

**General Topics :: I Reject the Reformers****I Reject the Reformers, on: 2012/5/30 9:13**

There comes a time when a stand must be taken for the gospel. Thus I take such a stand. At the outset I reject and renounce the traditional teaching of reformation history. I reject Martin Luther, John Calvin, and Zwingli and others of their ilk. For theirs was a teaching of the head and not of the heart.

I used to hold to reformation history. I used to call myself a child of the reformation. No more. The protestant reformers persecuted and put to death those I consider the true believers of Jesus Christ. Those being the Anabaptist.

I believe these precious saints captured the true spirit of first century Christianity by following Jesus. They died for their faith in Jesus. Many at the hands of the papist. But quite a few at the hands of the reformers. Because of this I reject reformed teaching. I cannot consider it Biblical.

I will stand with the persecuted in times past and times present. If I be persecuted may God count me worthy to suffer for him.

God grant me grace to live as those early saints did and died for Jesus. God grant me grace to testify of Jesus in those final hours.

Posted by Bearmaster.

Re: I Reject the Reformers - posted by enid, on: 2012/5/30 9:22

If you reject them, you reject them. Why does the world have to know? And if you do reject them, what of it?

Don't you suppose there is enough strife, arguments etc on the forums, with inciting more?

What is it in the word of God, that you have read, to make you post this?

It's sad to read this, but hardly surprising or original.

Re: Enid, on: 2012/5/30 10:13

Sister please listen to Denny Kenniston's series on the History of the Anabaptist. There you will find your answer. Following Jesus is controversial in itself as he came not to bring peace but a sword. His sword is his word.

Bearmaster.

Re: , on: 2012/5/30 10:29

As with any story... there are two sides. (with this one there are three sides!) Be careful not to fall prey to revisionist history from either side. That would be very foolish.

Instead of relying on whoever Denny Kenniston is... or any other modern historian (most of which are amazingly wrong in what they present), you need to go to the original sources and read that. If you don't know what the term "original sources" means... google the meaning.

The Reformers wrote and wrote and wrote... so it's best to actually read their own words, and not bother with modern day historians who often times take things out of context, or have an agenda. (I don't know who Denny Kenniston is, so I'm not saying that's what he did/does)

When you read the writings of the Reformers, the writings of the ana-baptists... and others in authority back then... you get drastically different views on what took place... and all of them different from anything you'll read written in this century

And now you claim to have figured it all out? Good for you.

You claim that they taught from the head and not the heart, yet they have all been dead for 500 years. How can you possibly sit in judgement of their hearts? That's an amazing statement to make.

I agree with enid. This thread serves no purpose.

And I doubt anyone cares if you reject the reformers. I know I don't.

:~)

Even though you may not agree with "Calvinism", you actually owe much of what you believe about scripture to the Reformers, particularly Calvin. So-called "Calvinism" is only a part of what he taught.

The Reformers also took the Bible away from the clergy and put it in the hands of the people to read and interpret for themselves. As a result a mass exodus (no pun intended!) from the Catholic Church began.

Do you reject that too?

Krispy

Re: KrispyKrittr - posted by proudpapa, on: 2012/5/30 11:03

RE: Krispy Krittr wrote

"The Reformers wrote and wrote and wrote... so it's best to actually read their own words, and not bother with modern day historians who often times take things out of context, or have an agenda."

Amen I agree. What disturbs me is not what others write about the reformers since most Christian historians are pro Reformers but What the reformers themselves wrote.

have you read The Jews and their Lies by Martin Luther??
or the treatise against the Anabaptists Against the Libertines by John Calvin??

Re: - posted by enid, on: 2012/5/30 11:36

Bearmaster,

If you don't agree with the quote, why quote it? And, to suggest listening to the series shows you agree.

All I can see is that this will in no way edify any one who reads it.

Re: - posted by Solomon101, on: 2012/5/30 11:37

Krispy Wrote

Quote:

-----The Reformers wrote and wrote and wrote... so it's best to actually read their own words

FINALLY something you and I agree on Krispy (i exaggerate... I know we agree on far, far more than we disagree on Krispy. Someday we will meet, I will buy you a huge steak dinner, and we will walk out of the restaurant as good friends.)

That aside, I do agree with Krispy's statement. I also agree with proudpapa that

Quote:

-----What disturbs me is not what others write about the reformers since most Christian historians are pro Reformers but What the reformers themselves wrote

If you read their own words it is chilling to the bone! It appears that the perhaps the only real reason Calvin makes a break is to form his own little "Vatican City Swiss Style". He then sets himself up as basically the "Pope" of his Vatican and then squashes all opposition by persecutions, jailings, and old fashioned murder of those who disagree with any of his theology. Not sure how he exactly "reformed" from Rome there... it was just that in his Rome he (Calvin) was the pope.

Calvin stated

Quote:
-----"Whoever shall now contend that it is unjust to put heretics and blasphemers to death, knowingly and willingly incur their guilt. It is not human authority that speaks, it is God who speaks and prescribes a perpetual rule for His Church." John Calvin

So... it wasn't enough that he puts to death folks for anything or any reason he sees fit including disagreeing with him theologically about anything..... he goes on to say that if you do not agree with his tactics YOU should be put to death as well. WHAT?!?!?! The key to remember is that you were a heretic IF JOHN CALVIN SAID YOU WERE. He set himself as the arbitrator of who was and wasn't a heretic.

He executed 57 people, and excommunicated 66. He also jailed a great many more for no reason other than tiny differences in theology. He even surpassed Augustine in severe treatment!! Like Augustine, Calvin quotes Lk 14:23 to support and justify persecuting and punishing heretics.... of course it is again heretics by Calvin's definition only.

Realize that some of these were killed or persecuted simply because they did not agree with infant baptism. Do you get that?!?!? John Calvin would martyr (kill, murder) you if you disagreed with him about infant baptism... or one of a myriad of minor theological issues.

John Calvin became a one man judge, jury, and execution squad of the Christians. He even sent out his own form of KGB to spy on and find folks not cow towing to his minute theological rules or leanings so he could jail or kill them. Other times he records his plots to get people into his jurisdiction that disagreed with him so as to jail or murder them.

Then Calvin incredibly attributes his persecution and murder of Christians to "God's will". Of these horrible actions Calvin states

Quote:
-----It is not human authority that speaks, it is God who speaks and prescribes a perpetual rule

It is not clear at all that many of the reformers did anything with a regard to helping the people. It may have been done at times simply to give them a base to use against Rome in a selfish effort to establish their own little Vatican City in Switzerland.

I agree with proudpapa. It isn't those who write after Calvin, or others, that concern me. It is what Calvin himself, and others, actually wrote themselves. It is further bothersome that many who follow them are either ignorant of their words... or worse, they willingly choose to ignore them.

So yes, as Krispy says, READ THE ACTUAL WORDS OF CALVIN, AND OTHERS.. it is a tale that would be worthy of inclusion in Fox's Book Of Martyrs. It is among other things a story of a man named Calvin who with systematic forethought murdered and persecuted followers of Christ that dared to ever think anything other than exactly what he told them to do. Yes, read for yourself... then what will we do with that knowledge?

Re: , on: 2012/5/30 11:50

Quote:

-----have you read The Jews and their Lies by Martin Luther??
or the treatise against the Anabaptists Against the Libertines by John Calvin??

Yea, actually I have. Do you also understand the context of what was going on that prompted those writings?

Now, Luther was known for his bombast, and many times apologized for the words he spoke. But underneath his bombast was a man who truly was touched by grace.

Were the Reformers perfect? Of course not. But which of us can stand 500 in the future and cast stones at them.

As soon as someone on this forum can write a tome that even comes close to "The Institutes of the Christian Religion" or "The Bondage of the Will"... no one should be attempting to sit in judgement over these men.

You shouldn't be sitting in judgement over your brothers here.

Everytime these names come up people always bring up the same accusations against these men. I would say that if you do not know all of the details... then accusing a dead brother of things you do not know for a fact to be true is just as sinful as accusing the brother sitting next to you on Sunday morning.

John Calvin never had anyone executed. John Calvin's role in Geneva has been greatly exaggerated.

Krispy

Re: , on: 2012/5/30 11:53

Solomon... I have nothing against you, brother.

I like my steak medium.

Krispy

Re: - posted by rnieman, on: 2012/5/30 12:01

Hi Krispy you wrote:

"John Calvin never had anyone executed. John Calvin's role in Geneva has been greatly exaggerated."

Can you expand on this statement a little.

Thanks, Russ

Re: - posted by Solomon101, on: 2012/5/30 12:33

@ Krispy

I have nothing against you either. If I am in your neck of the woods the dinner is on me!

I have noticed your efforts to be more of a bridge builder and less confrontational over the last month or so. Well done. I applaud you. It is appreciated!

It is with that appreciation for your recent posts that in humbleness and calmness I submit to you the following for your consideration.

In your first post you suggest to people that they not listen to or read the more current histories about the reformers. However, most all of them are written from pro reformer points of view and strongly support the reformers.

Your suggestion was to read the actual words the reformers wrote. I agree with that. Non the less.... If one reads from t he reformers then there is no small amount of the blood letting they loosed. Their attacks spilled the blood of christians, and others, that were their targets. It simply is a fact. It is in their own words.

When that point starts to be made in Calvin's own words then your response is that you have to let a lot of that slide as t he context of their culture was different. The effect is that it appears that you first tell people to read the reformers in their own words... then if they actually do that you seem to feel a need to tell people not to believe the words they are readin g as things were different then.

They did what they did... much of it is in their own words. However, only a foolish person would listen to only one side of that story. In order to be just we also should read the first hand account words of the Anabaptists and others that were u nder the direct persecution of these "reformers".

I draw an extreme example here simply to make a point.

Reading history from Hitler's or Stalin's point of view is a vastly different thing that reading the Diary of Anne Frank or list ening to Corrie Ten Boom.

Sure... we can read Hitler's or Stalin's actual words to see what they said or thought. However, to do justice we must als o read eye witness accounts of the Holocaust to get the whole story. Same with the reformers. They are not condemnin g themselves willingly in their own words... however, they do a lot of condemning by their own words non the less. Howe ver, read the others being persecuted by them as well. You don't just read Hitler's words... you read the words of those o thers who actually saw what happened too.

That same modicum of common sense would need to be applied to reading the reformers it would seem.

Again, no animosity at all. It is just a point that I have engaged as I used to be calvinist/reformed. However, the day cam e I could no longer abide it nor the (in my mind) faulty foundations that the entire calvinistic/reformed system was built o n.

edited for grammar and clarity

Re: Krispy, on: 2012/5/30 13:05

Brother who Denny Kenniston is. He is a gospel preacher. Not a revisionist historian. If you look under General Topics his messages are posted under Must Hear. Early Ababaptist Audio Series. I might add the brother presently has brain cancer and may soon be with the Lord.

