



Reformation Sunday (10/25/2020)

Introduction:

“We need an Augustine or a Luther to speak to us anew lest the light of God’s grace be not only overshadowed but be obliterated in our time.”  
– R.C. Sproul

## I. WHY WE STUDY CHURCH HISTORY

- 1) because God is at work in history
- 2) because Jesus said He would build His church
- 3) because church history is our history
- 4) because sound doctrine has been guarded and passed down by faithful generations throughout history
- 5) because church history warns us of the dangers of bad doctrine
- 6) because we have much to learn from those who walked with God
- 7) because studying the past helps us understand the resources, opportunities, and freedoms we enjoy in the present
- 8) because history gives 21<sup>st</sup> century Christians a right perspective about their own place in the church age

## II. ON WHO’S SHOULDERS DO WE STAND?

- 1) those who labored to define biblical doctrine
- 2) those who were willing to stand against the flow
- 3) those who provided leadership to others in the struggles

**The Church Fathers** (AD 100-500)  
Apostolic Fathers (100-150)  
Apologist Fathers (150-250)  
African Fathers (200-375)  
Capadocian Fathers (325-400)  
Latin Fathers (350-500)  
**The Medieval Leaders** (500-1500)  
Monastics (500-1200)  
Scholastics (1000-1350)  
Pre-Reformers (1350-1500)  
**The Protestant Reformers** (1483- 1575)  
German Reformers  
English Reformers  
Swiss Reformers  
**The Puritans** (1558 - early 1700's)  
English Puritans  
American Puritans  
**The Evangelical Revival**  
In England  
In America  
**The Fundamentalists** (1890's to present)

4) those who gave their lives to uphold biblical doctrine

5) those who recorded the history for us

### III. HOW WE SHOULD VIEW OUR CURRENT SITUATION (a lesson taken from Psalm 11)

**A. DAVID'S TRUST** (vs 1a) - "In the LORD I have taken refuge!"

**B. DAVID'S TEMPTATION TO FLEE** (vs. 1b-3)

1. A Foolish Reason: "They're going to get you. The only thing you can do is run." (vs. 1b)

2. A Frightened Reason: "You're trapped. You won't be able to get away." (vs. 2)

3. A Philosophical Reason: "Things are falling apart. There's nothing you can do." (vs. 3)

**C. DAVID'S TRIUMPH** (vs. 4-7)

1. Based on God's Sovereignty (vs. 4a) - "We need a vision of God as entirely undisturbed in His sovereignty."

2. Based on God's Scrutiny (vs. 4b-5a) - "We need a vision of God as entirely aware of His creation."

3. Based on God's Severity (vs. 5b-6) - "We need a vision of God who is entirely terrifying in His wrath."

4. Based on God's Support (vs. 7) - "We need a vision of God entirely delighted in His beloved."

\* from Stephen Davey's sermon at Shepherds 360 Conference on 10/19/2020

**Meridian First Baptist Church** - Reformation Day Sermon (Pastor Randy Cook)