



Reformation Sunday (10/27/19)

Introduction:

I. WHERE DID THE PURITANS COME FROM AND HOW ARE WE RELATED?

A. Roots in 16th Century Reformation

The Five Solas:

Sola Scriptura

Sola Gratia

Sola Fide

Solus Christus

Soli Deo Gloria

B. Development in 17th Century England

The Church of England and Henry VIII (1491-1547)

Act of Uniformity (1559)

The Great Ejection (1662)

Non-Conformists

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C. Spread in 17-18th Century America

“Separatists” and Scrooby (1607)

William Brewster and Plymouth Colony (1620)

John Winthrop and “The Great Migration” (1629)

Roger Williams and Providence Plantation (1636)

Jonathan Edwards (1703-1758)

Significant American Puritans

William Brewster (1568-1644)

John Robinson (1576-1625)

John Winthrop (158-1649)

Roger Williams (1603-1683)

Richard Mather (1596-1669)

Increase Mather (1639-1723)

Cotton Mather (1663-1728)

Anne Hutchinson (1591-1643)

Thomas Hooker (1586-1647)

John Harvard (1607-1638)

Jonathan Dickinson (1688-1747)

Jonathan Edwards (1703-1758)

II. WHY DO WE NEED THE PURITANS?

1) They teach us what it means to “pursue godliness”.

I Timothy 2:2
I Timothy 2:10
I Timothy 3:16
I Tim 4:7-8
I Timothy 6:3-6
I Timothy 6:11
II Timothy 3:5
Titus 1:1
II Peter 1:3
II Peter 3:11

“The Puritans, by contrast, as a body were giants. They were great souls serving a great God. In them clear-headed passion and warm-hearted compassion combined. Visionary and practical, idealistic and realistic too, goal-oriented and methodical, they were great believers, great hopers, great doers, and great sufferers.... The Puritans’ battles against the spiritual and climatic wildernesses in which God set them produced a virility of character, undaunted and unsinkable, rising above discouragement and fears, for which the true precedents and models are men like Moses, and Nehemiah, and Peter after Pentecost, and the apostle Paul.”
– J.I. Packer

2) They demonstrate the importance and value of submitting to the exposition of Scripture.

I Timothy 4:13 - “give attention to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation and teaching.”

Typical Puritan sermon:
1) Biblical Text
2) Explication
3) Doctrine
4) Propositions and Reasons
5) Application

“Whatever we may think were the weaknesses of the Puritans there can be no denying that it was their activity which had led to a period in which theology was valued, when sound doctrine and fervent gospel preaching were esteemed, and when Bible reading and spiritual hunger were characteristic of large portions of the common people. It is equally true that after the silencing of the 2,000 [the Great Ejection], we enter an age of rationalism, of coldness in the pulpit and indifference in the pew, an age in which scepticism and worldliness went far to reducing national religion to a mere parody of New Testament Christianity.” – Ian Murray

3) They encourage us to not abandon the church.

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I Timothy 4:16 - “Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching; persevere in these things, for as you do this you will ensure salvation both for yourself and for those who hear you.”

4) They exhibit a God-honoring balance in Christian conduct in all areas of life.

Proverbs 4:23 - “Watch over your heart with all diligence, For from it flow the springs of life.”

Titus 2:7-8 - “in all things show yourself to be an example of good deeds, with purity in doctrine, dignified, sound in speech which is beyond reproach, so that the opponent will be put to shame, having nothing bad to say about us.”