My thoughts regarding the Anabaptist were not just shaped by these messages. But years ago I read The Anabaptist St ory by William Eetep. He was a professor of Baptist history at Southwestern Seminary. I also read two books by Leona rd Verduin entitled The Reformers and their Step Children and Anatomy of a Hybrid. Verduin himself was Dutch Reform ed and a theogy professor at Calvin seminary. These books were written in the 1960's They document the reformers a ttitude toward the anabaptist. This is not revisionist history but documented historical fact.

No Krispy. I am sure no one can hold a candle to Luther or Calvin's intellect. But again the protestant reformers were c oncerned about believing right doctrine. The anabaotist were more concerned about living right. And that by following J esus.

Blessings to you bro. By the say I like my steak rare.

Bearnaster.

Re: , on: 2012/5/30 13:23

Quote:

-----Can you expand on this statement a little.

OK... John Calvin never had anyone executed. John Calvins role in Geneva has been greatly exaggerated.

:-)

Krispy

Re: , on: 2012/5/30 13:32

Solomon... I can see how it seems I'm suggesting that we avoid modern historians. Thats not exactly what I meant to say though. What I was trying to say was that the Reformers were among the first group of people in history that left behind volumns and volumns of original writings. Therefore, if we want to know what they thought and taught and believed we can go straight to the source.

Now, where historians come in is to help us understand the context.

One mistake we often make is to read what these people wrote, but with eyes and ears that only see in our modern context... where language, meaning and substance is not the same as it was then.

Take Mark Twain for instance. He was one of the most prolific American writers in his time. He used words in his books that make people cringe now a days. 120 years ago when he was writing them... they didnt. Thats how people spoke, and no one thought anything of it.

Now, in today's culture and context the "N" word is repulsive... unless you're a rap star, ironically enough.

Much of what the Reformers wrote is the same way. In our day we may be repulsed by the names that Luther called the popes. I'm sure in his time it may have been offensive as well, but not like today.

500 years ago these men spoke in very strong language. Compare that to today... where Christians wont speak out against anything because they might "offend" someone... which is worse?

Not sure.

Krispy

Re: - posted by ccchhrrriiiss (), on: 2012/5/30 13:35

I agree with the need to seriously study the text and writings of such individuals (rather than modern books about them) if someone wants to know what they believe. There is too much danger of basing an opinion or even pronouncing judgment upon flawed or out-of-context "reporting." There is also a danger in searching through those books simply to find "sound bites" that will be used as an indictment for hellfire.

Why?

All of those men and organizations are flawed. This includes the early "reformers." This includes the modern biographers. This even includes the anabaptists. They were human beings confined to this side of the "glass darkly." While some may have been flawed on more insignificant matters, they were still flawed by their humanity nonetheless. Not all reformers, anabaptists or even earlier believers were pious men.

One thing that is clear from the Epistles is that there was a propensity to "get things wrong" even at such an early stage in Church history. If you notice in the Book of Acts, even Paul and Barnabas had a disagreement so sharp that they split company. Paul rebuked Peter -- a man who walked with Christ, wrote portions of the New Testament and was a focal point of the Gospels and the Book of Acts -- over a gross doctrinal flaw. It seems that even the apostles weren't immune f

from their flawed humanity.

By the time (~100 A.D.) John was having a revelation of Jesus Christ on the Isle of Patmos, five of the seven churches of Asia were given instructions about various flaws within them. And, of course, the Epistles includes strong words and even rebukes about situations in the churches -- including some that were quite disturbing (remember I Corinthians 5?).

Such flaws shouldn't surprise us. After all, none of us are perfect. We are still confined to this side of that "glass darkly" in which we live in this life. I believe that many marriages end because someone is looking for or expecting a "perfect" spouse (which, of course, is quite interpretive). Oddly enough, I think that many churches and believers split company for the same reason. They are looking for a "perfection" in the church that is either literally "perfect" or at least partially modeled after what they think to be true. Yet, not even the early church was perfect (at least, not when the New Testament was written down).

One thing to remember is that we are perpetually changing. Each of us -- and every other believer -- is changing as we mature to Christ. We should always remember this when we meet with others. We aren't the same people that we were when we first came to Christ (except, hopefully, in our love for Him). We have "grown" in knowledge and understanding through prayer and study of the Word of God.

Now, many believers belonged to other "Church" organizations before they came to Christ. When they met the Lord, their "understanding" was not what it is now...and not what it will be a few years from now. Why? We are continuously maturing during our journey through the "wilderness of this world." Some people, like Martin Luther, were Catholics before coming to Christ. Their doctrinal vision may not have been quite so "20-20" when they first came to the Lord...and it may have taken some time to focus on doctrinal truths as presented by Scripture.

Others have changed in their interpretation of what the Word of God instructs. There were believers a few hundred years ago who believed in or ignored the grotesque concept of slavery. Something that should have been so obvious from Scripture was viewed as acceptable. Many believers, like Martin Luther or the reformers, wrote what they believed at a given moment of time. Like everyone, they may have changed over time. Hindsight (and Eternity) is often the "20-20" that we think that we possess in the present.

For instance, in BEYOND THE CROSS AND THE SWITCHBLADE, David Wilkerson mentioned that he no longer held a "hard line" approach when it came to television. He had spoken about a need to get rid of the TV in the original CROSS AND THE SWITCHBLADE book. Yet, years later, Wilkerson wrote that he and his family would sit down and watch "family westerns" like Bonanza. A decade later (in SET THE TRUMPET TO THY MOUTH), Wilkerson once again wrote about the dangers of having a television in the home.

Now, if a person were to describe David Wilkerson's perspective on the "television" issue, it would be somewhat skewed to assert that he embraced television. It would be more correct to say that, at one point, David Wilkerson believed that it was okay to have a television in the home. And, of course, I don't know what Brother Wilkerson believed when he died last year. My point is simply that his view changed over time.

So, in terms of Martin Luther or the other reformers (or ANYONE else for that matter), it is important to approach the topic with this in mind. Their views may have changed over time as they matured in Christ.

In the past, there have been some heated discussions about Charles Finney. Finney's writings have been analyzed, dissected and criticized many times. Some are willing to embrace much of what he said. Others are unwilling to accept anything that he said. And still, others are quite bold in declaring the man a "heretic." There is little grace offered in terms of how his views may have changed over time. And, of course, we can't seek clarity by speaking to the man himself. That is true of all men who have died. We can't ask them to elucidate on such matters.

So, when it comes to the writings of all men, I suggest that we approach those works with the knowledge that NONE of them are perfect. This includes the reformers, the anabaptists and every man who has sermons included on this website. We have to simply glean what we can from what they said or wrote. We must test everything and hold on to the good (I Thessalonians 5:21). After all, our faith does not hinge upon the writings or teachings of any of these men or organizations. Our faith is only in Christ Jesus His Word.

With this in mind, it would be beneficial to avoid spreading accusations about others. If we are flawed or even slightly incorrect in what we say (or how we present it), we may end up unwittingly bear false witness against someone else...even

n if we think it is for a good reason.

Re: , on: 2012/5/30 13:36

Brother Bear, I have prayed a Great Deal over this issue and Very much since 2002 - so if I may just post my 'heart' at this moment, I'd appreciate getting this out.

I appreciate you and the other Brothers that have posted on this thread and on the other thread by Spurgeon, but that thread tore me like few have.

I prayed very much back when, about attending a Reformed Theology Church. The one that built the Nursing Home that I loved more than life itself. I prayed until one day in 2006, the Pastor of that Church called my home and we got to talking. I had been given some Scripture verses from the LORD that previous week that were a comfort to me in what I was living through at that time. After Pastor and I talked, he asked if he could pray for me and of course I said yes. He prayed the exact verses the LORD had given me the week before.

I asked if I could talk to him again and he called again a few days afterward - after he had learned more about me from I suppose the Nursing Home and GOD only knows where - because before he was the Pastor of that Church - for 20 yrs, he was the News Chief of a TV channel - in charge of all their News programs and News Talk show - so I smile when I say, "GOD only knows where" - though we had to have an FBI clearance to work there and the only time I was in the Newspaper was 5 times for State and Community Service.

Anyways - he called me by my full first name, that's how I knew he had done his homework. I felt so safe with him after that as well, because I needed intelligence in the situation I was in as well as Spiritual counsel.

We talked a few times over the phone and he always ended our counseling sessions with a prayer and each time, the annoying was there. I'm full blown Pentecostal, so I don't use that word "annoyed" lightly.

Then, one day I went to the Library to down load some T.A. Spark sermons and made an extra copy of "Truth in the Inward Parts" for him and decided to go to the Church to drop it off. I didn't know where his office was, so I was looking around the hall, when suddenly a voice said: "May I help you?" and I said "Yes, I'm looking for the Pastor's Office." and then the voice said my full-first-name and I went to him in his office and at my first glance of him - - the man behind the desk had totally white hair, a glowing pudgy face that was full of life and health --- but then that view changed after about 30 secs and I saw him as he really looks. I know that was a vision into what he is, in GOD's eyes. This was an extraordinary experience but it wasn't the last that I had with him.

I hit enter to drop down and it submitted before I was done. Ha!

Anyways, it is a long story that I would love to share the rest of one day. What I saw was the face of a "Moses", but I never told him about these visions. Yes, there were more of him and the LORD told me well in advance that he would have a heart attack but would come through seeing flowers prettier than before.

Well, I am not Reformed theology and he doesn't shove that down us and finds Plenty to preach on without 'going there'. I told him about 2 yrs ago, that I don't go for Calvin and he didn't "dis-member" me ... In neither sense of that word. :)

I can't explain the spiritual experiences that I had with him and his wife but though I'm not living 'down-yonder' where they are - I've prayed whether I should cancel my membership and I still feel in my spirit - "NO WAY".

It's all hard to explain - but not all reformed folks are the same. I guess that's it and 'thank you' for letting me talk about "the Admiral". I can't even type that nickname without getting those tears stuck in my tear ducts every time.

GOD Bless you and the other Brothers here that I fully agree with on this thread - that we can disagree but still love one another with more than just all of our hearts.

Re: , on: 2012/5/30 13:39

I will be sure to pray for brother Denny. Sorry to hear he is battling cancer.

Quote:
-----But again the protestant reformers were concerned about believing right doctrine. The anabaptist were more concerned about living right. And that by following Jesus.

Both go hand in hand. Without right doctrine, living right does nothing for us. There are a lot of people headed to hell who lived right.

Without living right, right doctrine does nothing for us.

However, I will say this: right doctrine + regeneration will produce right living.

I would be real careful making the suggestion that the Reformers were unregenerate. Again, kinda hard to judge a man's heart from 500 years away.

