



**GROW
IN
GRACE**
NEWSLETTER

PLEASE USE the Grow in Grace Newsletter for your own spiritual growth; and **AS A RESOURCE** to help equip you to MINISTER to others!

Volume 46, No. 42, October 19, 2021 / Southside Baptist Church / P.O. Box 1594 / 1028 South Water Avenue, Gallatin, TN 37066 (615) 452-5951 / **The Grow in Grace Newsletter is a WEEKLY Bible Study**, plus local church news notes— designed first and foremost for members and those attending services at Southside Church; and is sent forth with the desire to aid one and all, (including friends far and wide), in the experience of 2 Peter 3:18. ***"But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our LORD JESUS CHRIST!"***

**OCTOBER 2021— THE 504th ANNIVERSARY OF
THE PROTESTANT REFORMATION! [Part 3]**

"Baptists reformed the Reformers!"... edited.

OCTOBER 2021 marks the 504th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation. First of all, it should probably go without saying that the medieval Catholic Church was, in fact, corrupt. The monarchical nature of the papacy, teaching the poor that they could buy their way out of purgatory, and many other church teachings at the time were abominations that all true followers of Christ renounce.

[NOTE: The Roman Catholic institution was and is MORE THAN CORRUPT— IT IS APOSTATE. IT IS A MAJOR PART OF THE HARLOT. See the 2 previous articles in this series!]

MOREOVER, there were numerous pre-Reformation groups (such as the Waldensians and the Lollards) that protested the doctrine and actions of the Catholic Church... and individuals such as John Wycliffe and Jan Huss; and the Anabaptists advocated a return to New Testament Christianity in ways that the Reformers never did (more about this below).

The act of reforming a corrupt church is commendable... However, what Luther, Calvin and Zwingli led was not a complete reformation. **They agreed too much with and retained too much of** the Catholic Church in their new Protestant churches.

For example, they all retained a belief in a state church, which was made up of all residents of a given nation. The doctrines of the state church were, at times, ruthlessly enforced by the government via torture, imprisonment,

and execution. They all initiated citizens into the church through infant baptism.

[THUS, IN THEIR EARLY DAYS, they tortured and murdered those who would not submit to them— even as Romanism had done to them!]

[SADLY, TOO OFTEN] the Reformers only reformed at a rate that was acceptable to those in power at the time. They tolerated — and at times took part in — the persecution of other Reformation-era groups such as the Anabaptists, who sought to be faithful to Christ in spite of the state. The Anabaptists renounced violence, believed in separation of church and state, refused to baptize infants and renounced creeds.

[IN DEFENSE OF THESE actions— I have heard folks seek to justify the torture and murders of the Anabaptists on the basis that some of the Anabaptists were extreme radicals, filled with heresy! OK. EVEN SO — THE BIBLICAL WAY TO DEAL WITH SUCH IS CHURCH DISCIPLINE. THERE IS NO BIBLICAL BASIS FOR TORTURE AND MURDER!]

In contrast, [to the Anabaptists who renounced violence] John Calvin was a powerful official in the state church of Geneva. He oversaw the execution of 50 “heretics” by the state. Zwingli was by many accounts receptive to the doctrine of believers’ baptism until the City Council of Zurich voted against it. He then allowed the drowning of those who received adult baptism.

(Uncounted thousands of Anabaptists lost their goods, their lands, and their lives in these persecutions. Konrad Grebel died in prison in 1526. Felix Manz was drowned by the authorities at Zurich in 1527. Noted Baptist leader Baithauser Hubmaier was burned alive at the stake in Vienna March 10, 1528. Three days later his wife was drowned by being thrown over the Danube bridge with a stone tied to her neck.)

While Luther never took an active role in persecuting those with whom he disagreed, he lent his support to those who did persecute.

[FOR MYSELF, DUE TO THE DARKNESS OF THOSE YEARS, I REMAIN AMAZED AT HOW MUCH REFORMATION WAS ACCOMPLISHED. Yes, their BLINDNESS in significant areas is sad. AND YES, REFORMERS, like John Wycliffe, Jan Huss, Martin Luther, William Tyndale PAID dearly in order TO STAND FOR TRUTH WHICH WE ENJOY TODAY! THEREFORE: TO THE

DEGREE THAT THE REFORMERS RETURNED TOWARD BIBLICAL CHRISTIANITY, I celebrate the REFORMATION and REJOICE!]

[AT THE SAME TIME... does this surprise you?]

In light of history, it is proper for Baptists to remind ourselves that we are not, technically speaking, true Protestants. We are spiritually descended from a different reformation— our ancestors did not break with Rome, but from, according to some, the Church of England.

