The Protestant Reformation: The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly

Session 5



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Introduction

I. Oct 31, 1517

II. 500 years

III. Far reaching impact

IV. Partial restoration

V. Restoration of a hermeneutic

VI. Selectively applied

VII. Subsequent generations applied consistently

VIII. Preview





Overview



I. The early church
II. The Alexandrian eclipse
III. The Dark Ages
IV. The contribution of the Protestant Reformers
V. The Reformers' incomplete revolution
VI. Reformed Theology today
VII. Dispensationalism & the completed revolution
VIII. Looking back 500 years later



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GREECE
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Pergamum
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Athens
Corinth
Sparta
Smyrna
Ephesus
Miletus
Sardis
BITHYNIA
PONTUS
Ancyra
PHRYGIA
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CAPPADOCIA
Antioch in Pisidia
Caesarea Mazaca
Iconium
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Lystra
Derbe
COMMAGENE
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Side
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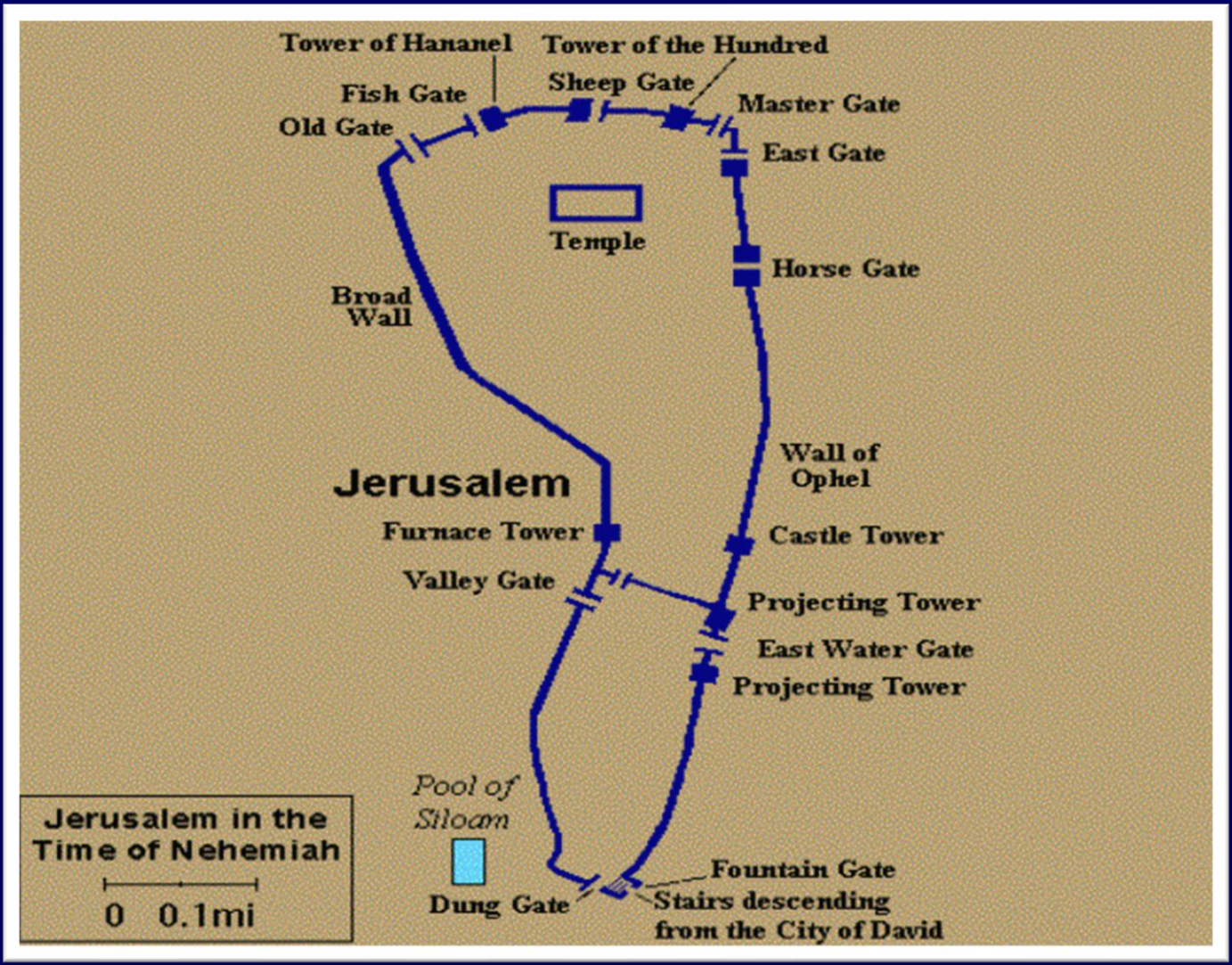

