

WHAT IS REFORMED THEOLOGY?

Basics of Our Faith



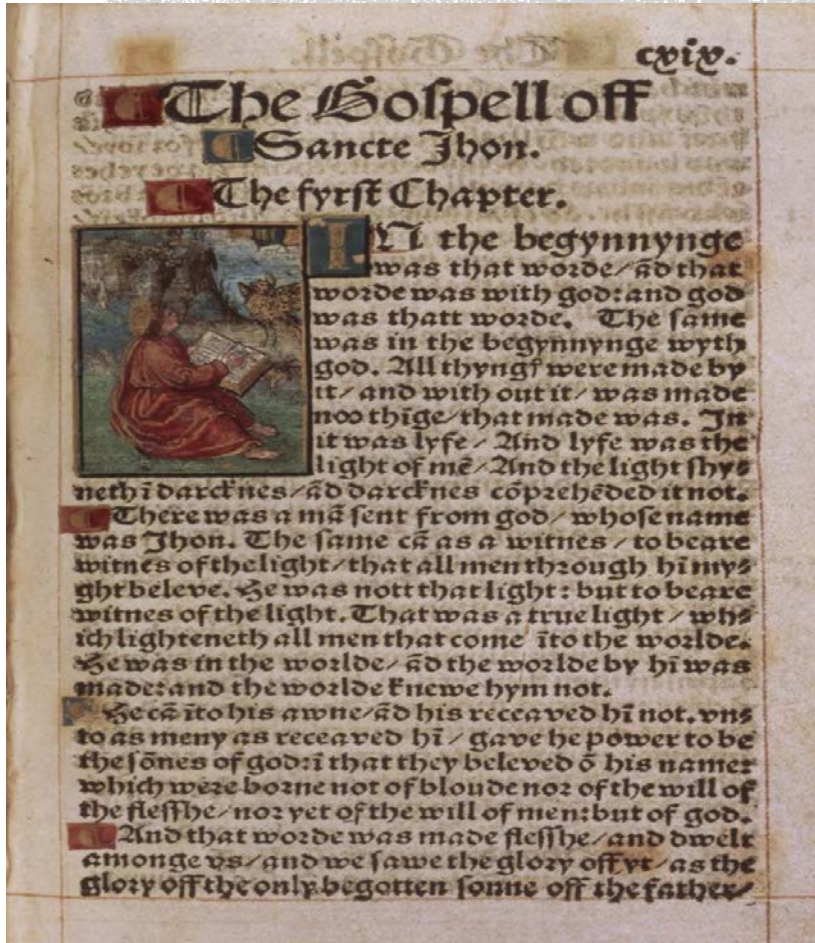


FAITH ALONE

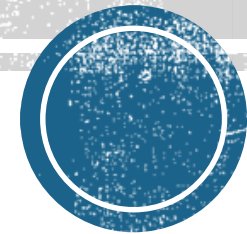
Week 7

Outline

Class plan



- Definitions in Theology.
- Reformed theology is systematic
- Sola Scriptura
- Covenant Theology
- *Ordo salutis*
- **Faith Alone**
- Five points of Calvinism
- The Church
- Worship
- Baptism
- The Lord's Supper



14 weeks plan

REVIEW: ORDO SALUTIS II

- Acts of God's Grace... always free
- Predestination precedes calling
- Faith is required for salvation, but not for election
- Election is according to His will and good pleasure
- Effectual calling: Irresistible Holy Spirit's secret operation on the soul: hearts are made alive!



REVIEW: ORDO SALUTIS II

- Justification: declared just and double imputation
- Faith precedes justification
- Adoption: “received into the number, and have a right to all the privileges, of the sons of God”



REVIEW: ORDO SAL

From Sproul's "What is Reformed Theology?"

Study the differences to understand the truth!

John 6:47 "I tell you the truth, he who believes **has** everlasting life"

➡ Not good works, but faith redeems us

Table 3.2

Justification

| Roman Catholic View | Reformed View |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Instrumental cause: baptism | Instrumental cause: faith |
| Infused righteousness | Imputed righteousness |
| Inherent righteousness | Alien righteousness |
| Analytical justification | Synthetic justification |
| Grace plus merit | Grace alone |
| Faith plus works | Faith alone |
| Christ's righteousness plus ours | Christ's righteousness alone |
| No assurance of salvation | Assurance of salvation |

REVIEW: ORDO SALUTIS II

- “Sanctification: renewed in the whole man after the image of God, and are enabled more and more to die unto sin, and live unto righteousness.” (WSC 35)



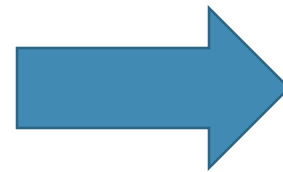
SOLA FIDE

- *Articulus stantis et cadentis ecclesie* (the article with and by which the church stands, without which it falls). **Luther**
- Psalm 130:3, who could stand?
- Justification involves a legal judgment of God
- **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

- *“On what basis does God ever declare anyone just?”*
- *“Deemed, regarded, as if...”* Calvin
- *Simul iustus et peccator* . Luther (happens in the same person at the same time, but not in the same relationship, Sproul)

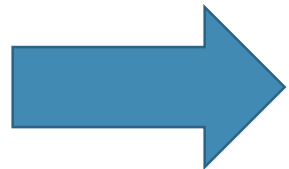


Imputation...