[NOTE: THERE ARE also BAPTISTS WHO WOULD DISAGREE with that sentence— and proclaim a ‘Trail of Blood’ directly back to the time of the New Testament... and of being ‘outside’ the history of any other ‘Christian group!’— **HERE IS A SAMPLE:**

“At every age in church history there have been groups that have held to the same doctrines that Baptists hold today. These groups may or may not have been connected and they have been known by various names. The name Anabaptists came into prominence just before the time of the Protestant Reformation.

[The IDEA that there was only one religious group - (APOSTATE ROMANISM) -until the time of Martin Luther CANNOT be accurate— **for JESUS ALWAYS has HIS BRIDE; and THE HARLOT exists side by side, Wheat and Tares!]**

[THIS IS AN INTERESTING ACCOUNT] Cardinal Hosius (1504-1579) was a Roman Catholic prelate who had as his life work the investigation and suppression of non-Catholic groups. By Pope Paul IV he was designated one of the three papal presidents of the famous Council of Trent. Hosius carried on vigorously the work of the counter-reformation. If anyone in post-reformation times knew the doctrines and history of non-Catholic groups, it was Hosius.

Cardinal Hosius stated: "Were it not that the Baptists have been grievously tormented and cut off with the knife during the past 1,200 years, they would swarm in greater number than all the Reformers" (Letters Apud Opera, pp.112, 113). (Note that this Catholic scholar spoke of the vicious persecution Baptists endured; and that he

clearly distinguishes them from the Reformers, and that he dates them as far back as 1,200 years before the Protestant Reformation.)

[FOR ME, I have no SPECIAL loyalty to 'being a Baptist!'... Rather, by the grace of God, I confess loyalty to Christ and His Body of redeemed saints— some of whom 'fly' under different earthly banners, even as they seek to enhance their loyalty to JESUS CHRIST!]

[AT THE SAME TIME'... As 'Baptist' Christians, I believe we should take Reformation Day, as a time to remember

[1] OUR DEBT to GODLY ONES OF THE REFORMATION! ... AND ... [2] our own unique heritage; and [3] as a time to also honor Baptist reformers— not forgetting their sacrifices and contributions. [EXAMPLES]

Thomas Helwys, one of the first English Baptists, pioneered the concept of religious liberty. He wrote: "The King is a mortal man, and not God, therefore he hath no power over the mortal soul of his subjects to make laws and ordinances for them and to set spiritual Lords over them." He died in prison.

John Smyth left the Anglican Church to lead a group of English Baptists. He established the twofold church-office structure of pastor and deacon, rejecting elders and bishops. He was known as the "Se-Baptist," meaning "self-baptized," because he forsook his infant baptism and baptized himself in order that he may baptize other believers rather than infants, who cannot make the decision to follow Christ for themselves.

Roger Williams founded the first Baptist church in the New World and co-founded Rhode Island as a place where people of all faiths could worship God according to their own conscience.

John Leland labored alongside Thomas Jefferson and James Madison to ensure religious liberty for all people in the new United States. We should remember their lives and follow their examples in our time so that, as in their time, the truth of Scripture will remain strong. [OTHERS WILL BE NOTED LATER]

[Edited from: Baptists reformed the Reformers / JOSEPH PERDUE | OCTOBER 29, 2010]

(The following is edited from, “What is Reformed Theology, Distinctives of Reformed Baptists, and Reformed Baptists in Church History and Today.”)

What Is “Reformed” Theology? [I prefer → BIBLICAL THEOLOGY!]

Theology is the term explaining what people believe about God. According to C.H. Spurgeon, **“Reformed theology/BIBLICAL THEOLOGY is nothing other than biblical Christianity!”** Broadly speaking, Reformed theology/**BIBLICAL THEOLOGY** is stripped of its Roman Catholic adornment and Orthodox iconography/IMAGES. However, REFORMED/**BIBLICAL THEOLOGY** retains its trust in the Bible as the Word of God contrasted with liberal theology.

[NOTE: There will be times when Reformed Theology and/or Baptist Theology will not agree with BIBLICAL THEOLOGY! Let us ever SEEK to know and embrace BIBLICAL THEOLOGY!]