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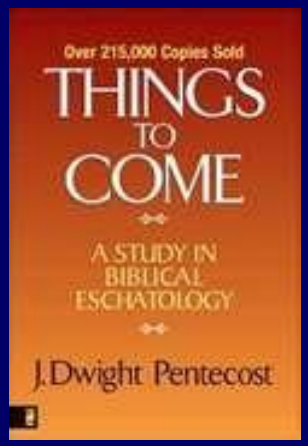
Dangers of Allegorization – Philo



Dangers of Allegorization
Gates of Nehemiah



Dangers of Allegorization



I. Text is not being interpreted
II. Authority is transferred from text to interpreter
III. There is no way to test the interpreter
IV. No mechanism for controlling the interpreter's imagination



Pentecost, *Things to Come*, pps. 4-5

What Caused the Shift Into Allegorism?

A. Need for immediate relevance

B. Incorporation of human philosophy into interpretation

C. Gnostic dualism (Gen. 1:31; 1 John 2:22; 4:2-3; Acts 17:32; 1 Cor. 15:12)

D. Decline of the church's Jewish population

E. Constantine’s Edict of Milan (A.D. 313)

F. AD 70 and Hadrian’s (A.D. 117–138)“Palestine”



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III. The Dark Ages (or the Middle Ages)

A. Lasted from the 4th to the 16th centuries
B. Obsolescence of prophetic studies
C. Domination of Augustinian Amillennialism
D. Only one church: Roman Catholicism
E. The Bible is removed from the people
    1. Allegorization
    2. Illiteracy
    3. Mass read in Latin
F. Sale of indulgences
G. Anti-Semitism
H. Church in need of rescue



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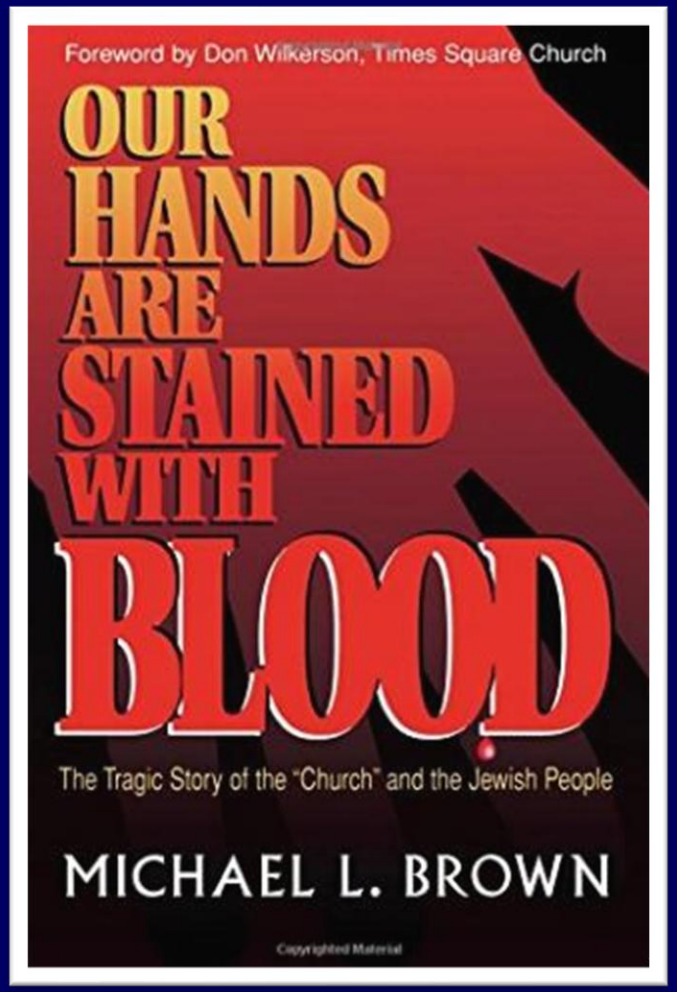
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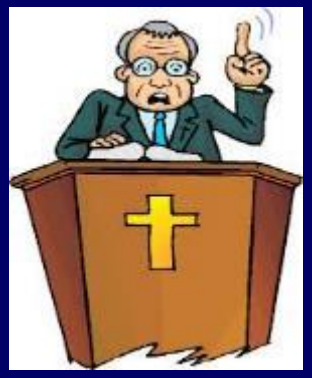
Matthew 16:18 (NASB)

