

# **“The Reformation: Should We Even Care?” 10/29/17**

## **Galatians 1:1-9**

**Malachi to Jesus’ Ministry-** Religious Institution became bloated with doctrinal error, greed, traditions, and corrupt leadership.

**Constantine (313 A.D.) to Reformation (1517 A.D.)-** Religious Institution became bloated with doctrinal error, greed, traditions, and corrupt leadership.

- **98 A.D.** – John the Apostle died (last of the apostles).
- **35 to 311 A.D.** – Various waves of persecution (individual and state).
- **150-200 A.D.** – The beginnings of prestige to the Bishop of Rome above others due to loss of Jerusalem Bishop after 135 A.D. Church fathers later promoted this.
- **313 A.D.** – Edict of Milan. Constantine gave freedom of worship for all.
- **321 A.D.** – Constantine establishes Sunday as official rest day for empire.
- **380-381 A.D.** – Theodosius issued edicts making Christianity state religion.
- **590 A.D.** – Gregory I solidifies Bishop of Rome office as supreme ruler.
- **500-1500 A.D.** – Institution of Catholic Church dominates most of the west.
- **1054 A.D.** The Great Schism- Pope loses influence over East Greek Church.
- **1300-1490 A.D.** – Early reformers: Wycliffe, Huss, Savonarola sought to reclaim Biblical gospel and authority of Scripture over Papacy and Tradition.

### **From the Cambridge Declaration of 1996:**

**1. *Sola Scriptura: The Erosion Of Authority*** (2 Tim 3:15-17; 2 Pet 1:15-21; Matt 15:1-9)

*A reaffirmation that the Bible contains all things necessary to understand and obey God.*

*A denial that any other form of authority is needed to bind the conscience of the Christian.*

**2. *Solus Christus: The Erosion Of Christ-Centered Faith*** (Jn 19:30; 1 Tim 2:5; Rev 1:6)

*A reaffirmation that Christ alone and his penal substitutionary atonement on the cross are the means by which all Christians are saved.*

*A denial that the Gospel can be preached without the atonement being declared and without faith being solicited from the listeners.*

**3. *Sola Gratia: The Erosion Of The Gospel*** (Eph 2:1-9; John 6:37-45; Rom 3:10-11)

*A reaffirmation that salvation is a supernatural work of the Holy Spirit.*

*A denial that salvation is in any sense a work of the human heart, either fully or partially.*

**4. *Sola Fide: The Erosion Of The Chief Article*** (Eph 2:8-9; Gal 3:6-9; Rom 4)

*A reaffirmation that a person is justified (declared innocent) before God through faith alone and through Christ alone - that Christ's righteousness is imputed to the Christian.*

*A denial that justification relies upon any human merit, and that churches which teach this cannot be considered legitimate churches.*

**5. *Soli Deo Gloria: The Erosion Of God-Centered Worship*** (1 Cor 10:31; 1 Pet 4:11)

*A reaffirmation that salvation is ultimately for God's glory rather than man's, and that Christians everywhere should understand that they are under God's authority and act for his glory alone.*

*A denial that God can be glorified through "entertainment"-style worship; the removal of law and/or gospel in preaching; and preaching that focuses upon self-improvement, self-esteem and self-fulfillment.*

### **How does this apply to our current daily life?**

1) Lack of spiritual disciplines creates erroneous feelings; 2) Experiences or lack thereof question security; 3) Knowledge equals spirituality; 4) Social or church “rules”