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Impact & Implications of the Protestant Reformation

*Summary of Message delivered on Oct 31, 2021
at Gospel Light BPC (504th Reformation Anniversary)*

Romans 1: 14-17

"I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise.

So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also.

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith."

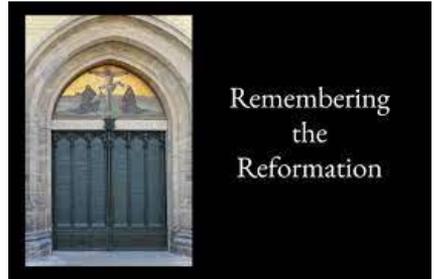


The Bible Presbyterian church was founded in 1937 by Dr Carl McIntire in the spirit of the 20th century Reformation movement. We stand for the principles of the Reformation. There are 42 BP Churches in Singapore but sadly not all remember this Reformation today though there is a faithful remnant who still does.

Romans 1 is relevant as it was read by the Augustinian monk Martin Luther in his teaching at the University and it transformed him. As in v1, Luther was also a Servant or slave of Christ, called or chosen and set apart for God's purpose. The **Heart of Reformation** is the **Reformation of the Heart** as Luther sought peace with and of God in his heart. How can a holy & righteous God accept someone like Martin Luther as his grave cry and concern? His answer was finally found in the Bible.

The 95 theses (which are really 95 sentences) first appeared in Latin on the door of the Wittenberg Church, then translated in German and distributed to many by the printing press which was invented.

Why was 31 Oct chosen by Luther? Nov 1 is all Saints Day where the Roman Catholics in the Middle times came to seek and pray over the relics in the church.

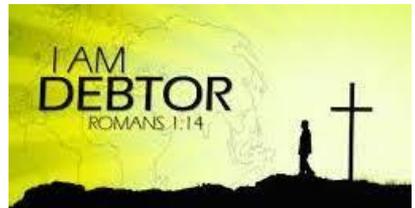


The Spirit of Reformation

Note the three "**I AMs**" in verses 14 to 17:

(1) **I AM DEBTOR** of the gospel to all

Luther was converted between 1515 – 1516. When he found the true doctrine of salvation, he started preaching and writing about it. He composed the song - A Mighty Fortress after 1521 among many others.



(2) **I AM READY** to go and proclaim the gospel

Luther almost lost his life in 1521 at the Diet of Worms but God protected him and in answer to John Huss prayers in 1415. The Reformers had a Readiness to fulfill the debt to reach out to souls.

Reformation is about being ready to share the Gospel anytime when called upon



1 Peter 3:15

But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:

Luther wrote tracts that were distributed and he was always ready to preach the Gospel to others as he taught,

Note that the v16 Salvation is by Faith alone, Gospel is linked to POWER of God unto Salvation

The question in the heart of the Reformation – is “How can a sinner stand before a righteous God? By FAITH only in Christ and by His imputed righteousness.

The religion of the medieval ages is about **DO**ing something to save yourself but the Reformation taught a **DONE** religion (It was finished by Christ). No need for more works to be done which cannot save us.

(3) **I AM NOT ASHAMED** of the gospel of Christ

v16 - For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

Reformation spread across Europe and later to Asia and Africa and Latin America much later and it is unstoppable. All Reformers were God-centred.



We are all not ashamed to be called Protestant Christian first used in 1529 at the second Diet of Speyer to describe the Lutheran princes. The BP Church is a Reformed church that preaches the truth of the gospel and defends the faith.

The Impact of the Reformation

- The Reformation affected our understanding of **True Corporate Worship** in the church today.

There is congregational singing, reading of the Word, intercessory prayer with the main focus being the sermon which is the exposition of the Word by the Pastor that takes up the most time.



In the Middle Ages, it was not the same way of worship today in Protestant churches as it often consisted of rituals and ceremonies only. The Reformers (Luther, Zwingli, Calvin) ushered in the modern era after 1517 as recognised by historians by the work and effects of the Reformation. Luther composed hymns in German and so he led the congregation to sing together in corporate worship. Note that Reformed worship in the church has no idols or icons or statues in the church sanctuary which will break the second commandment if otherwise.

- The Reformation affected the practice and understanding of **Marriage and Family Life**. All the Reformers were all married. Martin Luther married Katherina and they had 6 children, so he was not a celibate. The Conduct of Covenant Home. The head the house is like a full-time pastor running a home and feeding the flock which are his children. The father is the Head of the home and he is responsible to bring the family to church. Everyone could read the Bible and confess directly to God.

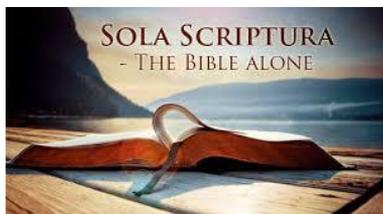


- The Reformation also changed the way we understand our form of **Church Government**. It was then the appointment of cardinal & archbishop in a bishopric system. Post Reformation, the church was then ruled by the plurality of Elders as taught in the Bible. They elected Pastors, Elders and Deacons for the first time in Geneva,



- The Reformation affected the understanding of **Doctrine and Theology**. Luther translated the Bible in the languages so that people in England, Scotland, and later in France, Spain, and other countries as many came to be able to read the Word of God. Today the Bible is in at least 2500 languages.