“I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.”



Emergent Preaching

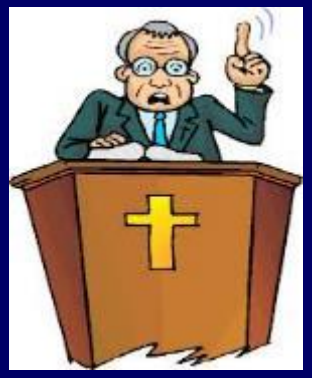
"At Solomon's porch, ***sermons are not primarily about my extracting truth from the Bible to apply to people's lives***...So our sermons are not lessons ***that precisely define belief*** so much as they are stories that welcome our hopes and ideas and participation" (Italics added).



Doug Pagitt, cited in Oakland, 41-42.

Emergent Preaching

"It ***<u>isn't</u>*** about clever apologetics or careful ***<u>exegetical or expository preaching</u>***…Emerging generations are hungering to experience God in worship" (Italics added).



Dan Kimball, *The Emerging Church*, 116

Emergent Preaching

"A spiritual Tsunami has hit postmodern culture. The wave will build without breaking for decades to come. The wave is this: People want to *know* God. They want ***less to know about God*** …they want new experiences, especially new experiences of the divine" (Italics added).

Leonard Sweet, *Soul Tsunami*, 420.

Emergent Doctrine



"…something ***<u>beyond a belief system or doctrinal array</u>*** or even a practice. I mean an attitude–an attitude toward God and our neighbor and our mission that is *passionate*."

Brian McLaren, *A Generous Orthodoxy*, 117-18.

- “Don’t give me doctrine, *just give me Jesus*.”
- “What really matters is Christ *not creed*.”
- “Devotion is important *and not doctrine*.”
- “What counts is our behavior, *and not our beliefs*.”



Most of these slogans were originally accumulated in Henry Holloman, “Prolegomena, Bibliology, and Theology (Part 1)” (unpublished class notes in TTH511 Theology I, Talbot Theological Seminary, Spring 1998), 9.

Rick Warren

Purpose Driven Life 34, 124, 183



- "God won't ask you about your religious background or **doctrinal views**."
- "Jesus said our *love for each other* - ***not our doctrinal beliefs*** - is our greatest witness to the world."
- "Today many assume that spiritual maturity is measured by the amount of biblical information and ***doctrine you know***."

Rick Warren

Purpose Driven Life 186, 231; *Purpose Driven Church* 300



- "The Bible is far ***more than a doctrinal guidebook***."
- "The ***last thing*** many believers need today is to go to another ***Bible study***. They already know far more than they are putting into practice."
- "My pastor has been in Daniel's seventy weeks longer than Daniel was!"

