

WHAT IS THE PROTESTANT REFORMED RELIGION?

The Lord's Day 15th May 2022

Scripture Readings: James 1:21-27, Hebrews 9:6-15, Romans 12:1-2, Matthew 28:18-20, 1 Timothy 3:16, John 3:36, 8:12, Exodus 20:3, 1 Corinthians 10:20.

FIRSTLY, IT IS 'RELIGION':

SOME OBJECT TO THE TERM 'RELIGION': they say, "I'm not into religion", or, "I'm not religious, but I have a relationship with God". And they would brush aside 2,000 years of Christian tradition on the basis of their dislike of what they ignorantly see as an ancient, archaic, and inaccurate word!

THEY HAVE FALLEN FOR A MODERN ABERRATION, A DEVIATION FROM THE ANCIENT FAITH. And, in fact, they run counter to the very Word of God, because the Word of God does talk about religion, and interestingly enough, it doesn't talk about a 'relationship with God', well, not in those words anyway.

I would much rather use Biblical words, to accurately describe the faith, than to cheapen the ancient doctrines with wishy-washy modern words and concepts. By doing so, they bring the Almighty God down from His lofty heights far above all creation, and try to make Him a mere man like themselves. That may not be their intention, but that is what they do by meddling with sound Words and doctrines of the faith. The Bible uses Words like "communion" or "fellowship", and I believe they carry due reverence for the most benevolent and condescending act of God: that He became a man, and suffered as a man, and bore the very wrath of God due to sinners, so that sinners, rebels against God, like you and I, are redeemed, pardoned, and made children of God for ever!

THE WORD "RELIGION" IS A BIBLE WORD, AND A GOOD WORD, NOT EVIL: The true Words of God promote the fear of God (I'm talking about the Words of Scripture, given by inspiration of God in the first place, and then preserved by the Hand of Almighty God through all generations, as He promised – I won't go into that point right now, but let us keep it in mind as a foundational Truth).

THE WORD "RELIGION" ITSELF MEANS, A SYSTEM OF WORSHIP OR FAITH. According to Strong's, it means: assurance, belief, faith, fidelity.

THE WORD IS USED IN SCRIPTURE OF THE "JEWS' RELIGION" – which is Old Testament worship, and of course, that is finished, as we are now under a New Covenant in Christ.

THE WORD IS USED, BY JAMES, THE APOSTLE AND BROTHER OF THE LORD (SEE GALATIANS 1:19), OF TRUE RELIGION: James 1,

26 If any man among you **seem** to be **religious**, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's **religion** is **vain**.

27 **Pure religion** and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, **and to keep himself unspotted from the world**.

Clearly, according to the inspired Words of James, you can “seem to be religious”, or have ‘vain religion’, but you can also have “pure religion”. Hence, the Word “religion” is not a bad word. **In fact, James puts forth this word “pure religion” as being exemplary faith, concluding with those wonderful words: and to keep himself unspotted from the world.**

MANY ARE SLACK IN THEIR HANDLING OF SCRIPTURE – THEY ONLY HALF-READ IT: they look at what James said here about caring for the fatherless and widows, and they conclude that ‘religion’ is only humanistic ‘good works’, because they fail to read on, and see the bit about keeping **himself unspotted from the world**. But “pure religion” is not merely ‘good works’, true religion IS the Christian Faith, the real Christian Faith, which is real, both in theory and in practice – as James put it in **James 1:22**, “doers of the word, and not hearers only”.

So, to correct the popular modern aberration, we could say, that if you don't have religion, you don't have faith, you don't believe in anything, and if you don't have true religion, you are not a Christian, because the essence of Christianity is faith in Christ.

