
"We shall never be clothed with the righteousness of Christ except we first know assuredly that we have no righteousness of our own" ~ John Calvin

JOHN CALVIN: French Theologian, Pastor, and Reformer

The Reformation began with Martin Luther's fervent advocacy for sola fide, the doctrine of justification by faith alone. Calvin is often associated with predestination, but his main focus was on reforming church worship under the principle of soli Deo gloria (glory to God alone).



Calvin sought to cleanse the church of idolatry, particularly targeting the medieval Roman Catholic practices involving icons and statues, which he argued was dishonorable to God. He emphasized true worship must honor God according to Scripture, without human alterations. Idolatry exchanges the truth of God for a lie and worshipping the created rather than the Creator.

In 1996, the Cambridge Declaration addressed concerns about modern worship practices. It highlighted the loss of God-centered worship, that had transformed into entertainment. The declaration reaffirmed worship must glorify God, not satisfy personal needs.

Ultimately, Luther and Calvin underscored that the goal of salvation is to make true worshippers of God, which align with Scripture. The Reformation stressed God must be glorified in all aspects of life. **On abortion** Calvin said, "The fetus, though enclosed in the womb of its mother, is already a human being and it is a monstrous crime to rob it of the life which it has not yet begun to enjoy. If it seems more horrible to kill a man in his own house than in a field, because a man's house is his place of most secure refuge, it ought surely to be deemed more atrocious to destroy a fetus in the womb before it has come to light."

Link

[End Abortion Now](#)



"I have a great need for Christ, I have a great Christ for my need" ~ Charles Spurgeon

CHARLES SPURGEON: The Prince of Preachers

Charles Haddon Spurgeon, known as the "Prince of Preachers," was a Victorian, Calvinistic, Baptist minister who made a profound impact on Christianity, with his influence enduring to this day.



Born on June 19th, 1834, in Essex, Spurgeon was the firstborn of seventeen children. He converted to Christianity on January 6th, 1850, after hearing a sermon at the Primitive Methodist Chapel during a blizzard. Soon after, he began his ministry, eventually pastoring New Park Street Chapel in London in 1854. His ministry flourished with the opening of the Metropolitan Tabernacle in 1861, resulting in the establishment of 66 parachurch ministries. He remained a powerful preacher in London for 38 years until his death in 1892.

Spurgeon ministered in Southwark, London, an area known for its poverty and decay. Despite financial struggles, he covered the incidental expenses of his church and donated substantial amounts toward the construction of the Metropolitan Tabernacle. His sermons and books were wildly popular, earning him significant income, which he generously used for his ministry.

Spurgeon was a dedicated evangelist, preaching to over a million people and personally baptizing 15,000 new believers. His sermons were translated into nearly forty languages. Though he faced criticism, he also received high praise for his impactful preaching.

He founded the Pastors' College in 1856 to train ministers and was known for his theological integrity. During the Downgrade Controversy in 1887, Spurgeon called for an evangelical statement of faith, leading to his resignation from the Baptist Union.



JONATHAN EDWARDS

In January 1758, Jonathan Edwards delivered his farewell sermon to a congregation of Mohican and Mohawk Indians and English families in Stockbridge, Massachusetts. Leaving his 23-year pastorate in Northampton, he was headed to Princeton, New Jersey, to become president of Princeton University—for only six weeks before passing away.



Edwards' life was shaped by early exposure to the gospel in East Windsor, Connecticut, where he was raised by Timothy and Esther Stoddard Edwards among ten sisters. A voracious reader, he entered Yale University at twelve, graduating at the top of his class. After pastoring a Presbyterian church in New York City, he returned to Yale as a tutor, helping stabilize the institution during turbulent times. He later served as an assistant minister to his grandfather, Solomon Stoddard, in Northampton.