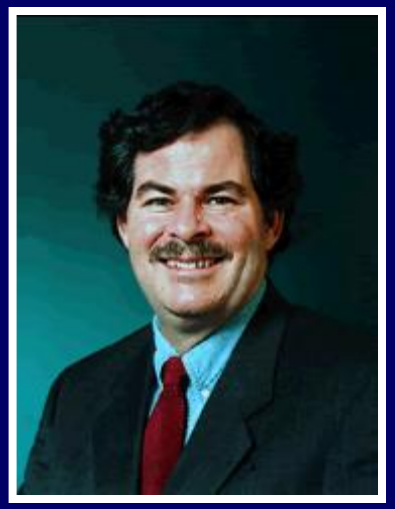
Biblical Preaching

- Biblical priority of preaching-Acts 2:42; 2 Tim 3:15–4:2; Matt 4:4; Neh 8; 2 Kgs 22

- New dark ages?



Emphasis of 2 Timothy



"By my count, there are twenty-seven explicit commands given in the body of this letter. In 27 words Paul tells pastors what to focus on. You have to be blind to miss the thrust of Paul's instructions here, because *eighteen* of those commands--fully *two-thirds*--have to do with the ministry of the *Word*.."

Daniel Wallace, "Crisis of the Word: A Message to Pastors or Would-be Pastors," *Conservative Theological Journal* 1, no. 2 (August 1997): 108.

Emergent Worship



Julie B. Sevig, *The Lutheran*, 9/2001.

"Post-moderns prefer to encounter Christ by using all their senses. That's part of the appeal of classical liturgical or contemplative worship: the incense and candles, making the sign of the cross, the taste and smell of the bread and wine, touching icons and being anointed with oil."

Emergent Worship



Dan Kimball, *The Emerging Church*, 186

"multisensory and interactive …Through various experimental elements as well as through the space itself, we can actually preach. Art preaches. Scripture preaches. Music preaches. Even silence preaches."

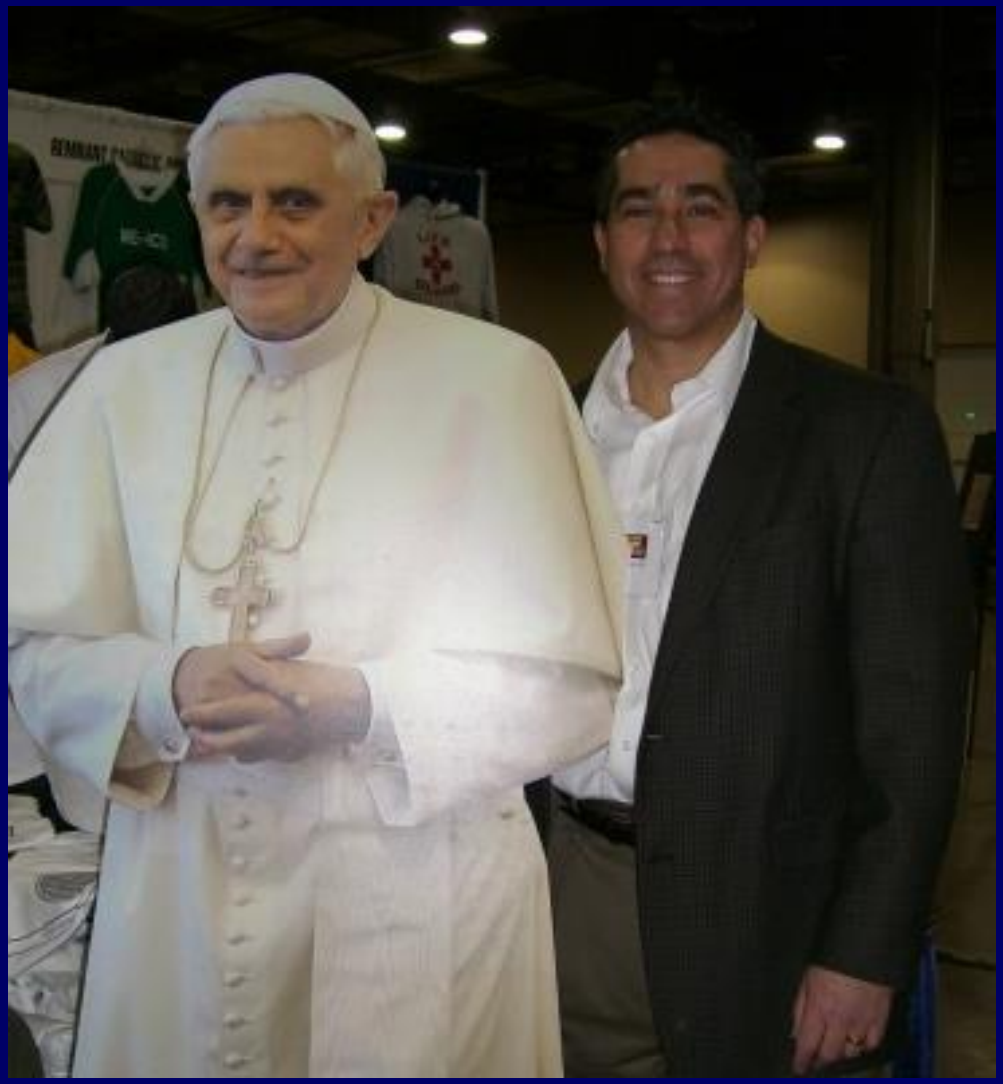
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Brian McLaren
A Generous Orthodoxy, 175.