SECONDLY, IT IS ‘PROTESTANT’ AND ‘REFORMED’: It was the religion of all the churches of the Protestant Reformation in Europe: **Although different churches differed in non-essential points (e.g. water baptism and systems of Church government), the great fundamentals and essentials of the Scriptures are common, (i.e., regarding Scripture, God, man, sin, redemption, judgment, predestination etc.).** The Confessions of the early Presbyterians, Anglicans, Lutherans, Congregationalists, and Baptists largely agree! **Why?**

Because those people, those Churches, were all “reformed” according to Scripture – hence, “Reformed Churches”. It was Scripture that started the Protestant Reformation, and therefore,

These all “protested” against the errors and abuses of the Roman Catholic system – hence “Protestant Churches”. These words really mean something! **Therefore,**

THIRDLY, IT IS BIBLE RELIGION: *It holds Scripture alone as the very Word of God, the only, absolute, infallible authority. (No popes, priests, prophets, or human traditions, which disagree with Scripture).*

Hebrews 9,

6 Now when these things were thus ordained, the priests went always into the first tabernacle, accomplishing the service of God.

7 But into the second *went* the high priest alone once every year, not without blood, which he offered for himself, and for the errors of the people:

8 The Holy Ghost this signifying, that the way into the holiest of all was not yet made manifest, while as the first tabernacle was yet standing:

9 Which *was* a figure for the time then present, in which were offered both gifts and sacrifices, that could not make him that did the service perfect, as pertaining to the conscience;

10 ***Which stood only in meats and drinks, and divers washings, and carnal ordinances, imposed on them until the time of reformation.***

11 But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building;

12 Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption *for us.*

13 For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh:

14 How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

15 And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament.....

The Old Covenant was administered by many rituals and ceremonies, which all depicted spiritual truths, and when Christ came into the world, the types and shadows were no longer required, because He personally fulfilled them, He was always the substance, of which those rituals were mere types.

*Therefore, the apostle Paul, in Hebrews, explains that transformation to the New Covenant, the new order, which he calls **the time of reformation.***

IN THE DAY CHRIST APPEARED, THE CHURCH OF GOD WAS REFORMED according to Christ's New Covenant.

IN THE HISTORIC PROTESTANT REFORMATION OF THE 16TH CENTURY, THE VISIBLE CHRISTIAN CHURCH WAS REFORMED again, because it had fallen into such a state of neglect and error, that it could no longer be called "Christian" – visible Christianity had become a 'political animal' which catered for every form of Pagan, political, and humanistic evil, while Christ and the

Scriptures were forgotten. Hence the Reformation began with the translation, printing, and preaching of the Scriptures. But,

THE CHURCH MUST BE CONTINUALLY REFORMED TO SCRIPTURE! Romans 12,
I BESEECH you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is your reasonable service.*

2 And be **not conformed** to this world: but be ye **transformed by the renewing of your mind**, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

*This is a good description of what being ‘Reformed’ means – **transformed by the renewing of your mind**, which is the result of continually hearing the Word of God.*

ARE YOU TRANSFORMED OR CONFORMED? Here is a startling thought – Christians who neglect the hearing of the Word of God, (whether that be in daily reading and prayer, or weekly worship, or both), are no longer being “**transformed**”, but begin to be “**conformed to this world**”! They are like a man whose blood is not receiving fresh oxygen: he can’t work; he can hardly breathe! There are only two choices for the human mind:

1. To be transformed by the mind of Christ, or,
2. To be decayed into conformity to the mind of the Devil himself, who rules this unbelieving world.

There is no third option! There is no neutral position. You either think like a sheep or you think like a goat, and “as he thinketh in his heart, so is he” (Proverbs 23:7) By the grace of God, we must keep ourselves awake, and be continually transformed, or reformed to the Scriptures, to the will of God. And unbelievers need this reform even more than believers. Hence,

PROTESTANT REFORMED RELIGION, AS BIBLE RELIGION, IS ALSO MISSIONARY RELIGION: Like Jesus, the apostles, and Protestant Reformers, it warns sinners of God’s wrath, urging them to repent and turn to God and Christ alone for free pardon.

All true reformers of the past have been missionaries as well: Wycliffe, Luther, Calvin, Knox etc., Carey, Livingstone, Spurgeon, Ryle, Paisley, Lloyd-Jones and so on. They all believed in the Great Commission:

*When Jesus met with His eleven disciples after His resurrection, He sent them forth with these words: **Matthew 28,***

18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.