Krispy

Re: , on: 2012/5/30 13:42

Quote:
-----then the voice said my full-first-name and I went to him in his office and at my first glance of him - - the man behind the desk had to tally white hair, a glowing pudgy face that was full of life and health --- but then that view changed after about 30 secs and I saw him as he really looks. I know that was a vision into what he is, in GOD's eyes. This was an extra-ordinary experience but it wasn't the last that I had with him.

You need to translate this for me... what are you saying about this man? I'm sincerely lost on this one.

Krispy

Re: Solomon101 - posted by proudpapa, on: 2012/5/30 13:48

Re: Solomon101 wrote to krispy krittr "I have noticed your efforts to be more of a bridge builder and less confrontational over the last month or so. Well done. I applaud you. It is appreciated!"

"It is with that appreciation for your recent posts that in humbleness and calmness"

I agree, amen to all of those who are keeping there cool on this topic no matter your opinion. We all have things we can learn from each other.

lens of Augustine - posted by proudpapa, on: 2012/5/30 14:13

From what I have studied so far of Church History what seems to have separated the Early Anabaptist from both the Catholics and Reformers was that many of the Early Anabaptist tried to understand scripture by scripture alone. The Catholics always held the Church Fathers such as Augustine as authoritative the Reformers also interpreted scripture through the lens of Augustine. When studying Calvin's Institutes or Luther's Bondage of the Will note how many times they refer to Augustine. When studying the martyrs mirror notice how many times the Early Anabaptist had to argue with scripture against someone quoting Augustine.

Re: Rejection - posted by Miccah (), on: 2012/5/30 14:17

I reject the idea of rejection. This is a totally outdated concept in today's theological camps. If Spurgeon were walking along this lake, not a bird would catch fish from it without being attacked by a Zebra mussel.

Without hope, we will never understand the depths of the universe. Stars fade in the memory of the past.

Blessings!

Re: I Reject the Reformers, on: 2012/5/30 14:28

Quote:
----- The protestant reformers persecuted and put to death those I consider the true believers of Jesus Christ. Those being the Anabaptist.

Be gentle to the Reformist, they had their faults yes, and done wicked things. The problem with the reformation is that everything around them,was....well, being reformed. In other words, it was pretty messy.

The Church was locked up so to speak, muted from uttering a sound, a peep even. They had to hide their faith, meet in secret, most of them being forced to go underground to worship God together. And when revival did break out it followed hard with persecution from the ruling world, the Roman Catholic Church and its puppet kingdoms it held sway over.

When the reformation became known it started before Luther but Luther was outspoken and radical, his idea was not to start a protestant reformation, he wanted the Catholic Church to return to the Apostolic teachings to which he believed the Catholic Church was the true Church of God on the earth. He was being like the Apostle Paul warning the church of its errors and compelling them to return to the faith that was once delivered to the saints.

Luther was at odd with the reformist who were against the RCC altogether. He didn't want to destroy the RCC he wanted the leaders to come to their senses and return to the faith.

They didn't have the freedom like we have today of expressing our faith in print, in those days it was considered offensive and some died for doing that. Brother William Tyndale was such an one.

People were slowly coming out of darkness, the mindset had not yet been reformed into the freedom that we now enjoy in Christ. There was a lot of ideas floating around and seeing blood and death was a normal occurrence.

This does not excuse what was done to the Anabaptist, however, there should be great thought to take into consideration of the times to which these people lived and the mindset of the reformist.

Let me give you an example. Paul the Apostle who was once named Saul went about harassing and jailing Christians for believing in the name of Christ. Saul believed that what he was doing was of God. His mind was so set upon doing the will of God, he believed that the clergy was God's right hand on earth.

Peter stopped fellowshiping with gentile believers when a Jew came in sight. His very removal was saying that he hated the gentiles, it was an act of snubbing and persecution.

Do you see what is going on? This was a new thing. Saul was a law man he was zealous of the law to the place of persecuting and death he was mad with hate. This was a new thing and change was slow on the horizon. His mindset had to be changed.

Peter lived under the law all his life and believed that gentiles were dogs, the change was slow to think differently.

I believe this was the case of the Anabaptist. The Anabaptist's were so radical that they were offensive to the common religion of the day to which a lot of these reformist came up out of yet they still had the cloaks of death that had not yet been flung off.

The Anabaptist would say today, "Have mercy on them for they know not what they do".

Re: Translation - posted by Jeremy221, on: 2012/5/30 14:29

Krispy,

Jesus-is-GOD shared an account of a brother in a Reformed setting that knows gifts and anointing of the Holy Spirit even though he is within an organization that looks down on or denies their present operation. It sounds like the Lord gave her a vision of what he is like spiritually with a view of the glory of God showing from him and a fatness of soul. I haven't had that experience but I have had a couple times where I have seen the glory of God in the faces of the brethren when an anointed word was being shared like face of Stephen when he was martyred in Acts 7.

Re: - posted by ccchhrrriiiss (), on: 2012/5/30 15:20

Hi Approved.

Quote:

Be gentle to the Reformist, they had their faults yes, and done wicked things. The problem with the reformation is that everything around them,was. ...well, being reformed. In other words, it was pretty messy.

I believe that this is a good perspective. This is what I was trying to express in my previous post just over an hour ago.

My wife and I are having our kitchen remodeled. Our old and broken post-war (late 1940s) era counters and cabinets are being removed and some new oak cabinets and granite counter-tops are being added in their place. While the hope is to have a good, workable kitchen, our house is quite messy. All of the dishes, pots, pans, and food in the old cabinets are located in boxes in our sitting room. Our goal was NOT to make a mess -- but there is quite a mess right now. By removing some things, we uncovered other problems and flaws in our kitchen. The goal is fix past that mess and have a working kitchen that works in "decency and order."

I suppose that the early reformers are something like that. They are coming out of a broken and flawed "church" system that literally controlled continents. It might behoove us to look at those early reformers as having taken some "baby steps." While the anabaptists had a better perspective in just rejecting everything that Rome and most other organized "Christian" institutions had ever taught, the reformers were not an "institution." They were different men with different beliefs at different stages of maturity as they began a different journey than the path that they were on previously.

Like I said previously, we shouldn't model our faith after the beliefs and writings of the reformers (or even the anabaptists for that matter). When I met Leonard Ravenhill as a young teenager, he gave me an interesting word of wisdom. He said that the "Church" is in the condition that it is in because the "Church" has been doing what it has been doing for a very long time. This, he said, was a reason that I should test everything that I have ever been taught.

In this, I think that our attitude should be similar to the anabaptists. We should question everything that we read, hear, are taught, or subscribe to. No matter WHERE we gather such things or WHO has taught them, we should have the Berean attitude and test everything by what is found ONLY in the Scriptures. I don't have a problem hearing what others have taught (even historically). However, I think that we should do so with the knowledge that they were flawed men from particular points of maturity and eras of history.

Re: - posted by Koheleth, on: 2012/5/30 15:21

Krispy wrote >

To the contrary, there is an entire historic branch of Christianity dating back to Christ that believes there is no value in writing "a tome" as you say. A gargantuan book of doctrine may be of great value to Augustine, Calvin, and their followers, but even Paul only got a few pages long at the most. Paul actually said we should judge matters of this life. If these men only have their tomes to commend them, they are lacking.

Krispy wrote >

This history has, of course, been debated extensively. I, for one, disagree. Calvin has blood on his hands. Not only is the

re an abundance of historical evidence against Calvin, but even some modern-day Calvinists are making apologies for Calvin's role in Geneva. Apostle John said that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.

no comparison - posted by proudpapa, on: 2012/5/30 15:51

Compare men like Dirk Willems, Michael Sattler, Felix Manz and others to Luther, Calvin, Zwingli. I personally find no comparison.

Re: Must Modify My Statement, on: 2012/5/30 15:59

After reading through the posts I need to modify my stance about rejecting the reformers. I still believe much injustice was done to the Anabaptist by the papist as well as the reformers. But then the reformers died for their belief in the truth by the papist.

In the end it was 500 years ago and none of us were around then. The best stance is all things are ours. Much can be gleaned from both the reformers and the Anabaptist. So praise God for some of that being preserved at SI.

Now I like Krispy's idea of a steak. I also like the idea of a nice cold one. I leave you guessing what that steak will be washed down with. If I were to say another contro thread would be opened up.

This is Bearmaster signing off for that steak.

Re: , on: 2012/5/30 16:44

Thank you, Brother Bear. Though, I wish you guys would keep your liberties to yourself, to as not to cause the weak and babes to stumble - but I sure do love you guys.

Brother, I've prayed and prayed because I've felt this story about "the Admiral" wanting to come out and I have reason why I would like to do it here - and pray that you won't mind.

The reason I first called him, "Admiral" was - one day as I was heading up the hall to the Sunday School class - he was about 20 ft ahead of me, heading down the hall toward me and when I saw him, his cloths were all white - but as he got closer they changed to his regular suit color. My first thought was, "He looked just like an Admiral" - but The LORD spoke to my heart and told me "You saw that because, This Church is his ship." --- so when he got close enough I said, "Good morning, Admiral" but of course, didn't tell him why.

Then another time in that same location, he stopped to talk to me, and though he was smiling, his words sounded depressed and when he finished talking, I could feel the Holy Spirit come on me and the words just came out - "When 'it's over', the flowers and trees will be more beautiful than ever" etc that I can't remember all.

Months before this, I had canceled my Counseling sessions with him because The LORD told me that Pastor was going to have a heart attack, but I felt to NOT tell him. I knew it was because I would blame my problems for the cause of his heart attack, that I couldn't talk to him about them in sessions anymore. I told him that I was going to find a Christian psychologist for my problems at home and he was sort of hurt, but I couldn't tell him the real reason.

Anyhow, one Sunday, he was due to go to his mother's funeral in another State, after he finished preaching both services and while he was preaching, again I saw him with the white hair and all and he looked right at me and he said, "Shalom" right in the middle of his sermon. Strange, the workings of GOD.

The same day that he came back from taking care of his Mother's funeral was when he had the massive heart attack. I'm shaking as I type this, but he did survive and had a triple bi-pass - but though I remembered the word about "the flowers", I was besides myself for that whole year, until I was sure that he and his dear wife were O.K..

Well, the LORD did use him as my Moses. Not only did he save my life through counseling but he was later instrumental in finding a couple to drive me up here in that U-Haul that everyone knew I could never have driven this far myself - besides all the prayers that went up from him and his wife and his group that met at his house and all of those elders, deacons and members.

I don't know, but I also felt that there was an annoying on that little town and it 'may be' that GOD will also use him to be a type of Moses to that town as well some day ... but we'll see.

