

50+ Sunday School Class

All Saints Presbyterian Church
Austin, TX

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Influential Leaders in Church History

All Saints Presbyterian Church, Austin, TX
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Summer 2020

Taught by Rev. Craig Chapman

Influential Leaders in Church History

Class Schedule – Summer 2020

New Series – Influential Leaders in Church History

- May 31 – 1: *Athanasius*
- June 7 – 2: *Augustine*
- June 14 – 3: *Thomas Aquinas*
- June 21 – 4: ***Martin Luther***
- June 28 – 5: *John Calvin*

Influential Leaders in Church History – June 21 - Luther

● **Aquinas to Luther**

- 1225 – 1274 AD – Aquinas
< over 200 Years >
- 1483-1546 AD - Luther
- 600-1500 – Medieval Church Period ... 2 Major Themes:
 - Rise of Papal Power
 - Church's Sacramentalism & Drift toward Semi-Pelagianism
- 636 - Islamic conquers Jerusalem & Damascus
- 690 – **Dome of the Rock** constructed
- 713 – Islam conquers Cordova, Spain
- 919 – Germany emerges
- 987 – France emerges

Influential Leaders in Church History – June 21 - Luther

● **Aquinas to Luther**

- 10th-16th C – chapters & verses added to Scriptures
- 1092 – Nicea falls to Islam - impetus for The Crusades
- 1095-1271 – **“The Crusades”**
 - In response to Islamic forces in Palestine, European militaries seek access to Christian holy sites
 - Preserved Europe from Islamic invasion
 - Church became Europe’s largest landowner when soldiers bequeathed everything to the Church based on its promise to care for their families
- 1099-1187 – Jerusalem captured & held as a Crusader State
- 1181-1226 – Francis of Assisi
- 1192-1291 – Jerusalem accessible as 2nd Crusader Kingdom
- 1302 – ***Unum Sanctum*** (“One Church”)

Influential Leaders in Church History – June 21 - Luther

- **Aquinas to Luther**

- 1320-1384 – **John Wycliffe**

- ~1343-after 1416 – **Julian of Norwich**

- 1369-1415 – **John Hus**

Influential Leaders in Church History – June 21 - Luther

● Aquinas to Luther

● 1438-1445 – **Council of Florence**

- Major contributor to classic Roman Catholic theology
- Makes explicit 7 sacraments
- baptism*—remission of past sins; spiritual rebirth
- confirmation*—grow in grace & strengthened in faith
- eucharist—sustained by its divine food
- penance—heals spiritually when sin sickens our soul
- extreme unction—heals us spiritually and physically
- ... 1st 5 are “for the spiritual perfection of every individual”
- church orders*—govern and spiritually grow the church
- marriage—physically grows the church
- 3 elements necessary for full administration: *things* (as matter); *words* (as form); *person* (minister performing)
- * - only once – imprints an indelible character on the soul

Influential Leaders in Church History – June 21 - Luther

● **Aquinas to Luther**

- 1453-1454 – Constantinople falls
 - Contributes to the Reformation because eastern scholars take Greek & Hebrew manuscripts of Scripture to the Italian academia, which lessens the Latin Vulgate's influence
- 1450 – Johann **Gutenberg** invents the printing press with moveable type—propagates old sources and new ideas
 - “Back to the Sources” – classical learning & languages
- 1466-1536 – Desiderius **Erasmus**
 - 1516 – published a Greek edition of the New Testament
- 1478-1834 – **Spanish Inquisition** to remove heretics

Influential Leaders in Church History – June 21 - Luther

● **Aquinas to Luther**

Summary of 16th C. Popular Roman Catholic Theology

- Salvation is accomplished thru semi-Pelagian synergism—salvation requires divine grace, which men can “merit” or earn thru human means, by faithfully following Church practices (penance; sacraments) or by purchasing “indulgences”—pope (or his reps) grant elimination or reduction of temporal punishment for sin.
- God demands payment for sin *from humans* and perfect holiness *within humans* before granting justification and salvation, which is mediated thru the Church (Sacraments)
- Authority comes from Scripture & Tradition (what the Church says Scripture means)
- Papal Infallibility was unofficially held
- Result: corruption & abuse of power (ripe for reform)

Influential Leaders in Church History – June 21 - Luther

- **Martin Luther**
(1483-1546 AD)
- Son of successful German business man (“Luder”)
- Law student □ Augustinian monk
- 1512 – Dr. of Theology & on faculty at University of Whittenberg
- 1517, October 31 – posts 95 Theses
- 1520-21 – named a heretic
- Married in 1525 & 5 kids followed
- Authored/adapted 450+ Hymns ... Founder of Protestantism



Influential Leaders in Church History – June 21 - Luther

Martin Luther – on his Conversion ...

- In the monastery he was overcome by his own sinfulness and the prevailing notion of God being full of wrath; he both feared and hated God.
- He was haunted by Romans 1:17—“*in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed.*” He wrote—“I could not believe that [God] was placated by my satisfaction [acts of penance]...I hated the righteous God who punishes sinners...”
- Looking back later he wrote: “*At last, by the mercy of God, meditating day and night [on Romans 1:17], I gave heed to the context of the words, namely, ‘In [the gospel] the righteousness of God is revealed, as it is written, ‘He who through faith is righteous shall live.’” There I began to understand that the righteousness of God is that by which the righteous live by a gift of God, namely by faith.... Here I felt that I was altogether born again and had entered paradise itself through open gates.*”

Influential Leaders in Church History – June 21 - Luther

Martin Luther – on his Opposition ...

