

What is Reformed Theology?

Last Week: Ephesians 1:3-2:9

(Excerpted): Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴ even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love ⁵ he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.

⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, ⁸ which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight ⁹ making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ ¹⁰ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

¹¹ In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, ¹² so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory.

¹³ In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

⁴ But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— ⁶ and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷ so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Romans 8:29-30

For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. 30 And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

Five Articles of Remonstrance (1610)

(note: Calvin lived from 1509-1564, Jacob Arminius from 1560-1609)

1. Conditional election: God elects those he knows will have faith
2. Christ's death/atonement is for everyone, but that atonement is only "enjoyed" by those who have faith
3. Humans cannot, on their own, choose to believe
4. Prevenient (preceding) grace is universal and necessary to do any good work, but can be resisted
5. True believers are able to fall into sin and die in it.

Synod of Dordt (1618)

1. **Total Depravity** (Sproul: Radical Corruption)
(vs. utter depravity/complete depravity *and* incomplete depravity)
2. **Unconditional Election** (Sproul: Sovereign Choice)
(vs. conditioned election *and* random election)

Double Predestination?

3. **Limited Atonement** (Sproul: Purposeful Atonement. Me: Effective Atonement)
(vs. unlimited atonement, insufficient atonement, universalism)
4. **Irresistible Grace** (Sproul: Effective Calling. Me: Worst name in TULIP)
(vs. insufficient or ineffective grace)

What do we mean by grace?

5. **Perseverance of the Saints** (Sproul: Preservation of the Saints. Me: Effective Atonement)