



REFORMATION

S U N D A Y



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One Man Who Changed the World

Romans 3:20-31

WHAT WAS THE REFORMATION?

“A spiritual rebirth that took place in Europe back in the 16th century. Many of us believe that it is, by all accounts, the most important recovery of the gospel since the days of the New Testament.” (Lutzer)

WHY WAS THE REFORMATION NEEDED?

1. Power, Scandals, Corruption (immorality; simony)
2. The gospel had been buried under centuries of conflicting traditions and superstitions.

WHO WERE THE REFORMERS?

1. Martin Luther (Wittenberg, Germany)

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2. John Calvin (Geneva, Switzerland)
3. Huldrych Zwingli (Zurich, Switzerland)

TWO VITAL TRUTHS OF THE REFORMATION?

1. The first concerned the Bible

The foundation of the movement: *sola Scriptura* (Scripture only)
Church tradition, church councils, the magisterium, and even the papacy had to be judged by the Scriptures.

- A. Scripture is fundamentally necessary
- B. Scripture is authoritative
- C. Scripture is perspicuous (clear); self-interpreting

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2. The second concerned the Gospel

A. Salvation is sola gratia (by grace alone)

B. Salvation is sola fide (through faith alone)

C. Salvation is solus Christus (in Christ alone)

IS THE REFORMATION OVER?

“Christianity can survive without the gospel. Let me clarify. There is a form of Christianity that developed in medieval times that has survived to this day without the gospel. It is, of course, a powerless Christianity that cannot give people the assurance of salvation, nor does it lead to lives of holiness—but it is still called Christianity. Yes, whether Catholic or Protestant, every generation, including ours, has to fight for the purity of the gospel. It is our nature to reject the gospel’s verdict on us and resist the profound simplicity of its transforming message of grace. The gospel must always be defended, and sometimes it must be rescued.”

Dr. Erwin Lutzer

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WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

1. BAD NEWS

A. All have sinned (3:23)

B. The penalty for sin is death (6:23)

Includes spiritual death, physical death, the second death!

2. GOOD NEWS = “Gospel” (see 1 Cor. 15:1-8)

A. Christ died for our sins & rose from the dead (5:8)

His sacrifice/payment was perfect (John 19:30)

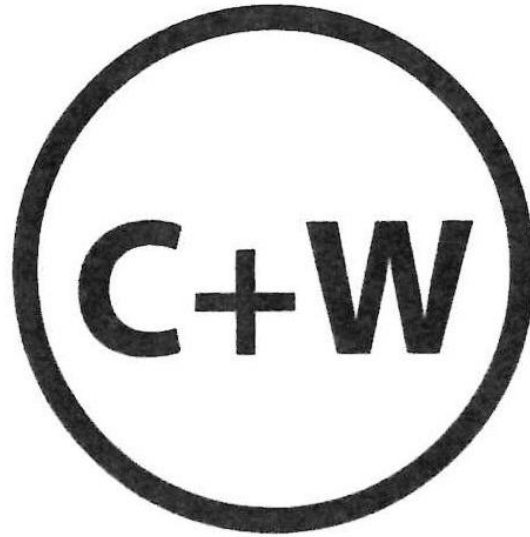
B. You can be saved through faith (Eph. 2:8-9)

By grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone!



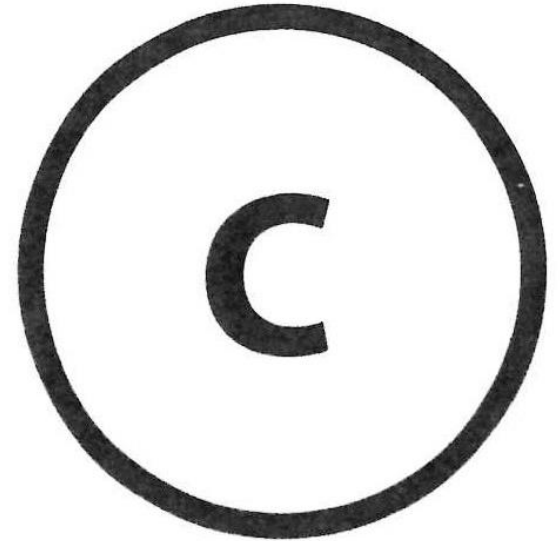
Works

unnecessary



Christ + Works

disappointing



Christ

sufficient

The salvation of your soul is *by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone!*



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