

# “The Reformers & Our Faith Today”

## New Hope Community Church

October 22nd, 2017

- I. *The Plight of the Believer 500 Years Ago*
  - A) Faith became a form of **power**
  - B) Education and literacy became tools for **abuse**
  - C) Mass had become **archaic**
  - D) **Dependency** became the way of life
  
- II. *The ‘Solas’ to Which the Reformers Held Fast*

*The Latin word ‘sola’ means ‘only’, or ‘alone’*

  - A) *Sola gratia, sola fide* = **grace alone, faith alone**
    1. *Romans 1:16,17* —
      - Righteousness is revealed in the **gospel**
      - The gospel is salvation based on the **merits** of Christ
      - The sinner receives righteousness thru **faith** in Christ
    2. *Ephesians 2:8,9* —
      - Salvation is completely a matter of God’s **grace**
      - This grace is received **solely** by faith
      - The works of men can never **earn** salvation
  - ▶ **KEY:** *Salvation and deliverance from condemnation did not come from **outside** the gospel, but from the Gospel itself.*
  - B) *Sola Scriptura* = **Scripture alone**
    - 1) The issue of **authority** came to the front
    - 2) The **universal priesthood** of the believer was taught
  - C) *Summary of the reformation*
    - 1) With obedience to the Scripture came **martyrdom**
    - 2) Through the blood of the reformers came —
      - A return to **apostolic** doctrine
      - Translation of the Bible into the **common** languages
      - Freedom from the stranglehold of a church imposed system of **works** based religion

### III. Why the Reformation Matters

- A) We have a legacy of **faith**
- B) **Sufficiency** of Scripture for our lives
- C) Because we can **know God** personally

“The whole counsel of God, concerning all things necessary for his own glory, man’s salvation, faith, and life, is either expressly set down in scripture, or by good and necessary consequence may be deduced from scripture: unto which nothing at any time is to be added, whether by new revelations of the Spirit, or traditions of men.” —Westminster Confession of Faith

### GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Bishop - A regional overseer of several priests and parishes

Cardinal - The highest Bishop in a region. Often a cardinal oversees several bishops in a county or state.

Church Councils - international meeting of church leaders to discuss important topics and come to agreement

Church Tradition - The teachings of the church through the centuries

Diet - A German word for session or counsel of the German princes and emperor

Heretic - Someone who teaches doctrine that contradicts or compromises the teachings of Christ

Indulgence - The act of the church granting righteousness that exists in excess from dead saints who arrived in heaven

Mass - The Roman Catholic Church service often considered to merit favor with God

Monk - A person dedicated to the cause of Christ who took vows of poverty and celibacy. Often times they live in solitude, but not all orders do.

Papal Bull - A decree given by the Pope

Parish - The region around a church the priest cares for

Priest - The pastor over a parish

Purgatory - A place in Roman Catholic doctrine teaching that after death the soul of a person goes to the location of Purgatory, a place of fire and torture, to purify the soul from sin until you can be in the presence of God.

Relic - Some object that has ties to a dead saint and supposedly merits righteousness to end purgatory faster

Thesis - A topic for public discussion and debate

# ***“The Reformers & Our Faith Today”***

***New Hope Community Church***

*October 22nd, 2017*

## *QUESTIONS FOR FURTHER REFLECTION*

- 1) *Read Romans 1:16,17 — How is this Scripture in conflict with the idea that we can buy “indulgences” to help deliver loved ones from purgatory? (see glossary of terms)*
- 2) *What do you love about the message of Romans 1:16,17?*
- 3) *If Christ is indeed God’s provision through His death for our righteousness and forgiveness, why do you think there is such a strong reaction against Him in today’s American culture?*
- 4) *Is there anything we can do as individuals to help change peoples’ reaction against Jesus?*
- 5) *Read Ephesians 2:8,9 — How is this Scripture in conflict with the practice of paying to climb stairs on your knees to pray your loved ones out of purgatory?*
- 6) *Have you ever felt that somehow you had to gain God’s favor in order to be accepted by Him? Describe how that affected your life.*
- 7) *The Church was incredibly off center from the truth during the days of the Reformation. As part of the 21st Century church in America, what can we do to prevent abandonment of the truth?*
- 8) *Did learning a little about the sacrifice of the Reformers, even for many of them the spilling of their blood, speak to you in any significant way? Please share.*