Yup, I reckon I'm an Pentecostal Anabaptist that's been so very much loved and accepted by some Reformed folks down South - and I'm sure he doesn't mind me expressing my opinions on "Whosoever will, Come".

GOD Bless and thank you for allowing me to share this. I've prayed for very many years that He would "Take me Home", so maybe that's why I felt I needed to get this all out about my Pastor and Church - just in case. That favorite song of mine is going through my head, "I can Only Imagine". Bless GOD!

"Shalom!"

Re: , on: 2012/5/30 17:14

Quote:

----- I leave you guessing what that steak will be washed down with.

Water? (hehe)

Re: In defense of Martin Luther - posted by ArtB (), on: 2012/5/30 18:09

Martin Luther knew his bible very well and in context. And Luther knew that what the Catholic Church have been teaching, and their practices in squeezing money out of all Catholics, and in particular from the poor, was positively anti Christian. They charged sums of money for seeing Catholic Religious relics that they prayers, hopes, and dreams may come true through the relics. Catholics were tricked into paying for indulgences as means to shorten the time of a dead relative or friend suffered in purgatory. So proclaimed the Catholic hierarchy in Rome. And the Catholic Hierarchy placed no limit of how much it actually cost to eliminate their time in purgatory. Thus no one was ever able to give enough money. Luther criticised the Papacy for making Jacob Fugger, a Jewish man, the wealthiest man in Europe, by collecting the Catholic Indulgences from the people and delivering it to the Papacy with himself taking a percentage approved by the Papacy..

Even more important, Luther realized that salvation was not at all based on receiving the Catholic Sacraments. Rather, salvation was obtained instantaneously, by accepting the blood of Jesus Christ, the perfect Paschal lamb, as the ultimate Paschal Lamb, Jesus Christ, that washes away all sins for all time to all who believe in Jesus and accept this blood.

In his early ministry, Luther was very pro-Jewish. He actually defended them from persecution.

So what happened to Luther as he got older so that he became a madman, viciously hating the Jews and calling for their death. Luther became all around bitter, hateful, and violent.

The answer is medical!

Around 1523-24, Luther became to feel the effects of a disease that over time would drive him toward insanity. The disease is Tinnitus. Tinnitus is a constant and continuous sound in ones' ears. Luther was in constant pain from the noise that never went away. Check Tinnitus and Martin Luther on the internet and you will understand what this disease did to him. Today there is treatment for Tinnitus, but none in Luther's time. Two of Luther's brothers, and his father, also suffered from Tinnitus.

By about 1529 or so, Luther had to hire a bodyguard to protect people around him from being viciously attacked by Martin Luther. His temperament and his writings were awful throughout the remainder of his life, and he wrote a lot of horrible things.

However, Luther was a very good theologian in the early years of his ministry. And He open the door, along with other Bible experts who broke with the Catholic Church, in order to return Christianity to what it was in the first three centuries after Christ resurrection on the Cross.

Re: , on: 2012/5/30 19:19

Actually, this is not an excuse for insanity, most especially in a Christian. Tinnitus is a very common ailment. My father has had it since the big guns of Iwojima and he stayed quite sane. I've had it since 1994 and despite what those who don't know me personally may think :), I've stayed sane. Having worked in the medical fields, both my Dad and I both - him being a Dr/Physiologist - both of us are very well acquainted with this malady and others that have tinnitus and few Drs can or will treat it because there's no cure.

Though I sympathize with anyone with this or any other disease, very much so - it's not a cause of what's described here

Luther was not fully sound doctrinally and GOD only knows the rest, but the things he believed that were not Biblical and the parts of the RCC that he held onto, wouldn't help one's state of mind.

If I'm not mistaken - there were those before Luther and the others mentioned along the lines of Calvin - that broke from the RCC but were not Augustinians nor Calvinistic in their beliefs. That the breaking from the RCC would have happened even without them.

Re: - posted by davidkeel (), on: 2012/5/30 20:50

I understood from the start your intentions for starting this thread Bearmaster. You have found something interesting which you wanted to share with us.

I didn't think you were starting arguments.

It's helped me to understand and hear things about the reformation which I hadn't known. Thanks for starting it.

Re: bearmaster - posted by proudpapa, on: 2012/5/31 0:17

Re: bearmaster wrote

"The best stance is all things are ours. Much can be gleaned from both the reformers and the anabaptist. So praise God for some of that being preserved at SI."

Amen.

Have you heard the sermon "The Spirit Of Law And The Spirit Of Grace by Denny Kenaston" I would highly recommend it <https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/singlefile.php?lid=13205>

Re: I Reject the Reformers - posted by Josef83, on: 2012/5/31 2:41

That's sad.

Firstly what I see today is mostly the "reformers" getting persecuted on blogs and on the internet.

I have seen slanders on John Piper and on our church here in Sweden just because we are reformed. We don't attack back we just bless them.

But people really write awful things about Calvin and us etc.

I have listened to people saying all kind of weird things and almost nothing is true.

Secondly it doesn't matter if someone behaved a bit wrong in some situations the question is what does the bible teach? If the bible teaches it then it's true.

I just read through Luther's "The bondage of the will" and I am convinced that he was right. He was by the way teaching double predestination in that book.

But I do not agree on all things he said.

One thing he said was that those affirming the doctrine of free will are not saved because they deny the grace of God.

That kind of statement I do not agree on.

‎"And I would also, that the advocates for "free will" be admonished in this place, that when they assert "free will, " they are deniers of Christ. For if I obtain grace by my own endeavours, what need have I of the grace of God for the receiving of grace?" - Martin Luther (The bondage of the will, page 229)

Thirdly what Luther and Calvin taught were held by many before them.

Luther quotes John Wycliff. Also John Wycliff believed in predestination. He wrote a book of that topic. The Valdenses that lived long before Calvin also held to that doctrine. And most of all the bible teaches it I mean Romans chapter 9 is so clear and 9:6 is so clear that it aint talking about nations!

Fourthly. The reformers were wrong on the doctrine of baptism because they still had a lot of tradition in their head. Just like us today. After being a pentacostal for many years I am today in a baptist church and it took long time for me to get rid of some pentacostal doctrines that are clearly wrong (dispensationalism etc.)

Re: , on: 2012/5/31 3:18

Dear Brother Josef, I think the tables have turned. Years back, right here on SI - it was the non-Calvinists that were being torn apart and this last thread by Spurgeon was similar to what you said of Luther - Spurgeon was writing about those that believe in free-will and called those "enemies".

My concern is keeping people out of the Kingdom. It doesn't have to be just the belief in predestination - it can be legalism - but either way, the results are potentially the same.

On another note is eschatology. I'm not a dispensationalist but I also am not an amillennialist nor a preterist of any type but "the last days" has been a burden the LORD put onto me 27 yrs ago and it's never left me.

Things are getting very bad in this world. I keep a close watch on the alternative News sources and that's my concern. Are we ready for anything.

The Bible gives indication that Christians will turn against Christians. These discussions about Calvinism vs Arminianism can be utilized in such a way as to avoid that from happening.

In some churches, the Pastors are being trained with "emergency response teams" and in some cases these are not good. They're being trained on how to get their people onto a bus to be taken where no one will want to go.

I'm keeping this as mild as possible but our Bibles do tell of what will come - but some don't believe that these prophecies are for our generation, that they've either already past long ago, or that they'll be raptured out of here before it gets bad. I watched some videos tonight about the coming digital economic system that's ready to fly and these folks were insiders, saying that people will except it because it will be offered with "forgiveness of all debts" - A New Beginning for the people and financial security as well - no poverty to worry about. It was a very intense documentary done by the New Agers in high places.

Our main focus should be that we not be deceived by what is coming and look at our differences in doctrine as minor when it comes to sticking together and not be of those that turn on one another when the world as we know it changes into something that is unrecognizable. We don't need a repeat in history, where Christians are hating Christians and turning one another in, for Any reason.

We need to love one another as never before in Americas history. Or Sweden. Or Macedonia. Everywhere.

Bearmaster knows much about persecution, but we have to set it into our minds that the Word does give indication that Christians will turn in and against Christians and pledge to GOD Himself that we won't be caught up in that last days hate mongering. That we'll do everything in our power to stand together in His Love, whether our doctrines are the same or not.

We're living in the last days and caring for one another is what made the First Church Great. I pray we can be like the first Church and not the hate-filled mix that we saw during the Reformation. Let's pray that way.

Re: I Reject the Reformers - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2012/5/31 8:54

Quote:
-----I used to hold to reformation history. I used to call myself a child of the reformation. No more. The protestant reformers persecuted and put to death those I consider the true believers of Jesus Christ. Those being the Anabaptist.

I agree with you about reformation history. The best of men, it seems, were men at best. Google sometime the Münster Rebellion or Peasant's War to get a more panoramic understanding of what was going on back then. No one system is without blemish.

Thank the Lord he does not deal with us as collective groups, but as individuals. Should we not follow His example and approach Him as such, while gleaning along the way the finest meat each group has to offer? Take the best food from all the different serving trays but sit and eat them only at the Lord's table. Refrain from poking around too long at the buffet. You're bound to eventually find something you won't like. And definitely don't ask about the cleanliness of the kitchen's history!

Eat what is agreeable to you at the Lord's table, dear brother, and do it in peace (I Thessalonians 4:11).

Brother Paul

Re: - posted by ArtB (), on: 2012/5/31 10:04

Jesus-Is-God wrote:

"Actually, this is not an excuse for insanity, most especially in a Christian. Tinnitus is a very common ailment. My father has had it since the big guns of Iwojima and he stayed quite sane. I've had it since 1994 and despite what those who don't know me personally may think :, I've stayed sane. Having worked in the medical fields, both my Dad and I both - him being a Dr/Physologist - both of us are very well acquainted with this malady and others that have tinnitus and few Drs can or will treat it because there's no cure."

Allow me to clarify the effects of Tinnitus on Martin Luther. It may be mild in some, and others will suffer in varying degrees toward severe cases of tinnitus.

Martin Luther had a very severe case of Tinnitus, the main symptom of what is known as 'Menieres Disease'.

In Martin Luther's own words: "When I try to work, my head becomes filled with all sorts of whizzing, buzzing, thundering noises." he wrote, and being a religious man, he blamed the devil.

From Public Med:

Martin Luther's diseases are well documented, because he used to discuss them freely in his letters. There is also a wealth of evidence through reports by his friends. Most of his diseases were common and well known to the contemporary physicians, who accordingly interpreted them correctly: bladder stones, chronic constipation, hemorrhoids. Luther's death obviously was due to a coronary thrombosis. During the last 19 years of his life, in addition to these "natural diseases", Luther also suffered from recurring attacks of a peculiar symptomatology.