Edwards is known for his "[Resolutions](#)," guidelines for his life that reflect his commitment to God's glory and personal integrity. He preached passionately, aiming to move his listeners towards a greater understanding of God. Despite inheriting some controversial practices from his grandfather, Edwards experienced many fruitful years of ministry.

His life encapsulates a dedication to the gospel, rigorous academic pursuit, and a heartfelt pastoral ministry, marking him as a significant figure in the Puritan tradition. His farewell sermon in Stockbridge, though scarcely documented, symbolizes his lifelong mission to live in accordance with the gospel.

Links on Jonathan Edwards

1. [His Life and Legacy](#)
2. [His Seventy Resolutions](#)



"If God spare my life ere many years, I will cause the boy that drives the plow to know more of the scriptures than you [a priest or pope]" ~ William Tyndale

WILLIAM TYNDALE (1490-1536)

William Tyndale, known as **the Father of the English Bible**, was pivotal in making the scriptures accessible in English. Born in 1494 near the Welsh border, Tyndale was driven by an unrelenting passion to translate the Bible into English despite it being illegal.

After studying at Oxford and Cambridge, Tyndale sought permission from Bishop Tunstall to translate the Bible, but was refused. Undeterred, he went to Europe in 1524, supported by British merchants. In Germany, he worked on the New Testament, eventually publishing it in Worms in 1525. Six thousand copies were smuggled into England, despite efforts by church authorities to destroy them.

Tyndale continued his work on the Old Testament while hiding from the King's agents. Betrayed in 1534 near Brussels, he was arrested and imprisoned for a year and a half. Condemned for heresy, Tyndale was executed on October 6, 1536, praying, "*Lord, open the King of England's eyes.*" His prayer was partly answered in 1539 when King Henry VIII required English Bibles in parish churches.

Links on WILLIAM TYNDALE

1. [Desiring God](#)
2. [Sermon on William Tyndale](#)

"The Bible is a letter God has sent to us; prayer is a letter we send to him"

~ Matthew Henry

MATTHEW HENRY

Matthew Henry (1662-1714) was an influential English Presbyterian minister and Bible expositor, best known for his Commentary on the Whole Bible, a verse-by-verse, devotional commentary. His work greatly influenced revival leaders like John and Charles Wesley and George Whitefield, impacting evangelical churches globally.



Matthew Henry

Born near the Wales border, he spent most of his life in Chester, England. His father, Philip Henry, was a Church of England clergyman turned Nonconformist after the Act of Uniformity in 1662. Matthew, studied Latin and Greek, and became a Christian at age ten.

Henry initially aimed to pursue law but felt called to ministry. He studied under Thomas Doolittle and began preaching at 23, serving in Chester for 25 years. Henry's first wife died of smallpox, and he remarried Mary Warburton, with whom he had several children.

Despite fragile health, Henry was a dedicated minister and scholar, often spending over eight hours a day studying, praying, and writing. He moved to London two years before his death, continuing to preach and complete his six-volume Bible commentary, although he passed away before finishing it.

Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible remains a Christian classic, with versions available in original and modernized language.

"The lazy Christian has his mouth full of complaints, when the active Christian has his heart full of comforts." ~Thomas Brooks

THOMAS BROOKS

Thomas Brooks (1608-1680) was a Puritan divine, likely from a pious Puritan family. He studied at Emmanuel College and was ordained around 1640. By 1648, he was a preacher at St. Thomas Apostle and had served as chaplain to both Admiral and Colonel Thomas Rainsborough. He preached significant sermons before the House of Commons in 1648 and 1650. Transferred to St. Margaret's in 1652-3, Brooks faced opposition, leading to his publication of "Cases considered and resolved" and "Precious Remedies" in 1653.



Brooks, favoring Congregationalism, was ejected in 1662 due to the Act of Uniformity but continued his ministry in Moorfields. He was active during the plague, publishing "Heavenly Cordial" in 1665. After his first wife's death around 1676, he remarried a woman named Cartwright. Brooks died in 1680 at 72. His works, rich in classical quotations, have been widely published and remain influential among nonconformist writings. His complete works were edited by Dr. A. B. Grosart in 1866.

