

CHURCH HISTORY

Year Two (2018-2019)

Session One (September)

- A. A look at the medieval church
- B. A review of some early reformers
- C. Martin Luther in Germany

His famous doctrine of justification by faith alone meant that simply believing the Gospel was enough to justify anyone before God. This doctrine freed Christians from works of the law and from seeking grace within the hierarchy of the Catholic Church. By making sure that fellow Christians were informed of this “good news”, Luther sparked the reformation and the beginning of the Protestant Church. At last, the stranglehold of fear and superstition was broken.

Assignment

- A. Read chapters 23 and 24 in “Church History in Plain Language”, by Bruce L. Shelley.
- B. Write a 2 page reflection paper entitled “What the Priesthood of Believers Means to Me”. In your reflection, among other issues, focus upon the role of clergy versus the laity. I want your thinking on the subject. Research is not necessary or desired.

Session 2 (October)

- A. Zwingli and Calvin in Switzerland.
- B. The Radical Reformation.
- C. The Five Solas of the Reformation.

Assignment

- A. Read Chapter 25 and 26 in Shelley.
- B. Write a 2 page reflection paper entitled “My Theology of Baptism”. Address infant versus believer baptism and immersion, affusion or aspersion.

Session 3 (March)

The reformation in England and Scotland.

Assignment

- A. Read Chapters 27 and 28 in Shelley.
- B. It is Reformation Sunday and you have been asked to preach a sermon on this theme. Prepare your sermon informing the congregation of the significance of this occasion. You have all winter to prepare the sermon, which you will then deliver in front of the class in March or in some cases in May.

Session 4 (May)

We will discuss the reformation in Western Europe and The 30 Years War.

Assignment

There will be no specific assignment for the class, but some of you will be delivering the sermon that was assigned for March.