- The Reformers stood for the **Authority of Bible**. When we have an issue to discern like LGBT, abortion or euthanasia issues, where do we refer to? The Bible should be the rule of faith to guide and lead us.



- The Reformers stood for the **Sufficiency of the Bible**. Rev 22:18-20 tells us not to add or subtract God's Word and that there are no more new revelations from God as the canon is closed. The Word of God is totally complete with the 66 Books of the Bible and no more or less. We also believe in the verbal inspiration of the Bible.

Paul in 2 Tim 3:16 says, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for

instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”

The Inerrant Word of the Bible is also the stand of the Reformed church.

How is the Reformation relevant to our pandemic context today?

We need to contend to reach out effectively. As technology was used in the past through the printing press (Gutenberg’s invention in 1455) by the Reformers, so must we today. We continue to use technology today in communication in our church ministries like Zoom, etc but yet not neglecting worship in the house of God as a gathered church each Sunday, worshipping God together with safety measures despite the pandemic.

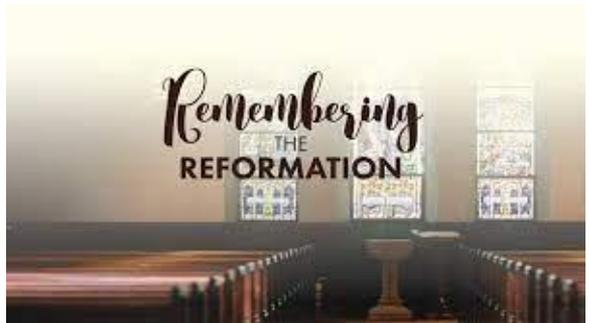
Conclusion

We must be anchored to the Rock, our Lord Jesus and keep relevant to the times. We need to keep on reforming though we are reformed.

Finally note Philippians 1:27, *“Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;”*

This verse rightly describes the spirit of the Reformation today. We need to strive to defend the faith of the gospel as we commemorate its 504th anniversary and remember our rich legacy and heritage, and to pass it on to the next generation.

Tan Ai Lin
Gospel Light BPC





Pastor preaching on
“The Impact & Implications of
the Reformation”
at Gospel Light BPC
last Sunday.



Join Bro Joseph
in his class on
Understanding “Biblical
Eschatology
& related Topics”
on Sunday.

Join Dr Dn Kwong
Leen in studying the
Book of Numbers
in the Adult Sunday
School Class.



GLji
Global Light for Indonesia

GAES
GLOBAL ASSEMBLY
ENGLISH
SERVICE

**“The Repercussions
and Relevance of the
Protestant Reformation
in a post modern world”**
(Romans 8:28-39)

Speaker:
Dr. Jack Sin
(Singapore)

Sunday
7th Nov 2021
4 PM, Jakarta

Via Zoom
ZOOM ID : **891 5079 3793**
PASSCODE : **GAES**

SOVEREIGNHOPE
bible presbyterian church

A Biblical Paradigm for Triumphant Christian Service

Lord's Day Programme
October - December 2021

NOVEMBER

- 7 Dealing with Opposition Wisely (Neh 5:1-19)
- 14* When the Enemy Closes in (Neh 6:1-15)
- 21 Lesson from the Genealogy (Neh 7:1-6, 73)
- 28 Awakenings from the Word (Neh 8:1-18)

Memory Verse

Neh 5:9 Also I said, It is not good that ye do: ought ye not to walk in the fear of our God because of the reproach of the heathen our enemies?

Announcements

1. Welcome to our Worship Service! For our visitors, do leave us your contact numbers in our guest book before you leave.
2. Pastor speaks today on “***Dealing with Opposition Wisely***” (*Neh 5: 1-19*), continuing the quarterly theme of “***A Biblical Paradigm for Triumphant Christian Service***”.
3. Pastor speaks next Sunday on “***When the Enemy Closes in***” (*Neh 6: 1-15*).
4. Sunday School classes continues after worship service:
 - WCF Shorter Catechism Class – Pastor Jack
 - Understanding Biblical Eschatology & related Topics – Joseph
 - Studies in Numbers – Dn Kwong Leen
5. Chinese Fellowship meets on Sunday night at 7pm via Zoom with both local and overseas brethren. Included in the programme is a study on Church History in China on alternate Sundays. Join us for a time of profitable learning.
6. Do send your prayer items to Pastor and join us for Church Prayer Meeting on Wed at 8pm via Zoom. The prayer list is available in church.
7. Neighbourhood Bible Class meets on the first Friday of each month in church on the study of 2 Samuel. Come and join us!
8. Those who wish to bring a new friend to the worship service, kindly inform the safety officer Dn Yue Kay or Pastor at least a day in advance.
9. The Pandemic book can be purchased through Dn Yue Kay (Hp: +65 97450311) or via email at sovereignhopebpc@gmail.com.
10. Do kindly observe the safety measures of the church and assist with the weekly cleaning of the premises.
11. Love gifts, Offering and Tithes to the Lord can be given in the following ways:
 - **Cheque** payable to **Sovereign Hope Bible Presbyterian Church** and mail to church address. (Kindly write the full name of the church as indicated.)
 - **Fund transfer** to Church **UOB** Account **392-308-825-1**
 - **PayNow** to Church UEN: **T19SS0116FSOV**