Brooks lost his first wife around 1676 and remarried a young woman named Cartwright. He died in 1680 at age 72. His works, over fifty editions published, include "London's Lamentations" and "Precious Remedies."

Responding to "Pride Month"

- [Answers in Genesis "Taking Back the Rainbow"](#)
- [Talking to Kids about "Pride Month"](#)

JOHN KNOX

John Knox (c. 1514 – 1572) was a key leader of the Scottish Reformation and the founder of the Church of Scotland. Born in Haddington, East Lothian, he studied at the University of St Andrews and became a notary-priest. Influenced by reformers like George Wishart, Knox joined the movement to reform the Scottish Church, becoming embroiled in the events surrounding Cardinal David Beaton's murder. Captured by French forces in 1547, he was exiled to England in 1549.



In England, Knox rose through the Church of England to serve as a royal chaplain. Forced to flee when Mary I ascended the throne, he found refuge in Geneva, where he met John Calvin and deepened his understanding of Reformed theology. He created the Forme of Prayers, adopted by the Scottish Reformed Church as the Book of Common Order. Knox returned to Scotland in 1559 to lead the Protestant Reformation, partnering with the Scottish Protestant nobility to oust Mary of Guise.

Knox helped write the new confession of faith and the ecclesiastical order for the Reformed Church, the Kirk, and authored a five-volume History of the Reformation in Scotland. He continued to preach and lead the Reformation until his death in 1572. Knox's efforts established the foundations of the Scottish Reformation, marking him as a pivotal figure in religious history.

Links on John Knox

1. [Learning from a Hard Knox Life](#)
2. [The Scottish Confession](#)

"To be well skilled in the mystery of Christian contentment is the duty, glory and excellence of a Christian." ~ Jeremiah Burroughs

JEREMIAH BURROUGHS

Jeremiah Burroughs (1600-1646) was a steadfast pastor and a man of deep conviction. Tutored by Thomas Hooker, he was educated at Emmanuel College, Cambridge, and entered ministry after graduating in 1624. He served in Suffolk and Norfolk but was dismissed for refusing to comply with certain church dictates, including reading King James' *The Book of Sports*.



From 1638-1640, he taught a congregation of English Independents in Rotterdam. Returning to England, he pastored two large congregations in London and became a renowned Puritan preacher. He died in 1646 after a fall from his horse.

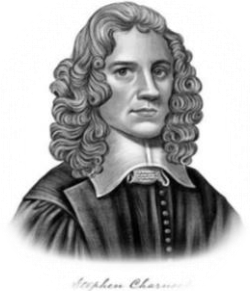
Burroughs advocated for the separation of church and state and the autonomy of local congregations, often clashing with Presbyterians. He promoted unity among different denominations, believing that diversity of opinion did not preclude unity. Richard Baxter praised Burroughs for his moderation and unifying influence in the church.

"A man may be theologically knowing and spiritually ignorant."

~ Stephen Charnock

STEPHEN CHARNOCK

Stephen Charnock (1628-1680) was born in London and attended Cambridge University at age 14, where he found his faith in Christ. In 1655, he became a chaplain to Henry Cromwell in Dublin, gaining a reputation as an excellent preacher.



With the monarchy's restoration in 1660, Charnock returned to London and practiced medicine for 15 years. Later, he co-pastored a nonconforming congregation with Thomas Watson until his death. A lifelong bachelor, Charnock was known for his deep dedication to studying the original languages of Scripture, often spending 60 hours a week in study.