The Church today is not exempt from this Commission, and it is only what we call “Protestant and Reformed” churches and preachers, who have faithfully carried it out. But today, the churches are in decline again, so the need is greatly increased for faithful preaching, because what the majority today think is Christianity, is not really Christianity at all, so the whole world needs to be evangelised again, in order to fulfil this Commission.

FOURTHLY, THE PROTESTANT REFORMED RELIGION IS AUSTRALIA’S NATIONAL HERITAGE: *Apart from being salvation itself, it is the basis of our blessings, liberties, and rights.*

Elizabeth II, at her coronation ceremony in 1953, as the Archbishop handed her the Bible, swore an oath to “maintain in the United Kingdom the Protestant Reformed religion established by law” – you wouldn’t know it would you? With the Mayor of London a Moslem, and the heir to the throne an unbeliever, married to a Roman Catholic, and wanting to implement population control! But Elizabeth represents the “Crown” under which the Commonwealth of Australia is constituted, and our Constitution also protects this “Protestant Reformed religion”, which in the U.K., is “established by law”.

Talk about Christians somehow losing the mind of Christ and being conformed to the world – here is a shameful example: we have ‘Christians’ advocating changes to the Constitution or a Bill of Rights, to somehow bolster what they call ‘religious freedom’, when true religion is the very foundation of our Constitution from the beginning! But, you see, self-importance (pride) gets in the way of the Truth. They like to feel they are creating something new, when all they need to do is recognise what is old and existing.

The astounding thing about this (for Australia) is that, by law, under our Constitution, Australian officials and members of parliament must swear or affirm allegiance to the Protestant Crown! And according to all the facts and traditions of the Crown, it represents Christ Himself, and the Protestant Bible is used in the administering of the oaths!

Can you see how stupendously important this is?

Can you see that practically the whole nation has committed mass-treason (not to mention blasphemy), by denying this foundation?

The most ironic thing is that ‘Christians’ pride themselves in giving liberty to unbelievers to practice false religion, while treading the ancient faith underfoot!

It's as if they are boasting themselves as being better than Jesus, because He does not tolerate false religion!

Can you see that, at the Federal election, in a few days' time, you are required to vote for suitable candidates to sit in the parliament, under oath to the Protestant Crown, and the Protestant Bible, and the Protestant faith?

To be sure, they are given the liberty to practice whatever 'faith' they choose for themselves, without being forced to personally practice the Protestant Reformed Religion, but that does not translate into liberty to repudiate the Protestant Constitution and Crown, which acknowledges Christ as Sovereign over Australia!

In view of this, I sincerely urge you to honour God with your vote, and not take it lightly, as if the Almighty God, on whom our founding fathers "humbly relied", is not interested in politics and elections, as if He doesn't care whether you vote for a lying fool, or a wise and honest man, or whether you have a say at all!

Speaking of the historical and legal fact, that Jesus Christ is literally named as Sovereign over the British Crown and over Australia, I want to highly recommend to you a priceless little book by Arthur Tuck, called, "Sovereignty in Australia". I have requested further copies, if they are available, and in the meantime, I've scanned the copy I have, so as to provide it electronically to those who request it. It is essential reading for all Australians!

FIFTHLY, PROTESTANT REFORMED RELIGION IS CHRIST'S OWN RELIGION:

IT IS CHRIST-CENTRED RELIGION: ("God was manifest in the flesh" – *1 Timothy 3:16*). Therefore, it is our only hope for eternal life, for help and comfort in this life, and as a basis for liberty, peace and justice in society, and lasting national prosperity.

YOU EITHER RECEIVE CHRIST OR REJECT HIM: "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him" (*John 3:36*). "I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life" (*John 8:12*).

CHRIST DOES NOT TOLERATE RIVALS, ALTERNATIVES, OR MULTICULTURALISM: "Thou shalt have no other gods before me" (*Exodus 20:3*). "The things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils and not to God" (*1 Corinthians 10:20*).

God help us all to remember, that the Protestant Reformed religion, established by law in the United Kingdom, handed to us by our forefathers with the King James Bible, is life itself, and ought to be defended with our own lives, to our dying breath! We have the greatest gifts this world affords – God help us to appreciate it! Amen.