"If Charismatics gave me my high school diploma in the ways of the Spirit, it was from ***Catholic contemplatives*** that I entered an undergraduate degree in the liberal arts of the Spirit."

Francis Beckwith



Acts 20:29

"For I know this, that ***after my departure*** savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock." (Italics added).



Emergent Worship

- Why not go back to the very beginning?
- Where in Scripture are we told that it is essential to embrace ancient liturgical and contemplative practices?
- Matt 6:7



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IV. Contribution of the Protestant Reformers



A. Preparation of the Reformers
B. Emphasis on literal interpretation
C. Denunciation of allegorization
D. Rejection of church tradition as a guide
E. Priesthood of all believers
    1. Bible translations
    2. Literacy
F. Basis for the American system of governance
G. Five *solas*
H. Rejection of celibacy of the priesthood
I. The ultimate sacrifice
J. Rejoice



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A. Preparation of the Reformers

1. Morning stars of the Reformation
2. God prepares His instruments
3. Legal background
4. Luther
    a. Consecration
    b. Monasticism
    c. Conversion
    d. Reformation



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THREE PHASES OF MOSES' 120 YEAR LIFE				
LIFE PHASE	**SCRIPTURE**	**YEARS**	**AGE**	**ACTIVITY**
Natural Training	Acts 7:23	1526–1486 B.C.	1-40	Egyptian Education
Spiritual Training	Exod. 7:7	1486–1446 B.C.	40-80	Midian Shepherding
Ministry	Deut. 31:2; 34:7; Acts 7:36	1446–1406 B.C.	80-120	Exodus, Law, Wilderness Preservation, Pentateuch Authorship

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Colossians 2:20-23 (NASB)

20 “If you have died with Christ to the elementary principles
of the world, why, as if you were living in the world, do you
submit yourself to decrees, such as, 21 “Do not handle, do
not taste, do not touch!” 22 (which all *refer to* things
destined to perish with use)—in accordance with the
commandments and teachings of men? 23 These are
matters which have, to be sure, the appearance of wisdom
in self-made religion and self-abasement and severe
treatment of the body, *but are* of no value against fleshly
indulgence.”



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Galatians 2:16 (NASB)

“nevertheless knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the Law but through faith in Christ Jesus, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the Law; since by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified.”



Galatians 2:20 (NASB)

“I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.”



Galatians 3:3 (NASB)

"Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?"



Galatians 5:16 (NASB)

"But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh."



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CONCLUSION

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