

Church and the Reformation: The Impact and Implications of Reformation (Galatians 1:6-12; Philippians 1:27-30; Jude 17-23)

Introduction

What does the 16th century Protestant Reformation really mean to us? What does it mean by we are a Reformed church?

- The Reformation recaptured the light of the gospel that was brought in the Church by the Prophets of the Old Testament and the Apostle of the New.
- This gospel was centered around Christ and Christ alone—salvation is by grace through faith and repentance.
- There was a dark period in the Church where a man centered gospel was preached—salvation is by the works of man.
- The motto of Reformation was, in Latin, “Post Tenebras Lux,” means, “After Darkness, Light.”
- It was in October 31, 1517, that Martin Luther, a former Augustinian monk and lecturer in Wittenberg University, Germany, put up the famous 95 theses at the Wittenberg church doors. Luther was responding to the evil doctrines and corrupt practices of the dominant Roman Catholic Church those days. This sparked the great Protestant Reformation Movement of the 16th century.
- Through this, Luther and other reformers whom God raised in different parts of Europe, recaptured the old gospel—Luther in Germany; William Tyndale, Thomas Cranmer, and the Puritans in England; Ulrich Zwingli and John Calvin in Switzerland; John Knox in Scotland; and John Calvin in France.
- Later, from Europe, it spread to other continents, to America, to Asia, and to Africa.
- This year is the 504th anniversary of this great historic event, and today is that day, October 31!

What is the impact of the Reformation on us?

- We call ourselves a “Reformed” church. It does not mean that we are perfect in every sense of the Church. Rather, we are a reforming church.
- We are “Reformed” in the sense that we too want to recapture the old gospel—we want to live a Christian life that is according to the old gospel, we want to live for this old gospel, and we want to pass on this old gospel.
- When we recapture the purity of the gospel, our lives and the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ be greatly impacted.
- There are three areas the Reformation has impacted us: (1) Purity of Doctrines; (2) Purity of the Church; and (3) Purity of Lives.
- As a church, Covenant wants to be a mouthpiece of this purity. This is the reason we call ourselves a “Reformed” church—we want to follow the Reformation tradition, which is purely a biblical tradition.

Galatians 1:6-12

Philippians 1:27-30

Jude 17-23