



Who do you think you are? Thinking Like a Christian April-June 2020

Recovering a Forgotten Gospel: The Reformation AD 1517-1553

1. 1000 years since Augustine...

The Islamic Conquests

A transformed society

The rise of the Papacy

Serious corruption

What happened to Augustine

Grace dispensed by the church

Semi-Pelagianism triumphs

Languages, Latin and the Bible

2. Martin Luther

Exercise: Luther's Conscience! If you're a late mediaeval monk... how certain can you be of getting to heaven? What are you most worried about?

When [Christ's] name was spoken I would rather have heard that of the devil, because I thought I must do good works until Christ, because of them, became friendly and gracious to me. (Luther)

Indulgences

95 Theses

Justification by faith alone

Romans 1:17

Diet of Worms January 1521. 'Here I stand; I can do no other'.

Kidnap and the Wartburg

The German Bible

The beginning of the Reformation

Real Christianity: *Scripture Alone, Faith Alone*

3. The Reformation Spreads: the Reformed Churches

Once the door has been opened to Reformation... an awful lot needs reforming

The text of the Bible

The abuses of the church; idolatry, superstition

The gospel is the Word of God

Who saves us? Us, Christ, Mary, the Saints?

Swiss Reformers

John Calvin: born 1509.

Humanism. 1530 became a Protestant. Fled later to Basel, Switzerland.

1536: *Institutes of the Christian Religion*.

Now, in order that true religion may shine upon us, we ought to hold that it must take its beginning from heavenly doctrine and that no one can get even the slightest taste of right and sound doctrine unless he be a pupil of scripture. Hence, there also emerges the beginning of true understanding when we reverently embrace what it pleases God there to witness of himself... all right knowledge of God is born of obedience. (Calvin, Institutes 1.6.2)

Asked to help with reform in Geneva. 1538 Fled Geneva.

1540: Sadoletto, Archbishop of Carpentras, wrote to the Genevans.

You have abandoned true Christianity in favour of a newfangled set of religious ideas invented yesterday that are totally different to how we should worship God!
Now is the time to come back to the Catholic fold.

Exercise: Answering Sadoletto! You are the Genevan council, wondering how to respond to his letter. Debate whether to accept his invitation or not.

I have also no difficulty in conceding to you, that there is nothing more perilous to our salvation than a preposterous and perverse worship of God. The primary rudiments, by which we are wont to train to piety those whom we wish to gain as disciples to Christ, are these; viz., not to frame any new worship of God for themselves at random, and after their own pleasure, but to know that the only legitimate worship is that which he himself approved from the beginning. For we maintain, what the sacred oracle declared, that obedience is more excellent than any sacrifice (1 Sam. xv. 22.) In short, we train them, by every means, to be contented with the one rule of worship which they have received from his mouth, and bid adieu to all fictitious worship.

...

But the most serious charge of all is, that we have attempted to dismember the Spouse of Christ. Were that true, both you and the whole world might well regard us as desperate. But I will not admit the charge, unless you can make out that the Spouse of Christ is dismembered by those who desire to present her as a chaste virgin to Christ, -- who are animated by a degree of holy zeal to preserve her spotless for Christ, -- who, seeing her polluted by base seducers, recall her to conjugal fidelity, -- who unhesitatingly wage war against all the adulterers whom they detect laying snares for her chastity. And what but this have we done? Had not your faction of a Church attempted nay, violated her chastity, by strange doctrines? Had she not been violently prostituted by your numberless superstitions? Had she not been defiled by that vilest species of adultery, the worship of images? And because, forsooth, we did not suffer you so to insult the sacred chamber of Christ, we are said to have lacerated his Spouse!
(Calvin, Letter to Sadoleto)

1558: thought he was dying of fever, completed revision of *Institutes*. Published 1559.

Geneva: 'the most perfect school of Christ'

Lutheran vs. Reformed

The sole majesty and glory of God

A Christian mind: Reformed according to Scripture

Rome the usurper of the Holy Spirit

All of life Reformed according to God's word

Why the Mass mattered

Real Christianity: *Grace Alone, Christ Alone, God's glory alone*

4. What happened in England: Henry VIII, Edward VI, Mary Tudor

Henry and the Pope

The King's Great Matter

Cranmer

All those wives

Henry and the Bible

Edward VI: King Josiah

1549

1552

The Maryan Martyrs

Then they brought a faggot, kindled with fire, and laid the same down at Dr. Ridley's feet. To whom Master Latimer spake in this manner: 'Be of good comfort, Master Ridley, and play the man. We shall this day light such a candle, by God's grace, in England, as I trust shall never be put out.'

(Foxe's Book of Martyrs)