Charnock's writings focused on doctrine, reasons for belief, and practical application. J. I. Packer praised his clear, concise theological insights but noted he was less adept at stirring the imagination or touching the heart. His notable work includes ***The Existence and Attributes of God.***

Links on STEPHEN CHARNOCK

1. [Tim Challies](#)

"What is it about your own miserable works and doings that you think you could please God more than the sacrifice of His own Son" ~ Martin Luther

MARTIN LUTHER: German Reformer

As a young monk, Martin Luther sparked a monumental stir in Germany that impacted the world. Influenced by figures like Wycliffe and Augustine, Luther embarked on a journey toward understanding the sufficiency of God's word. Persuaded by "Sola Fide" (faith alone) during his study of Paul's epistle to the Romans, he realized works could not achieve salvation.



Initially, Luther struggled with the weight of the Law and his own sinfulness. His conversion came when he grasped that righteousness is a gift from God through faith, lifting the burden he felt. Following this, he posted his "95 Theses" on October 31, 1517, challenging the Roman Catholic Church's indulgences, igniting widespread controversy.

Summoned to the Diet of Worms in 1521, Luther was asked to recant his writings but stood firm, famously declaring, "Unless I am convicted by Scripture and plain reason (I do not accept the authority of popes and councils because they have contradicted each other), my conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and will not recant anything, for to go against conscience is neither right nor safe. Here I stand, I can do no other, so help me God. Amen. This declaration marked a pivotal moment in the Reformation.

MY CONSCIENCE



IS HELD CAPTIVE TO
THE WORD OF GOD

*""The learning of the Christian man ought to begin with the fear of God."
~ Thomas Cranmer"*

THOMAS CRANMER: Reformer(1489-1556)



Thomas Cranmer, Archbishop of Canterbury (1489-1556), is remembered for his significant role in the English Reformation and his complex legacy of both achievements and failures. His public recantation and subsequent execution as a heretic highlight the complications of his faith journey.

Cranmer was instrumental in legitimizing Henry VIII's divorce from Catherine of Aragon, which led to the separation of the Church of England from the Catholic Church. He supported Royal Supremacy, granting the throne legal authority over the Church in England. Despite the controversial intertwining of church and state, Cranmer was a dedicated pastor who reformed the Church of England through sermons and letters. He wrote the first two editions of the Book of Common Prayer and contributed to the Book of Homilies, promoting robust Protestant theology and pastoral care.

Cranmer's influence shaped the Thirty-Nine Articles, the Anglican statement of faith, and paved the way for the 17th-century Puritan movement. However, his reforms were halted when Mary I reversed the English Reformation and persecuted Protestants. Imprisoned with friends Hugh Latimer and Nicholas Ridley, Cranmer was forced to watch their execution. Under pressure, he recanted his Protestant beliefs but later publicly denounced his recantations, declaring his true faith before being executed.

Cranmer's death reflects the struggles of many Christian leaders who face fear and compromise. His story reminds us of the importance of courage, faith, and humility in the face of adversity.

Links on THOMAS CRANMER

1. [Reformation Society](#)

"God hath long contended with a stubborn world, and thrown down many a blessing upon them; and when all his other gifts could not prevail, He at last made a gift of Himself."

~ Henry Scougal

Henry Scougal (1650-1678) was a Scottish divine, born to Patrick Scougal, bishop of Aberdeen. Educated at King's College, Aberdeen, he became a distinguished student and was promoted to professor immediately after graduation. Scougal was known for introducing Baconian philosophy in Scotland, though he was careful to counter Hobbes' views. Ordained in 1672, he served as minister of Auchterless before returning to Aberdeen as a professor of divinity.



Scougal belonged to Archbishop Robert Leighton's school and aimed to instill a sense of holiness in his students. During his travels, he published "The Life of God in the Soul of Man," his only work published in his lifetime. He died of consumption in 1678 at age 28 and was buried at King's College.

His "Life of God in the Soul of Man" became a religious classic, highly esteemed by both Presbyterians and Episcopalians, and influenced figures like George Whitefield and John Newton. Several editions of his works were published posthumously, including sermons and essays. A portrait of Scougal is housed at King's College, Aberdeen.