

## Reformation 01: Introduction (Handout)

Notebook: Sunday School Notes

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### Reformation 01: Introduction to Concepts (Handout)

- **The Renaissance & *ad fontes*** => The Renaissance was a **period** in **European history**, from the 14th to the 17th century, regarded as the cultural bridge between the **Middle Ages** and **modern history**. The phrase *ad fontes* (Lat., "to the fountains") epitomized the renewed study of Greek and Latin classic literature during the Renaissance.
- **The Reformers embraced the *ad fontes* concept as they studied the Greek and Hebrew Biblical manuscripts to mine the meaning of God's word in its original languages.**
  
- **Nationalism** => The concept of nationalism was growing as the Middle Ages came to a close (~15th century).
- **Sacralism** => Closely related to nationalism, sacralism is the confluence of church and state wherein one is called upon to change/influence the other.
- **Nationalism and sacralism are important factors on the eve of Reformation, because - for example - the German people were not happy with the Roman Catholic Church when funds were being raised (often through indulgences, defined later) for St. Peter's Cathedral...to be built in Italy!**
  
- **Printing press** => A device for applying pressure to an **inked** surface resting upon a **print** medium (such as paper or cloth), thereby transferring the ink. Typically used for texts, the invention and **spread of the printing press** was one of the most influential events in the second millennium. The printing press was invented by the **German Johannes Gutenberg** around 1440.
- **The invention of the printing press was essential to the Reformation, as literature (e.g., Luther's 95 Theses) and Bibles (e.g., translations in various languages) could be reproduced and distributed faster than they could be destroyed by the Roman Catholic Church.**
  
- **Conciliarism** => A reform movement in the 14th-, 15th- and 16th-century **Roman Catholic Church** which held that supreme authority in the Church resided with an **Ecumenical council**, apart from, or even against, the **Pope**. The movement emerged in response to the **Western Schism** between rival popes in **Rome** and **Avignon**.
- **Conciliarism is evidence that for most of its history, not even the Roman Catholic Church has believed in the supremacy of one Pope, having even as many as three Popes at one time during the 15th century. The supremacy of the Pope - and the end of conciliarism - was confirmed at the Fifth Lateran Council (1512-1517).**
  
- **Sacerdotalism** => The belief that **propitiatory** sacrifices for sin require the intervention of a priest. This system of priesthood is exemplified by the Aaronic priests in the **Old Testament**.
- The Roman Catholic Church's sacramental system developed over the many centuries of the Middle Ages (5th through 15 centuries), and (according to Rome) no one can be saved without it.
- **The Reformation doctrine of *sola fide* (justification by faith alone) is in direct opposition to sacerdotalism, which prescribes specific sacramental works for persons to be righteous before God.**

- **Simony** => The act of selling church offices and roles. It is named after **Simon Magus**, who is described in the **Acts of the Apostles** 8:9–24 as having offered two disciples of **Jesus**, **Peter** and **John**, payment in exchange for their empowering him to impart the power of the **Holy Spirit** to anyone on whom he would place his hands.
- **Indulgences** => In the teaching of the **Roman Catholic Church**, an indulgence is "a way to reduce the amount of punishment one has to undergo for sins." It may reduce the "temporal punishment for sin" after death (as opposed to the eternal punishment merited by **mortal sin**) in the state or process of purification called **Purgatory**.
- **Treasury of Merit** => The Treasury of Merit consists of the **merits** of **Jesus Christ** and his faithful (i.e., "saints"), a treasury that because of the **communion of saints** benefits others too.
- Such "transactions," especially indulgences, played an important role in the initiation of the Reformation, as **Martin Luther (and others before and after him) were appalled by the Roman Catholic belief that salvation could be bought with money.**
- **Post Tenebras Lux** => A Latin phrase translated "after darkness, light." The phrase is derived from Job 17:12, and was adopted by the Reformers to exemplify the recapturing of the Gospel after its suppression during much of the Middle Ages.
- **"Reformation"** => Although Martin Luther (an Augustinian monk) did not originally intend to break with the Roman Catholic Church - only reform it (thus the name "Reformation") - the movement ended in an irreparable schism between Rome and those who opposed her unBiblical doctrine of justification by faith + sacraments.
- **"Protestant"** => The term "Protestant" derives from the **letter of protestation** from German Lutheran **princes** in 1529 against an **edict** of the **Diet of Speyer** condemning **the teachings of** Martin Luther as **heretical**.
- **Five Sola of the Reformation** => A foundational set of Biblical principles held to be central to the doctrine of **salvation** as taught by the Reformers.
  1. **Sola Scriptura** => "Scripture alone": The **formal principle** of the Reformation; *sola Scriptura* asserts that the Scriptures alone are sufficient as the "rule of faith" for the Church.
  2. **Sola gratia** => "grace alone": The teaching that **salvation** comes by **divine grace** or "ill-merited favor" only, not as something merited by the sinner.
  3. **Sola fide** => "faith alone": The **material principle** of the Reformation; asserts that good works are not a means or requisite for salvation. *Sola fide* is the teaching that **justification** (interpreted in Reformed theology as "being declared just by God") is received by **faith** alone, without any need for **good works** on the part of the individual.
  4. **Solus Christus** => "Christ alone": The teaching that **Christ** is the only mediator between God and man, and that there is salvation through no other. From this doctrine comes also the Reformation recovery of the doctrine of "the priesthood of all Believers."
  5. **Solus Deo gloria** => "glory of God alone": The teaching that all glory is to be due to God alone, since salvation is accomplished solely through His will and action – not only the gift of the all-sufficient **atonement** of **Jesus** on **the cross** but also the gift of faith in that atonement, created in the heart of the believer by the **Holy Spirit**.

THUS, WE ARE SAVED BY **GRACE ALONE** THROUGH **FAITH ALONE** IN **CHRIST ALONE** UNTO **THE GLORY OF GOD ALONE**, AND WE ESTABLISH THIS BASIS OF OUR SALVATION ON WHAT IS WRITTEN IN **SCRIPTURE ALONE**.