Luther himself and his friends considered these seizures to be no "natural disease", but Satan punching his flesh, and he compared them to St. Paul's disease (2. Cor. 12). The first of these attacks occurred on July 6, 1527, when Luther was 43 years of age. It began with a roaring tinnitus in his left ear, which increased dramatically and seemed to occupy the left half of his head. Then a state of sickness and collapse followed, however, consciousness was retained throughout the whole period.

After a night's rest all the symptoms had subsided, except the tinnitus, which, from that day on, continued for all the following years in varying intensity. Similar attacks with increase of the tinnitus and vertigo as the leading symptoms, seized Luther at irregular intervals and distressed him extremely. Former investigators of Luther's diseases interpreted these attacks as manifestations of a psychiatric disorder and a chronic inflammatory disease of the middle ear. The present detailed study reveals that it was a typical case of Meniere's disease of the left ear manifesting itself more than

330 years before Meniere's classical observation.

From Wikipedia - Menieres Disease:

The symptoms of Meniere's are variable; not all sufferers experience the same symptoms. However, so-called "classic Meniere's" is considered to have the following four symptoms:

Attacks of rotational vertigo that can be severe, incapacitating, unpredictable, and last anywhere from minutes to hours, but generally no longer than 24 hours. For some sufferers however, prolonged attacks can occur, lasting from several days to several weeks, often causing the sufferer to be severely incapacitated. This combines with an increase in volume of tinnitus and temporary, albeit significant, hearing loss. Hearing may improve after an attack, but often becomes progressively worse. Nausea, vomiting, and sweating sometimes accompany vertigo, but are symptoms of vertigo, and not of Meniere's.

Fluctuating, progressive, unilateral (in one ear) or bilateral (in both ears) hearing loss, usually in lower frequencies. For some, sounds can appear tinny or distorted, and patients can experience unusual sensitivity to noises.

Unilateral or bilateral tinnitus.

A sensation of fullness or pressure in one or both ears.

Anyone can see the difference between Luther's early well reasoned early writings requesting major reforms in the ugly practices of the RCC and his pro-Jewish views, and his later writing that were positively anti-Jewish and paranoid.

Now you raise a different matter, which obviously effects your view of Luther.

Jesus-Is-God: "Luther was not fully sound doctrinally and GOD only knows the rest, but the things he believed that were not Biblical and the parts of the RCC that he held onto, wouldn't help one's state of mind."

And who is fully sound doctrinally? No one is saved by because all their biblical beliefs is 100% accurate We are saved solely through our acceptance of the atoning blood of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of all our Sins. Upon accepting our Saviour's gift to us, we receive the Holy Spirit, God dwelling in us, transforming our very nature day by day as we walk with God. It is God who is performing a work in us, that we may naturally do the good that God created us to do, that our joy may be complete.

And on your last point: "If I'm not mistaken - there were those before Luther and the others mentioned along the lines of Calvin - that broke from the RCC but were not Augustinians nor Calvinistic in there beliefs."

I do not know what you have against Calvin or Augustine. The only thing I know they had in common is that the Bible reveals that all who are saved were predestined to be saved, as the Apostle Paul puts it, before God Created the Cosmos and the Kingdom, God predestined His children to purified in the fiery furnace of the Cosmos, and predestined His children to enter the Kingdom.

Jesus said His sheep knows him and they come to Him when they hear His voice. He assured the Father that He had not lost even one of His sheep.

Predestination is a fact. Some complainers against predestination say "why preach the gospel at if all are already predestination to be saved." We do so because Jesus gave us the Great Commission that we speak His words throughout the world, so that His children will hear their master's voice that they will recognize, and they will follow Him. This is the great commission given unto us.

Re: - posted by ArtB (), on: 2012/5/31 10:10

Jesus-Is-God wrote "If I'm not mistaken - there were those before Luther and the others mentioned along the lines of Calvin - that broke from the RCC but were not Augustinians nor Calvinistic in their beliefs. That the breaking from the RCC would have happened even without them."

First of all, Luther was a learned catholic, a well respected and popular Catholic Priest, who saw the abuses of the Catholic Church and spoke out against them.

So when Luther abandoned the Catholic Church, he opened the door for many catholics to have the courage to leave the Catholic Church, His marriage to a Nun had a great effect on the psyche of Catholics, the effect gave them the courage to leave the Catholic Church.

Re: , on: 2012/5/31 11:27

Hi Brother Art. No lengthy reply here. Just wanted to clarify why I wrote what I did about Luther's health issues that I am very familiar with, without going into details.

It was this part that I was addressing, regarding his tinnitus, etc..

From your post: "By about 1529 or so, Luther had to hire a bodyguard to protect people around him from being viciously attacked by Martin Luther."

I had heard everything that you posted later on this thread about all of his health issues in the past. This quote of his behavior is not consistent with his physiological disease.

eta -

Main point I meant to say - with tinnitus and Menieres being maladies that are on the increase, due to environmental problems - I just didn't want anyone to 'fear' that if they have it or acquired those problems, that they'll need to be supervised so as not to attack others.

From my own and the experiences of all that I know with these two problems - though it is difficult to never hear silence again and the noise level and pitches vary and can be quite loud - one can learn to cope and none that I have ever heard of became 'dangerous' nor had dramatic changes in their over-all beliefs.

Again, I only state these things to prevent this misunderstanding of these problems from scaring someone half to death if they either have these things or acquire them. Hope that's understood.

Bless you!

Re: Josef83 - posted by proudpapa, on: 2012/5/31 12:12

RE: josef83 wrote

"Firstly what I see today is mostly the "reformers" getting persecuted on blogs and on the internet.

I have seen slanders on John Piper and on our church here in Sweden just because we are reformed. We don't attack back we just bless them."

I commend you for not attacking back and just blessing them.

I have to say from most of what I see has been just the opposite, just google Charles Finney and see what pops up. People believe just because he did not find that the Bible teaches the five points of the tulip that they have a justified reason to say he had a Demon.

Have you not heard someone called an

Arminian or a follower of pelagian just because they believe that God's predestination follows His foreknowledge and infinite wisdom?

RE:Josef83 wrote

"I mean Romans chapter 9 is so clear and 9:6 is so clear that it ain't talking about nations!"

I agree with you that it is not talking about nations, I believe that is a weak argument. But it also is not the central theme of Romans nor is it the central theme of the Bible as what Hypertheology teaches. Read Romans Ch 1-8 to give the context.

ext for ch 9 or even within chapter 9 Paul gives the (reason) that Israel, which followed after the law of righteousness, hath not attained to the law of righteousness. v 32 "Wherefore? (Because!!!) they sought it not by faith, but as it were by the works of the law."

There is always a (reason) a (purpose) a (For this cause)a (because of) with God. We do not understand all of it but we know His purposes are perfect.

"O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!"

RE: josef83 wrote "Fourthly. The reformers were wrong on the doctrine of baptism because they still had a lot of tradition in their head."

They Did more than just disagree with those that believed in believers Baptism!

Re: ArtB wrote - posted by proudpapa, on: 2012/5/31 12:28

Re: ArtB wrote

"So what happened to Luther as he got older so that he became a madman, viciously hating the Jews and calling for their death. Luther became all around bitter, hateful, and violent.

The answer is medical!"

Does the Bible associate psychological issues with medical or with spiritual??

Re: , on: 2012/5/31 12:39

Again I would commend Denny Kenniston's series on the early history of the anabaptist. Even if one does not agree with his conclusions. The series does provide another aspect to reformation history that one is not used to hearing.

For one thing it should be noted that Felix Manz, Michael Sattler, and others used to share fellowship with Zwingli and the other reformers. Zwingli and those we call the anabaptist were people who left the RCC seeking the truth of Christ. The Bible was being printed in the German vernacular of the people at the time. Gutenberg's printing press enabled the Bible to go forth and the common people were reading it. So from about 1525-1527 or so the reformers and anabaptist were of one group studying the scriptures together and comparing notes. One might say for the first three years they were of one mind. Luther and Zwingli even embraced some of the truth Manz and Settler held too.

The division came over how the reformation would be sustained. The reformers such as Luther and Zwingli believed one needed the power of the state to bring about a reformation in the church. To enforce it by the sword. Those who called themselves the anabaptist believed the church was separate from the state. The church was connected to one head only. That head is Jesus. The anabaptist maintained that members of this church were to submit to believers baptism and live holy lives. And that began the separation between the reformers and the anabaptist.

Granted the above is a simplistic synopsis. Leonard Verduin has documented the development of the church state during the reformation in his book Anatomy of a Hybrid. I do not know if this book is still in print. But it is an excellent read.

I think there is a great lesson here for us. We see American evangelicalism getting caught up in the right wing politics of our day. There are some who will wrap the Bible and the cross with the American flag. While I do not envision anything like Calvin's Geneva or Cromwell's England coming to America. I do foresee a civil religion, a pseudo church arising. This church having patriotism and God mixed together to command allegiance to the state. Such a church does exist in China. It is called the Three Self Patriotic Movement Church. Or TSPM for short. In America we call it the 501c3 church.

If anything the anabaptist teach us that the church is a persecuted pilgrim church. That reality is being lived out by the house churches in China and Iran. That reality will soon be lived out by the church in America. Call it the remnant faith

bride church.

Bearmaster.

Re: - posted by roadsign (), on: 2012/5/31 13:09

Quote:

----- It's helped me to understand and hear things about the reformation which I hadn't known. Thanks for starting it.

I say thanks too. It gets us thinking. Here's my own thoughts:

I wonder why there is a need to take sides – to form a one-sided opinion – to either agree or disagree with people – to accept or reject. Is it necessary? It may be that we have more in common with the ones we disagree with than the ones we see ourselves agreeing with.

Why take sides at all? Why not allow all of them – along with the good and the bad, to teach us something about history/political thought, culture etc, and even to help us understand ourselves better.

One surprising discovery I made about the reformations is the propensity they had to make the preservation of the church as an institution their priority. Keeping (perceived) evil out was often more important than that each person grow in the gifts of grace. In that sense, nothing has changed even today.

Quote:

----- The reformers were wrong on the doctrine of baptism because they still had a lot of tradition in their head.

This is a good point. No one begins in a vacuum from a blank mind. The reformers had to deal with the Mother Church, and in view of the scope of the issues they wrestled with, we can surely appreciate the limitations. Yes, many traditions remained lodged in their heads – to a fault.

Of course it's always easier to see another person's faulty presumptions than our own – especially if they are from another era. And really, why would we ourselves be any different? Surely we have a number of well-embedded traditions and doctrines that we ardently cling to – even if biblical support is precariously sparse.

One more thought: In the bigger picture, could it not be that the reformers, in spite of their failings, paved the way for later revivals?

Diane

Re: roadsign - posted by proudpapa, on: 2012/5/31 13:20

RE: roadsign wrote

"One more thought: In the bigger picture, could it not be that the reformers, in spite of their failings, paved the way for later revivals? "

I think the answer is obvious. and one to be commended.

