spirit (Matt. 3:11; 1 Pet. 3:21)



Efficacy of baptism is due to faith, but saving faith is not given (necessarily) in baptism



THE LORD'S SUPPER

- Our Lord Jesus, in the night wherein He was betrayed, instituted the sacrament of His body and blood, called the Lord's Supper, to be observed in His Church, unto the end of the world, for the perpetual remembrance of the sacrifice of Himself in His death; the sealing all benefits thereof unto true believers, their spiritual nourishment and growth in Him, their further engagement in and to all duties which they owe unto Him; and, to be a bond and pledge of their communion with Him, and with each other, as members of His mystical body. (WCF, Ch. 29, Sec. I)



THE LORD'S SUPPER

- The Lord's Supper makes us rejoice in the perfection of the atonement that Christ has already given for us.
- The Lord Supper is not just a remembrance; Christ is really present in the sacrament in a spiritual way.
- *Finitum non capax infiniti*: we cannot comprehend God completely; only what He has revealed is what we have, and it's enough.



FINAL REMARKS

- Doxology: final end of all theology
- Reformed are concerned about proper understanding and application of the Word of God
- But God is not a mere subject of study
- We must seek the knowledge of God but must let God be God
- When we study God, not intellectual pride but WORSHIP must be our answer
- Knowing God's sovereignty and our moral responsibility, we understand how much we need Him



Read Rom. 11:33-36



**THANKS! OBRIGADO! TERIMA KASIH
謝謝 DANKE ΣΑΣ ΕΥΧΑΡΙΣΤ'Ω
תודה לך DANK JE WEL SALAMAT SA
IYO GRAZIE GRACIAS!**