BIBLICAL THEOLOGY most clearly explains what God has revealed in the Scriptures about himself, the world, and human beings in key areas of Christian doctrine. **Here are a few Particulars as to BIBLICAL THEOLOGY, the first is from a Reformed Theological statement:**

1. “The biblical doctrine of God.” (Chapter 2 of the Westminster Confession of Faith states it as follows: *There is but one only, living, and true God: who is infinite in being and perfection, a most pure spirit, invisible, without body, parts, or passions, immutable, immense, eternal, incomprehensible, almighty, most wise, most holy, most free, most absolute, working all things according to the counsel of His own immutable and most righteous will, for His own glory; most loving, gracious, merciful, long-suffering, abundant in goodness and truth, forgiving iniquity, transgression, and sin; the rewarder of them that diligently seek Him; and withal, most just and terrible in His judgments, hating all sin, and who will by no means clear the guilty.*

God hath all life, glory, goodness, blessedness, in and of Himself; and is alone in and unto Himself all-sufficient, not standing in need of any creatures which He hath made, nor deriving any glory from them, but only manifesting His own glory in, by, unto, and upon them: He is the alone fountain of all being, of whom, through whom, and to whom are all things; and hath most sovereign dominion over them, to do by them, for them, or upon them whatsoever Himself pleaseth.

In His sight all things are open and manifest; His knowledge is infinite, infallible, and independent upon the creature, so as nothing is to Him contingent, or uncertain. He is most holy in all His counsels, in all His works, and in all His commands. To Him is due from angels and men, and every other creature, whatsoever worship, service, or obedience He is pleased to require of them.

In the unity of the Godhead there be three persons, of one substance, power, and eternity; God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost. The Father is of none, neither begotten, nor proceeding: the Son is eternally begotten of the Father: the Holy Ghost eternally proceeding from the Father and the Son.

Trinity: The doctrine of the Trinity is the Christian doctrine that: **There is One God, who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.**

<https://www.gotquestions.org/Trinity-Bible.html>

JESUS Christ is the God-Man, (the one mediator between God and the human race), **incarnate, crucified, resurrected, ascended, and coming again.**

BIBLICAL THEOLOGY confesses these FIVE Solas of the Reformation:

- The authority of Scripture: Sola Scriptura **(Scripture alone)**
- The basis of salvation: Sola Gratia **(Grace alone)**
- The means of salvation: Sola Fide **(Faith alone)**
- The merit of salvation: Solus Christus **(Christ alone)**

- **Soli Deo Gloria: (to God alone be the glory in all things!)**

BIBLICAL THEOLOGY CONFESSES that God alone saves. Salvation is not a 'joint-venture!' Salvation results from the Sovereign Grace of God: (Ephesians 2:1-10)

Some Distinctives of Biblical Baptists:

1. **Believer Baptism:** To be Baptist is to be part of a church or denomination that, broadly speaking, holds to adult believer baptism (by full immersion) following a credible statement of faith as the only biblically acceptable way to administer the ordinance of baptism as commanded by our Lord in his Great Commission, Matthew 28:19-20)
2. This is the view called **credobaptism ("believer" baptism)**, which is held over against the view of paedobaptism ("infant" baptism) that is commonly practiced by Catholics, Eastern Orthodox, Anglicans, Lutherans, Presbyterians, Methodists, and many Reformed churches.

3. Congregational Government: Baptists also generally believe in the autonomy of the local congregation over the more hierarchically structured denominations such as Catholicism (which is based on an episcopal model of church government) and Presbyterianism (which is based on a Presbyterian model of church government). **[NOTE: HISTORICALLY, many Baptist congregations... have had... and a growing number today have instituted Biblical, plurality of Eldership.]**

Reformed/Biblical Baptists in Church History & Today

In early Baptist history, Reformed/Biblical Baptists were called '**Particular Baptists**' based on the fact they believed Christ specifically died for a "particular" group of people not an amorphous mass of humans: "Christ... gave himself up for her (the church)." **(Ephesians 5:25; John 17)** Since the Reformation, there have been some notable examples of Reformed/Biblical Baptists within Evangelical Christianity, including: John Bunyan, author of *The Pilgrim's Progress*; William Carey, missionary to India

& “Father of Modern Missions”; Charles H. Spurgeon, Baptist Pastor and “The Prince of Preachers”; Andrew Fuller, Pastor, Theologian, Missionary Advocate; John MacArthur, Jr., Pastor, Theologian