Re: - posted by Josef83, on: 2012/5/31 13:54

Proud papa>

Well Finney is different than Wesley, Ravenhill, Tozer etc..

If Finney taught that Jesus did not satisfy the wrath of God in the cross then I can understand why the reformers don't like him.

<http://youtu.be/GH29Tr7bAN0>

It's Finney he is quoting. So then I understand all the critiques coming from the reformers on that view on the atonement.

Re: - posted by ArtB (), on: 2012/5/31 13:59

proud papa on 2012/5/31 9:28:16

"Re: ArtB wrote

"So what happened to Luther as he got older so that he became a madman, viciously hating the Jews and calling for their death. Luther became all around bitter, hateful, and violent.

The answer is medical!"

Does the Bible associate psychological issues with medical or with spiritual??"

Tourette's Syndrome is clearly a medical caused disease. In medieval times such a person would probably be burned alive or being demon possessed.

I would not just say that Luther became bitter, hateful, and violent. I would add that Luther's mind became disoriented due to an extreme case of tinnitus, which could not be treated in the 16th Century, and his thinking became irrational and paranoid. And this led him to write awful and hateful things emanating from his no longer rational mind. He had become very mentally sick. As I stated before, he hired a bodyguard, not to protect himself, but to protect others in his presence from his violent outbreaks. Luther was well aware that he was mentally sick. Yet he kept writing very awful things because his disoriented mind deceived him. The longer Luther had Meniere's Disease, the more vicious his writing became.

I'm not an MD, I would prefer a Medical Doctor who is a Christian to answer your question,

Re: - posted by rnieman, on: 2012/5/31 14:00

Proud Papa you wrote:

"RE:Josef83 wrote

"I mean Romans chapter 9 is so clear and 9:6 is so clear that it ain't talking about nations!"

I agree with you that it is not talking about nations, I believe that is a weak argument. But it also is not the central theme of Romans nor is it the central theme of the Bible as what Hypertheology teaches. Read Romans Ch 1-8 to give the context for ch 9 or even within chapter 9 Paul gives the (reason) that Israel, which followed after the law of righteousness, had not attained to the law of righteousness. v 32 "Wherefore? (Because!!!) they sought it not by faith, but as it were by the works of the law."

I think corporate election is pretty clear here. For example In verse 21 of chapter 9 we read :

21 Or does not the potter have a right over the clay, to make from the same lump one vessel for honorable use and another for common use?

This verse is quoting from Jeremiah 18 which reads

1This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD: 2“Go down to the potter’s house, and there I will give you my message.” 3So I went down to the potter’s house, and I saw him working at the wheel. 4But the pot he was shaping from the clay was marred in his hands; so the potter formed it into another pot, shaping it as seemed best to him. 5Then the word of the LORD came to me: 6“O house of Israel(notice this is plural), can I not do with you as this potter does?” declares the LORD. “Like clay in the hand of the potter, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel.(plural again) 7If at any time I announce that a nation or kingdom(plural again) is to be uprooted, torn down and destroyed, 8and if that nation (plural again) I warned repents of its evil, then I will relent and not inflict on it the disaster I had planned. 9And if at another time I announce that a nation or kingdom(plural yet again) is to be built up and planted, 10and if it does evil in my sight and does not obey me, then I will reconsider the good I had intended to do for it.

Notice the use of the words “nation” or “kingdom” and the phrase “O house of Israel”

They’re all plural because they’re not talking about an individual’s salvation, but rather the corporate election of Israel the nation.

Now in Romans 9 we see this quoted, so my question to you is: Is God changing the meaning of Jeremiah 18 in quoting it in Romans 9 to mean individual election?

Tying this together with verse 6 Paul states that not all of ethnic Israel is spiritual Israel. This same concept applies to the church right now, not everyone is saved that goes to bible believing churches. Wouldn’t you agree?

The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you,

Russ

Re: - posted by ArtB (), on: 2012/5/31 14:12

KrispyKrittr on 2012/5/30 7:29:12, wrote:

"The Reformers also took the Bible away from the clergy and put it in the hands of the people to read and interpret for themselves. As a result a mass exodus (no pun intended!) from the Catholic Church began."

Krispy, Nice post Overall!

And you must give a lot of credit to the invention of the printing press. People began to actually read the Bible for themselves, and their Catholic indoctrination did not at all match what the Bible revealed about true salvation.

It is no accident that the invention of the printing press shortly preceded the reformation. Prior to the invention of the printing press, some reformers were making copies of the Bible by hand. Though that was admirable, the very few hand written copies of the Bible severely limited who could get their hands on the Bible and read and study the Bible.

Re: , on: 2012/5/31 14:19

Quote:
-----I would not just say that Luther became bitter, hateful, and violent. I would add that Luther's mind became disoriented due to an extreme case of tinnitus, which could not be treated in the 16th Century, and his thinking became irrational and paranoid. And this led him to write awful and hateful things emanating from his no longer rational mind. He had become very mentally sick. As I stated before, he hired a bodyguard, not to protect himself, but to protect others in his presence from his violent outbreaks. Luther was well aware that he was mentally sick. Yet he kept writing very awful things because his disoriented mind deceived him. The longer Luther had Menieres Disease, the more vicious his writing became.

Again, I strongly recommend that research be done from Medical Journals or books like Merck's manual, etc, that would put many minds at ease, that these conditions do not cause the phenomena that you are describing in Luther's extreme

psychological behavior.

"Very mentally sick" you said - Yes, he did become "psychotic" but not from "tinnitus nor Meniere's disease."

Tinnitus has become so common of an infirmity and no one has ever become this extremely "psychotic" as Luther was "psychotic" and no one that has tinnitus or gets it should ever be made to fear total insanity from it. Do the research so that this non-medical faulty diagnosis of what caused Luther's mental Extremes won't be perpetuated - for other's sake.

P.S. Neither disease changes a true Christian's "Doctrine" - neither.
Yikes!

Re: rnieman - posted by proudpapa, on: 2012/5/31 14:45

Re: rnieman. Thank you, I have never heard Romans 9 put that clear with the context of corporate election.

Re: , on: 2012/5/31 14:48

A careful study of Romans Chpts 9 through 11 will prove out that Paul is discussing his kinsmen, the Jews.

Rom 11:2 God hath not cast away his people which he foreknew.

Re: ArtB - posted by proudpapa, on: 2012/5/31 14:56

I asked "Does the Bible associate psychological issues with medical or with spiritual??"

RE: ArtB wrote "Tourettes Syndrome is clearly a medical caused disease. In medeival times such a person would probably burned alive for being demon possessed."

You avoided the question I asked what the Bible says?? I care less what Modern medicine believes!!

RE: ArtB wrote

"I would not just say that Luther became bitter, hateful, and violent. I would add that Luther's mind became disoriented due to an extreme case of tinnitus, which could not be treated in the 16th Century, and his thinking became irrational and paranoid."

You have revealed more about Luther than I had any Idea of.

Just because a man loses his mind does not excuse anything people loose there minds all the time what is left is what they are, They no longer have the clothes to hide it. Many are more loving and caring than they where before, others surprise us. once the mind is gone all that is left is the inner man would you disagree??

Re: , on: 2012/5/31 15:11

I'm not trying to be hard on Luther by what I've posted, nor hard on people with afflictions - GOD forbid, I could write a book on my own physical infirmities and the Christians that I know from support groups for those with physical diseases of many kinds. Besides, my heart has always been for caring for the sick since I was a child - so I pray that you'd see Art, that I'm not coming from a heartless position.

Luther, held on to some things like Mariology and other beliefs that wouldn't have helped him "spiritually" but I am glad that he pronounced salvation by grace through faith. Having lived with and around Catholics all of my life, there was a time that the Psychiatric journals did record the largest number of those that were institutionalized were Catholics. That's changed over the decades as Catholics became less "religious".

I just felt to alleviate any potential fears that could come from a person believing that "noise" alone will cause mental and doctrinal insanity. The Holy Spirit of Truth is much more capable than we give Him credit for. If we listen to the world's systems of so-called science or understandings - we do not get inner truth, but mere GOD-less theories.

Very much appreciate & respect your contributions and person, Brother.

Re: , on: 2012/5/31 15:18

Since Luther is being discussed and his medical conditions. I say conditions because he also had severe bowel issues plus digestive issues. But what of spiritual issues. One account says Luther saw a vision of the devil and he got angry and threw an ink well at him. I guess that would be appropriate for someone not trained in spiritual warfare.

But realize you are speaking of a man God did use to bring the church back to salvation by faith. So one wonders if Luther was afflicted by demons.

But then think of Smith Wigglesworth. An account says he was sleeping quite soundly. Satan came into his room. Smith sensed his presence. Woke up. Saw the evil one. Said "Oh its you". Turned and went back to sleep. Truly a man secure in Christ.

Bearmaster.

Re: , on: 2012/5/31 15:33

You made me laugh, Bearman. Now I know what's wrong with me. I was bottle fed Wigglesworth my first month of salvation. lol! I loved it! Faith to move mountains.

Well, anyways - I do have very bad tinnitus since '94 but I also have documentation from several Drs that I haven't gone nuts - yet. :)

BTW, I never did go to a Christian Psychologist when I left my Pastor's counseling. The revelation of his future heart attack was enough to keep my mind occupied on Pastor's problems over mine and 'that' is a sure way to stay sane as well - despite being physically sick & living in a cruel prison at the time - it is true that if we think of others, we ourselves are cared for by our Master, The Chief Protectorate and Physician.

Hey, we with tinnitus have a joke - we ask others - "My ears are making so much noise - is it bothering you?" or "... can you hear it?"

A Merry heart maketh good like a medicine. PTL!

LORD Bless you too!

Re: - posted by ArtB (), on: 2012/5/31 18:30

Dear Jesus-is-God,

I always respect your views.

My views on Luther's Meniere's Disease was from several medical reports that I read on the internet, but not from Wikipedia. They proclaimed Luther as an extreme example. How valid these comments were is beyond my ability to assess them.

I have, on occasion, had short bouts of internal ringing in my ears that lasted a very short time. It felt like my ear was looking for that sound and provided it. It did not come from anywhere else. I ignored it and it went away.

Based on what I had read about Luther from His thoughtful caring early writings to his insane horrific later writings, that the extreme extent of his sickness may explain his descent into madness.

Personally, I am not qualified to give any medical opinions. I thank you for your input related thereto.

I do believe that Luther opened the door for many Catholics to leave Catholicism in order to get back to the Bible as per his own example.

Re: , on: 2012/5/31 23:03

Hi Brother Art. Oh, no doubt that Luther did well. The video that was a dramatization of his life certainly convinced me of that.