- His 95 Theses (Latin propositions) questioned the Church's sale of indulgences (to shorten one's time in purgatory) in order to finance construction of Saint Peter's Basilica in Rome.
 - *“As soon as the coin in the coffer rings another soul from purgatory springs.”*
- 1520, July – Luther threw into the fire the papal bull naming him a heretic and wrote *Against the Bull of the Antichrist*
- 1521, April – Luther refused to recant before the Holy Roman Emperor Charles V at the Diet of Worms—*“My conscience is held captive by the Word of God. I cannot and will not recant, because it is neither safe nor right to go against conscience. Here I stand, I can do no other. God help me. Amen.”*
- Prince Frederick the Wise of Saxony hid Luther at Wartburg Castle where he translated the New Testament from Greek to German so the common man could read God's Word

Influential Leaders in Church History – June 21 - Luther

Luther's Protests Against Prevailing Roman Catholicism (7)

- **Scholastic Natural Theology**
 - God cannot be known sufficiently thru General Revelation & Human Reason (limited and sin-infected)
 - Romans 1:18—*all suppress truth by our unrighteousness*
 - Human reason says good works please God
 - Gospel “foolishness” says desperate dependence on God for everything pleases him
- **How God is Known & Salvation Accomplished**
 - *Sola Gratia*—human merit plays no role at all in salvation. Salvation is completely God’s gracious gift received by faith
 - Humans contribute *nothing* to their salvation
 - Church confuses God’s Law (demand) & God’s Gospel (gift)

Influential Leaders in Church History – June 21 - Luther

Luther's Protests Against Prevailing Roman Catholicism (7)

- **Human Will is Free to Cooperate with God in Salvation**
 - Contrary to Augustine's Doctrine of Original Sin, Divine Predestination & Monergism
 - Human will is a slave to sin (*The Bondage of the Will*)
- **Justification as Equivalent to Sanctification**
 - Augustine/RCC—one is not justified (righteous) until all sin is purged from one's life (through sanctification)
 - Luther—one is justified upon belief in Christ.
 - *Simul Justus et Peccator* = “simultaneously righteous & a sinner”
 - But how? By the “sweet and wonderful exchange” of imputation
2 Cor. 5:21—*God made [Christ] to be sin who knew no sin, so that in [Christ] we might become the righteousness of God.*
 - Eph 2:8-10—“By grace you're saved thru faith...created in Christ for good works”, which flow as evidence of justification

Influential Leaders in Church History – June 21 - Luther

Luther's Protests Against Prevailing Roman Catholicism (7)

- [Above 3: *Sola Gratia...Sola Fide...Solus Christus*]
- **View of Authority**
 - RCC—Scripture *and* Tradition (Church/Pope)
 - Augustine—Scripture is *above* Tradition and is the *sole* authority (*Sola Scriptura*)
- **Elevation of the Clergy**
 - Any Christian has a right to know, study & teach God's Word, & perform the sacraments (*Priesthood of Believers*)
- **Doctrine of the Sacraments**
 - Rejected Transubstantiation & 5 Sacraments (accepted 2)
 - Rejected *ex opera operato* (effective *by the work worked*). Instead, a sacrament is only effective if faithfully received.

Influential Leaders in Church History – June 21 - Luther

Tidbits on Luther

- He did not seek excommunication or to start a new church; instead he just wanted the church to wash its dirty face.
- His manner (caustic, arrogant, belligerent, tactless) was like a bull in a china shop, which intensified with age & infirmity
- In 1536 he began to suffer from kidney and bladder stones, arthritis, an ear infection and ruptured ear drum, and later, angina. Such poor health led to a shorter temper and greater harshness and stridence in his comments and writings.
- Later writings name the pope as the Antichrist, condone polygamy, and advocate for expulsion of Jews from the empire.
- Generally, he was an insult machine. Each time you tap “Insult me again” at this website you receive another of his insults:
<http://ergofabulous.org/luther/>
- The next slide memorializes a few choice selections

Influential Leaders in Church History – June 21 - Luther

Select Insults of Luther

- "You people are more stupid than a block of wood."
- "For you are an excellent person, as skillful, clever, and versed in Holy Scripture as a cow in a walnut tree or a sow on a harp."
- "A natural donkey, which carries sacks to the mill and eats thistles, can judge you—indeed, all creatures can! For a donkey knows it is a donkey and not a cow. A stone knows it is a stone; water is water, and so on through all the creatures. But you mad asses do not know you are asses."
- "Even if the Antichrist appears, what greater evil can he do than what you have done and do daily?"
- "You say, "What comes out of our mouth must be kept!" I hear it—which mouth do you mean? The one from which the farts come? (You can keep that yourself!)"

Influential Leaders in Church History – June 21 - Luther

Select Wisdom & Humor of Luther

- *[Regarding temptation:] You cannot hinder the birds in the air from flying over your head; but you can prevent them from building a nest in your hair...*
- *Who loves not wine, women, and song remains a fool his whole life long.*
- *I have held many things in my hands and I have lost them all. But whatever I have placed in God's hands, that I still possess.*
- *Learn to know Christ and him crucified. Learn to sing to him and say, "Lord Jesus, you are my righteousness, I am your sin. You took on you what was mine; yet set on me what was yours. You became what you were not, that I might become what I was not.*
- *Affliction is the Christian's theologian... I never knew the meaning of God's Word until I came into affliction.*

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- Question:
What difference should this make on Monday?

Prayer Requests

Next Week

- June 28 – John Calvin