- Although there are two Reformation-era Reformed/Biblical Baptist confessions (1644 & 1689), Reformed/Biblical Baptists do not always follow these confessions.
- **From Southside’s Constitution and by-laws:** “Furthermore, we believe that in the long history of the Church, the true saints of God have been and are known from time to time by various titles. We rejoice in the rich heritage of countless thousands who have gone before us, laying down their lives for Jesus and His glorious Gospel of Grace. **We do especially rejoice in those Christians called "Baptists", who** in years gone by, were not so called because they were insecure of being identified as "Christians" or "followers of the Lord Jesus Christ", but rather in dark hours of history when the visible church was teaching salvation by works and salvation through their denomination, and when they baptized or sprinkled infants and held to many other heresies, God sustained those who embraced the basic doctrines of our own statement of faith.
- Because they held to the basic doctrines of grace and, therefore, "believer's baptism", they were ridiculed, persecuted, killed; and called by their enemies "Anabaptists" (those who baptized again). This was later shortened to "Baptist" while many others from this movement were later known as Mennonites, Brethren, etc. **The term "Anabaptists" or Baptist" was an offensive epithet in order to convey the impression that they had founded a new sect or a cult.**
- **The point is this:** After confessing that I am a Christian, historically, it is also an honor to be called a Baptist. For to be so called is to suffer reproach for holding true to the Scriptures and our Savior. So may it ever be among the Christians at Southside Baptist Church. **However, to hold the title in pride or in the sense of denominationalism; and/or in**

pre-eminence over being "just Christians" is not only against Scripture but it is not baptistic!

Grace! Peace! Love in Christ! To All Saints! James

www.southsidegallatin.org

NEWS NOTES:

EVERY Saturday, * 8:00 AM, 10/9/21 — Men's Bible Study: *THE BOOK OF JOB, Chapter 12*** (*Doors open by 7:30am... coffee, juice, donuts, and Hardee's Biscuits are available!*)

***** NEXT Ladies Bible Study! OCTOBER 26 @ 11:00 AM**

SUNDAY SERVICES, OCTOBER: 24, and 31

1. * Sunday School at 9:30am:** Nursery, Children's classes, Youth, and Adult classes.

2. * WORSHIP SERVICE at 10:45am!**

OCTOBER 24, 5:00pm- Church Wide WORSHIP SERVICE in the auditorium! A variety of singing/praise! **PREACHING:** James Poteete!

OCTOBER 31! ... NO EVENING SERVICES at the church building

TUESDAYS: WEEKLY Youth Group Meeting, ages 12 and up ... Tuesdays a 7:15pm... at Jaden and Rhi's home...

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS @ SOUTHSIDE:

6:30pm— come in back 'double doors' under the Drive Thru awning!

**** Adult Prayer Service ** Young FAMILIES Prayer Service**

***** LOVE OFFERINGS UNTO THE LORD BY MAIL or by ONLINE GIVING:**

SUCH funds, (if checks), make out to Southside Baptist) — **MAIL TO:** Southside Baptist Church, P.O. Box 1594, Gallatin, TN 37066/ **OR YOU MAY CHOOSE TO GIVE** via ONLINE GIVING:

<https://southsidebaptist.breezechms.com/give/online>

HEALTH REMINDERS as to CHURCH SERVICES AND as to Responding with WISDOM and NOT fear IN SEEKING TO KEEP AS HEALTHY AS WE CAN— SO AS TO BE ACTIVE IN THE KINGDOM BUSINESS OF THE LORD!

1. IF YOU ARE SICK... [OR if you are in a state of high immune deficiency or if (at home or work) you are caring for one who is sick; or if you have • Fever; • Coughing; • Chills; • Headache; • Sore throat; etc.], Please stay home!]

2. IF YOU ARE HEALTHY and well... you may or may not choose to wear a mask... WE do not require it. WE CONTINUE to encourage FREEDOM as to 'social distancing'... masks ... vaccine choices, etc. — PLEASE HONOR THE LORD, by continuing to give sensitivity and respect one to another.

3. In addition to carefulness, good hydration, good nutrition, and sleep— ALSO: SEEK TO BUILD UP A STRONG IMMUNE SYSTEM! I PERSONALLY TAKE ELDERBERRY, VITAMIN C, ZINC, GINGER, VITAMIN D, Quercetin, and a good multi-vitamin that includes fiber... And I have a PRESCRIPTION of Ivermectin... TO TAKE, if needed.

DO YOUR OWN RESEARCH! BE PROACTIVE! BE PREVENTIVE!

4. LET each of us DO OUR PART IN personal hygiene. [IF you use the restrooms— please wash your hands with SOAP; and use nearby SANITIZER.]

5. HERE IS AN EDUCATIONAL resource from The Association of American Physicians and Surgeons... FROM Doctors who successfully treat covid-19 patients!

CLICK => <https://breggin.com/covid-19-home-treatment/>

**Peter McCullough, MD testifies to Texas Senate HHS Committee.
BRIEF. EXCELLENT:**

→ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QAHi3lX3oGM>

The PDF booklet: A Guide to Home-Based COVID Treatment can be downloaded ... **focus is on PREVENTION and early treatment!**

[COVID Treatment - Truth for Health Foundation](#)

<https://www.truthforhealth.org/patientguide/patient-treatment-guide/>