My main concern was for the growing numbers of people that are developing tinnitus and Meniere's and that because of the tremendous increase of neurotoxins in our environment - that they don't get the wrong impression that they are doomed to insanity.

These diseases have the 'potential' to drive one to desperation - especially when all the Drs recommend are drugs that have worse side effects than the diseases themselves. I can understand taking a drug to counter-act nausea, if that drug was developed solely for nausea - but as you know, more times than not, the medical establishment hands out antidepressants like candy and I do not by any means recommend those.

I couldn't sympathize more with anyone with these illnesses and they are much more than mere 'ringing in the ears' - as you experienced and as you've more than likely have read - as I read in one of your posts. It can wake you up with pain in the ear(s) as well, when it's really loud and there's multiple frequencies - as I saw that you had posted as well.

GOD's Grace is sufficient, as He told Paul. I feel more pain for those poor folks with arthritis. People that live all day, every day in severe pain. GOD help them!

As one of our sisters here had posted, there are also people that are electronically sensitive and tinnitus also has been proven to be a neurological disease. I got my blessing from acquiring three strains of Lyme. But The LORD has been so close to me, it's hard to explain - but I believe you know - the grace that He pours out and our stretching to reach Him when ill. I do remember your post and feel that comradery of a fellow afflicted Christian that I feel when I'm with the others that are. Thorns in the flesh are going to be worth it when we see Him. GOD only knows what we'd have become or not become without them - dependent on our own brains or choices of actions would have been pitiful; in hind-sight.

His Great Love & Grace to you, Brother. Pray one for another.

Re: ArtB - posted by proudpapa, on: 2012/5/31 23:23

RE: ArtB wrote

"Based on what I had read about Luther from His thoughtful caring early writings to his insane horrific later writings"

I have to say, I did not know much about the Reformers up until the last couple of years and since that time it seems every time that I study about them something more disturbing is revealed, But I have noticed early on with the reformers they wrote a lot of good things and undoubtedly there is a certain respect that they deserve. We will never understand the spiritual forces that must have done everything it could to destroy them.

Re: - posted by ArtB (), on: 2012/5/31 23:27

"Jesus-is-GOD on 2012/5/31 20:03:1 wrote:

"Hi Brother Art. Oh, no doubt that Luther did well. The video that was a dramatization of his life certainly convinced me of that.

My main concern was for the growing numbers of people that are developing tinnitus and Meniere's and that because of the tremendous increase of neurotoxins in our environment - that they don't get the wrong impression"

Yes, I've caught on to this in your last post. I did not mean to cause a panic. My reading also led me to believe that it is quite treatable today. I am trying to backtrack based on what you shared. I do appreciate your very thoughtful posts on this matter.

Re: - posted by ArtB (), on: 2012/5/31 23:42

Thanks for your post, proudpapa. Yes the early reformers got the ball rolling to a back to the Bible and the true gospel of Jesus Christ.

However, I really like the works of today's apologists such as Packer, Tozer, Norman Geisler, Walter Kaiser, and others.

Re: , on: 2012/5/31 23:45

No panic here, Brother. But you've sure got me curious now about it being "treatable" - I've been to ENT Specialists, etc and they all say there's nothing they can do and the same with all the others that I know that have looked for help from Drs, even my Dad.

Discover magazine had an article about it not that long ago, saying that it's not in the ear but the brain. And I downloaded a Neurologist's research on it through SPECT scan photos - where it shows that the opposite side of the brain from the ear affected is lit-up.

All of this within this last year. So I'd be curious to read what you have.

Thank you, Brother Art!

Sorry to take this so far off-topic, Bearmaster & others.

Re: - posted by ArtB (), on: 2012/6/1 1:04

<http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/tinnitus/DS00365>

Although bothersome, tinnitus usually isn't a sign of something serious. Although it can worsen with age, for many people, tinnitus can improve with treatment. Treating an identified underlying cause sometimes helps. Other treatments reduce or mask the noise, making tinnitus less noticeable.

<http://www.tinnituscare.net/research.html>

http://www.emedicinehealth.com/tinnitus/page7_em.htm

<http://journals.cambridge.org/action/displayAbstract?fromPage=online&aid=8199469>

<http://www.tinnitus.vcu.edu/Pages/Papers.html> 2005

Read discussion page 19

<http://www.ccjm.org/content/78/5/312.full>

How tinnitus is treated by managing TMD

Tinnitus can be treated by managing TMD, specifically through the use of dental orthotics (splints, nightguards) to improve abnormal jaw mechanics and tracking.²³–25

Tullberg and Ernberg²⁶ treated patients with TMD and tinnitus using a variety of methods, including occlusal splinting, jaw muscle exercises, and relaxation. They reported that 43% of the patients experienced an improvement in their tinnitus after these interventions.

... etc.

Also:

<http://www.biomedcentral.com/1472-6947/10/42/abstract>

<http://www.theresia-altrock.de/texte/abstracts.html>

The next URL is Research Protocol – Feb. 22, 2012

Evaluation and Treatment of Tinnitus: A Comparative Effectiveness Review

<http://www.effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/index.cfm/search-for-guides-reviews-and-reports/?pageaction=displayproduct&productid=811>

I'll leave at these. Again, I am in no way qualified to analyze or offer a credible opinion on the above treatments. But reports like these lead me to believe there are treatments for Tinnitus.

I can remove this post once you copy it.

Re: I Reject the Reformers - posted by Trekker, on: 2012/6/1 1:13

QUOTE: "The protestant reformers persecuted and put to death those I consider the true believers of Jesus Christ."==BEARMASTER

Bearmaster, i am really at a loss to know what you are talking about. Martin Luther never put to death anyone. Neither did Calvin.

You state that the reformers were unbiblical but you haven't given any support for that statement, so i have no clue what you mean. Luther rebelled against the false doctrines of the Catholic church. What was unbiblical about that?

EDIT: Well, after some research on Calvin i find that there is a great deal of controversy about his life. As for the death of Michael Servantus, Calvin approved of his prosecution for heresy (Servantus denied the Trinity) but sought mercy for him when he was sentenced by the court to death by burning in that he asked for beheading instead of burning but the court denied the request and the man was burned alive instead. As i read about Calvin and the churches at that time i am left with the impression of a religious spirit...but that may just be my impression, i don't know.

Re: , on: 2012/6/1 2:57

Brother Art, you are a very thoughtful person. Thank you so much for this. Amazing that I've never read of the connection between TMD. I have that as well and that also began in at the same time.

Brother, I wouldn't remove this post. We have no idea who else your post may help. The Bearmaster won't mind. He has compassion on sick folk too and besides, it did start with the discussion about Luther ... which I have been thinking more about, thanks to you - because as you mentioned it - my main after-thought was, that they didn't know back then what was causing it and if I didn't know and was left to just imagine, I can see how the enemy could harass the person's thoughts with lies about what it could be. It's the not knowing, as they say, that could have caused tormenting doubts and all, back in those medically primitive years.

It's just that my faith is so settled into Romans 8:28,29 and believing that nothing happens to us that's not for the good of conforming us into His Image and what Paul said about his thorn and I wished that Scriptural relief for Luther as well - a better ending for him. You understand.

Last week, I was thinking about "The Saints and pain". Actually, I was talking to The LORD about it and asking Him why we are so afraid of pain and get so angry at it and I felt that He answered with - it's because of "self" pity and because we love our own flesh". I was thinking about it in regards to those that are being persecuted and how we would take it. How I run so quickly for the aspirin when my head hurts, etc. and asking the LORD why I was doing that.

I forget the name of the martyr but that story that someone posted here has stayed with me about him. The people that knew him, asked that he would give them a sign that he could bare the pain of being burned at the stake and he said that he would. After he had been in the fire for some time and just before he was engulfed - towards the end - he raised his arms above his head and I think he clapped his hands three times. Oh, Alleluia - What a Saviour, What a Friend!

I believe Romans 8:28 with all of my heart. Nothing is happenstance or coincidence. He's in it all, to teach us something or other and mainly to just put our confidence in Him alone - that He is Good. Like my foolish debating with you over Luther, led to you posting this help for me. Glory to GOD!

Bless your kind and patient heart, Brother, and may He Bless you with the confidence/peace that He's in it All!

Thank you!!

Re: - posted by ArtB (), on: 2012/6/1 7:36

Dear Jesus-is-God

May God bless you and heal you. I hope you checked out the other url's, particularly the last one, when you get a chance.

Re: Trekker, on: 2012/6/1 8:23

Brother I am not one to post and copy extensive links that would be wearisome to the soul. Another thing is I simply do not know how to copy and paste. Probably a blessing.

But you do pose a fair question. If you Google under Luther's writings against the anabaptist or Calvin's writings against the anabaptist you will find the answer. Different sites come up which quote how these men and their followers regarded the anabaptist.

I have also referred to The Anabaptist Story by William Estep and The Reformers and Their Steadfast Children by Leonard Verduin. Both these books were written in the 1960's and document the attitude of the reformers toward the anabaptist.

Also you can listen to Denny Kenniston's audio series on the anabaptist. That can be downloaded off of Sermon Index.

Hope this helps.

Bearmaster.

Re: - posted by elected (), on: 2012/6/1 8:38

Trekker wrote:

"Bearmaster, I am really at a loss to know what you are talking about. Martin Luther never put to death anyone. Neither did Calvin."

With all due respect for Calvin as a reformer and a man used by God to advance his kingdom, I'm not prejudiced to deny the historical truth concerning his case. The truth of the matter is, he is guilty in consenting to the death of a heretic called Servetus, for those who want facts from original sources here they are:

Calvin had some personal issues with Servetus, in a letter to William Farel he wrote:

"Servetus has just sent me a long volume of his ravings. If I consent he will come here, but I will not give my word; for if he comes here, if my authority is worth anything, I will never permit him to depart alive (Latin: Si venerit, modo valeat mea auctoritas, vivum exire nunquam patiar).

The only disagreement with the others who were for his execution, was that Calvin wanted decapitation and the rest wanted the "unitarian" heretic to be burned at stake.

"I hope that sentence of death will at least be passed on him; but I desired that the severity of the punishment be mitigated."

"not permit him go alive" - Here is his intention made clear in his own words. We forgot that he lived in a non-tolerant age who was religiously fanatic. To show his devotion to orthodox christianity and his zeal against a heretic, he gave his consent and contributed by his influence to the execution of a man, just because he was a heretic.

Imagine what would have happened today if an influential evangelical leader was pro and supported the execution of a Jehovah's Witness or a Oneness pentecostalism, because they denied trinity?. We all will think this man is "out of his mind". Calvin and Luther lived in an age of non-tolerance and fanaticism and christians should take in account these historical circumstances and be as impartial as possible.