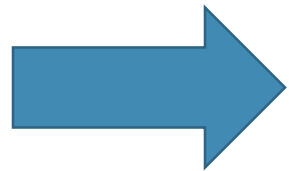


SOLA FIDE

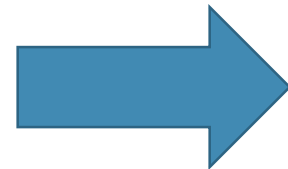
- Rome: “*Judicial fallacy, or legal fiction*” (No sinner is finally just anyways, even by infusion)
- “*A believer must be just to be declared just*”... ok but how can we be just?



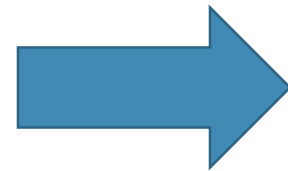
Infusion + cooperation



Imputation alone



Grace can be lost

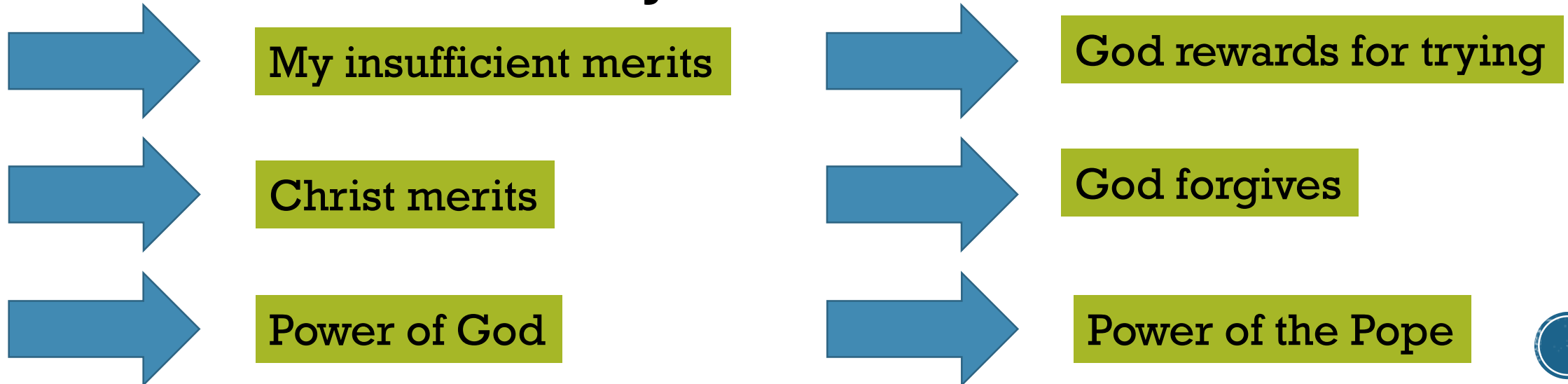


Once and for all



SOLA FIDE

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SOLA FIDE

- Rome: *“Faith, Grace and Christ are necessary, but not sufficient”*
- *“Righteousness of Christ must be infused to the believer sacramentally”*
- The crucial Reformed word: *“sola”*
- See Tabletalk July to understand the fears of Rome



SOLA FIDE

- Faith is the instrumental cause (means by which)
- Linked to Christ to receive the benefits of saving work
- Justification:
 - By faith alone
 - By the righteousness of Christ alone (alien holiness)
 - Through “true knowledge of the gospel”
 - Sufficiency



SOLA FIDE

- James 2:24 vs. Rom. 3:27-28
- Gen. 15 (Abraham is taken as just the moment he believes)
- Gen 22 (Abraham obeys)
- False dilemma; see James 2:14
 - True faith always is manifested by works (testimony for us)
 - Alone vs. only
 - Antinomianism



SOLA FIDE

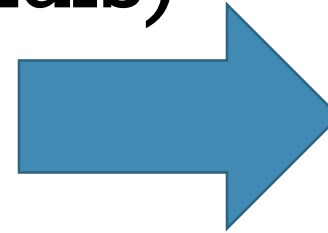
- Aspect of saving faith:
 - *Notitia (notae)*: Object of faith. Essentials again.
 - *Assensus*: intellectual assent, acceptance.
 - *Fiducia*: Trust!

- All three are necessary for salvation



CONCLUSION

- We are saved by Christ's merits
- By believing Scripture (essentials)
- By Grace, through faith alone
- In Christ alone
- For the glory of God alone



5 Solas



NEXT WEEK:

- **Five points of Calvinism...**
(I promise!)