Durant, Story of Civilization, 2

Calvin to William Farel, August 20, 1553, Bonnet, Jules (1820-1892) Letters of John Calvin, Carlisle, Penn: Banner of Truth Trust, 1980, pp. 158-159.)

Re: Let us be clear..., on: 2012/6/1 9:12

Let us be clear on one thing. Sevetus was NOT an anabaptist. I doubt very seriously if he was a believer in Jesus Christ. There is no denying he held wacky views. Unorthodox views. Should he have been put to death for his wacky views? No. Was Calvin involved in putting him to death? I honestly don't know. I do know from reading about this time that those who disagreed with the established church, be it Catholic or Reformed, were considered heretics and put to death. This included the anabaptist.

When one reads the writings of Felix Manz, Comrade Grebel, Pilgrim Marpeck, Michael Sattler, and other anabaptists there is clearly a testimony of Jesus Christ. For that matter look at Martyrs Mirror. This is a work that gives an account of those defenseless believers who died for their faith. Most if the accounts were the anabaptist. These were the believers in Jesus.

So let us not put Sevetus in this sane group. I am sure that the anabaptist of his day would have repudiated his view. But the anabaptist would have banned him from their fellowships whereas the prevailing trend was to burn all heretics. Such was the church state institution of that time.

Bearmaster.

Re: The Series By Denny Kenniston, on: 2012/6/1 9:30

I do mean to sound like a broken record. But if you are an audio person and reading these accounts are laborious and tedious. Then there is an excellent audio series by Denny Kenniston on early anabaptist history. These were a series of messages given in a tent meeting. So this is not dry history but relevant truth for our day. I find myself listening to these messages twice to get their full impact.

These messages are available on Sermon Index.

Bearnaster.

Re: - posted by rainydaygirl, on: 2012/6/1 9:33

Would simply seeking to follow the Lord Jesus be the best solution to this thread, I mean why declare that you follow after one side or the other why not simply declare to follow Jesus all the days of your life?

I often think about the way some pull out the words of another from years ago and use them to discount everything that person has said or done. I think it causes me to be very thoughtful and careful about what I post. Who know at some future date someone might come along and take away a few lines of what I said and declare things about me to. Something to think about, what we say and type does matter.

rdg

Re: , on: 2012/6/1 9:37

Interesting to note about Servetus...all anyone every says is that "Calvin murdered him."

Fact is, the courts tried him and put him to death. Calvin tried for years to show him the errors of his ways. Heresy was not the only crimes that Servetus was guilty of.

The fact is ALL of Europe wanted this man put to death for any number of things, and even the Catholic Church... which was diametrically opposed to Calvin on just about everything was in agreement with him about Servetus.

If we're going to be honest about history... then lets be honest. The fact is that if Servetus hadnt been put to death in Geneva then he would have been put to death just about anywhere else in Europe.

Not saying it was right! Just saying that all of Europe agreed with Geneva about this man Servetus. But those who hate Reformed Theology only want to talk about Calvin the murderer... who did not convict and condemn this man anyway. The courts did.

Krispy

Re: - posted by rbanks, on: 2012/6/1 9:55

Brethren we must realize that there is ugliness and bad things in everybody's past. What we need to do is praise and thank God for the light of Jesus Christ and what he has shown and forgiven us for in spite of our past sins.

There is not a person on earth other than Jesus who has not had to come to more light and realize he was wrong about some things but God is ever teaching us and renewing us to be conformed to the image of His Son.

We read about things people said and did in their past but what we don't realize is that the mistakes that many have made how they prayed and asked God for forgiveness.

I will go on record to say that Spurgeon, Wesley, Finney, and many others have said and wrote things in their past that later on they received more light from the Lord and realized that they were wrong about some things.

Brethren we are not to be followers of men but the Lord and His truth and when we read after any men we must realize that everything he said or did was not inspired of God because he is human. We need wisdom from God to be able receive from the Holy Spirit the inspiration so that we can be taught in the Word.

Re: - posted by Solomon101, on: 2012/6/1 11:06

@ Krispy-

Hey Krispy. Steak dinner offer still stands brother. How's the fishing in your neck of the woods this summer? Catching lot's of walleye and bass here.

Although I am gaining appreciation for your much more constructive posting I must still draw attention to this idea you put forth.

Krispy, you state,

Quote:

-----If we're going to be honest about history... then lets be honest.

While I certainly agree with the words but it does not seem you are willing to abide by them in the case of Calvin. There are more than ample records of his reign of terror. However, just to "be fair and honest" let's look at just a few of HIS OWN WORDS.

Calvin states

Quote:
-----"Whoever shall now contend that it is unjust to put heretics and blasphemers to death, knowingly and willingly incur their guilt. It is not human authority that speaks, it is God who speaks and prescribes a perpetual rule for His Church." John Calvin

He clearly in his own words states that those who are "heretics" should BE PUT TO DEATH. As you well know it was by HIS definition that he defined "heretic" and included any who disagreed with him on infant baptism as such. He clearly in his own words states that you should be killed for disagreeing with him on infant baptism or anything he deemed heresy.

In his own words, in the quote, we additionally see that if you did not agree with him on the need to murder folks for disagreeing with him on minute theological points YOU should be put to death also.

So.. Krispy. Calvin in his own words wants to kill those who disagree with him theologically and also kill those who think he shouldn't be murdering folks over a minor theological disagreement. IN CALVIN'S OWN WORDS.

Krispy... if we are going to be honest about history then let's be honest. Calvin clearly wanted any who disagreed with him murdered. He also wanted any that did not like it murdered as well. Honestly.

Oh, and lastly this. As to your thoughts that Calvin was not instrumental in the cold blooded murderous execution of Servetus. Again, FROM CALVIN'S OWN MOUTH

From Calvin's Letter to the Marquis Paet, chamberlain to the King of Navarre, 1561.

Quote:
-----"Honour, glory, and riches shall be the reward of your pains; but above all, do not fail to rid the country of those scoundrels, who stir up the people to revolt against us. Such monsters should be exterminated, AS I HAVE EXTERMINATED Michael Servetus the Spaniard."

No doubt about it. In Calvin's own mind and words.. HE EXTERMINATED Servetusnot the courts, etc. In his mind HE DID IT.. GLADLY! All for not being sufficiently trinitarian or thinking infant baptism was appropriate.

Aside from Calvin, hope you have a great Friday!

Blessings.

Re: - posted by rnieman, on: 2012/6/1 11:08

Calvin did actually try to work with Servetus to correct his theology but after Servetus returned a copy of Calvin's Institutes all marked up with what Servetus thought was error, Calvin changed his tactics with Servetus. Now it does have to be noted that heresy was considered a high crime of which the penalty was typically death. That aside, I turn to the anabaptists and see them being slaughtered for the sake of not conforming to this world. But I struggle with how Calvin and how he handled this. In our time Homosexual clergy is an issue, should we bow the knee to this and allow it or fight against it. Obviously fight against it, but how do we do this, do we put to death people that hold to an opposing view.

On October 27, 1553 Michael Servetus, the Spanish physician, burned at the stake just outside of Geneva for his doctrinal beliefs!(1), one of which beliefs was against infant baptism. John Calvin wrote his friend, Farel, on February 13, 1546 (seven years prior to Michael Servetus' arrest) and went on record as saying:

"If he comes, I shall never let him go out alive if my authority has weight."(2)

During Servetus' trial, John Calvin wrote:

"I hope that the verdict will call for the death penalty."(5)

1."On only two counts, significantly, was Servetus condemned -- namely, anti-Trinitarianism and anti-paedobaptism." Rol and H. Bainton, *Hunted Heretic*(The Beacon Press, 1953), p. 207.

2.Schaff-Herzog Encyclopedia of Religious Knowledge (Baker Book House, 1950), p. 371.

5.Walter Nigg, *The Heretics* (Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., 1962), p. 328.

I seriously wonder about Calvin. I'm not trying to start fights just my opinion, and something that I wonder. Could be worth nothing I seriously wonder if Calvin fit 2 Timothy 3:5

5holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; Avoid such men as these

Re: - posted by ArtB (), on: 2012/6/1 12:47

We are not followers of Calvin, Luther, or any other man - with the sole exception of Jesus Christ.

Reading my Bible, I came to the conclusion that God Predestined His children from the very beginning when He made the Cosmos and the Kingdom. I used both the Greek and the Hebrew to ascertain that the English words I read matched the meaning of the original writings.

Expressing my understanding of these things, some Christians called me a Calvinist, even though I had never read the writings of Calvin. Why read Calvin when I have God's word, the Bible. However, I simply thought that Calvin must have gotten it right on predestination.

Now I am reading in the post above that Calvin wanted Servetus dead for his belief against infant baptism - "heresy, lets kill Servetus" Calvin says. If this be correct, then I am definitely not a Calvinist. In this matter, Calvin's view is positively anti-the Biblical and Christ's teachings.

"But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, in order that you maybe sons of your Father who is in Heaven; For He causes the sun to rise on the good and the bad; And sends rain on the righteous and unrighteous. For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax gatherers do the same. And if you greet your brothers only, what more do you do? Do not gentiles do the same." Matt 5:44-48

I'm going to follow Jesus, not Calvin.

Proverbs 19:11 A man's wisdom gives him patience; it is to his glory to overlook an offense.

Proverbs 25:21: If your enemy is hungry, give him food to eat; if he is thirsty, give him water to drink.

Luke 6:27 - 28 Jesus: "But I tell you who hear me: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you."

Stephen's words as he was being stoned: Acts 7:60 Then he fell on his knees and cried out, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he fell asleep.

Romans 12:14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.

James 2:13 For judgment will be merciless to one who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.

Matthew 5:7 Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

Luke 6:36 - 37 Jesus: "Be Merciful just as your heavenly father is merciful. Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven."

My full allegiance is to Jesus only. I am His follower. Others may have helpful ideas, food for thought, but I will always re turn to the Bible in context, for validation.

Re: - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2012/6/1 12:56

Eat what is agreeable to you at the Lord's table, dear brother, and do it in peace (I Thessalonians 4:11).

Brothers and Sisters we try not to allow such discussions on Calvinism vs Arminianism just for the face that rarely if "ever" do they produce the "wisdom that comes from above"

"But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness." (James 3:17-18).

but rather sadly these discussions usually produce the "wisdom from below"

"But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. Such "wisdom" does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice." (James 3:14-16).

There personally is not merit to post a thread that you reject a theology and interpretation of Scriptures to a few hundred people on a forum like this. And for those that feel threatened by such things truly do not have a strong sense of the sovereignty of God because He will not let His truth fall in the streets in the end.

May we above all of this seek to serve another. I just made a blog post in this regard: "It's Not About You, It's About Another" - <http://www.greggordon.net/about-one-another/>

We are locking this thread.