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The Blessings of Reformed Theology

The Security of Scripture and The Comfort of God's Sovereignty

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The Security of Scripture

We find security in the Bible because it is the Word of God.

2 Timothy 3:16-17:¹⁶ All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. (ESV)

Reformed Theology affirms that the Bible is the very Word of God

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a. Westminster Confession of Faith Chapter I.1. Although the light of nature, and the works of creation and providence, do so far manifest the goodness, wisdom, and power of God, as to leave men inexcusable; yet they are not sufficient to give that knowledge of God, and of his will, which is necessary unto salvation: therefore it pleased the Lord, at sundry times, and in divers manners, to reveal himself, and to declare that his will unto his Church; and afterwards, for the better preserving and propagating of the truth, and for the more sure establishment and comfort of the church against the corruption of the flesh, and the malice of Satan and of the world, to commit the same wholly unto writing; which maketh the Holy Scripture to be most necessarily; those former ways of God's revealing his will unto his people being now ceased.

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Reformed Theology teaches that the Bible is the Inspired, Infallible, Inerrant, Sufficient, Authoritative Word of God.

- 1. God Speaks with Authority – the Inspiration of Scripture**
- 2. God Speaks Truthfully – The Inerrancy of Scripture**
- 3. God Speaks to Be Heard – The Clarity of Scripture**
- 4. God's Speech Is Enough – The Sufficiency of Scripture**

Matthew Barrett, God's World Alone-The Authority of Scripture

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Therefore, Reformed Theology is a blessing for it assures us that we can trust the truth of God's Word giving us a sure, certain, secure foundation for life.

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We find Security in the Bible for it reveals God as He is.

Reformed Theology affirms that God has revealed Who He is.

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Larger Catechism Q7 . What is God? God is a Spirit, in and of Himself infinite in being, glory, blessedness, and perfection; all-sufficient, eternal, unchangeable, incomprehensible, everywhere present, almighty, knowing all things, most wise, most holy, most just, most merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth.

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Therefore, Reformed Theology is a blessing for it assures us we know the one true God who has revealed Himself in His Word, By His Spirit and In Jesus.

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We find Security in the Scriptures for it reveals who we are.

Reformed Theology affirms (Total Depravity) that man's whole nature is corrupted by sin, and He is unable to save Himself.

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Shorter Catechism Questions 18 and 19. 18, The sinfulness of that estate whereinto man fell, consists in the guilt of Adam's first sin, the want of original righteousness, and the corruption of his whole nature, which is commonly called original sin; together with all actual transgressions which proceed from it. 19. All mankind, by their fall, lost communion with God, are under His wrath and curse, and so made liable to all miseries in this life, to death itself, and to the pains of hell forever.

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Therefore, Reformed Theology is a blessing for it shows us we are lost apart from Christ, and we see that our only hope is in His grace in Christ.

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We find Security in the Scriptures for they reveal God's eternal Covenant of Redemption.

Reformed Theology affirms that Covenant:

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Westminster Confession of Faith Chapter VII:1 The distance between God and the creature is so great, that although reasonable creatures do owe obedience unto Him as their Creator, yet they could never have any fruition of Him, as their blessedness and reward, but by some voluntary condescension on God's part, which He hath been pleased to express by way of covenant.

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Therefore, Reformed Theology is a blessing for it assures us that God is faithful to His eternal Covenant. We can rest in God's Faithfulness. He will keep every promise made to His people.

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We find Security in the Bible for it reveals the Way of Salvation through the grace of God through faith in Jesus

Reformed Theology affirms salvation is by:

Sola Fide – Faith Alone

Sola Gratia – Grace Alone

Sola Christus – Christ Alone

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We find security in The Bible for it reveals who we are in Christ and makes clear His purpose for His People.

Reformed Theology affirms this purpose:

Westminster Shorter Catechism:

Q1: What is the chief end of man?

A1: Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy Him forever.

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Therefore, a blessing of Reformed Theology is that we know our purpose in life. We know why we're here. We are to glorify God in all we do and enjoy our relationship with Him.

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We find Security in the Bible for it reveals how we should and can live.

Reformed Theology emphasizes this truth

Slide # 19 Westminster Shorter Catechism:

Q2: What rule hath God given to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy Him?

A2: The Word of God, which is contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments is the only rule to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy Him.

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Q3: What do the Scriptures principally teach?

A3: The Scriptures principally teach what man is to believe concerning God, and what duty God requires of man.

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J. Gresham Machen - “the Scriptures principally teach, first, what man is to believe, and second, what man is to do. It puts truth before conduct, doctrine before life. It makes truth the foundation of conduct and doctrine the foundation of life.”

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John Calvin – We ought surely to seek from the Scripture a rule for thinking and speaking. To this yardstick all thoughts of the mind and all words of mouth must be conformed

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Therefore, Reformed Theology is a blessing for it sets before us the clear and certain guide of Scripture as to how we are to live personally, in families, in the church and in society. We are not left to wander through life. It assures us that by the power of the Holy Spirit that a life of faith and service is possible.

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The Comfort of God's Sovereignty

One of the great truths taught in the Scriptures and affirmed by Reformed theology is the truth that God is sovereign over everything.

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“The believer’s comfort in trouble is that in everything they endure is ordained and commanded by God and that they are in His hands. Everything that could harm them is under His control, even Satan, with all his malevolence, is on a tight rein and no danger can threaten a believer unless God wills it. This is the only way in which wild and faithless fears aroused by the dangers which surround us can be quieted.” **John Calvin**

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There is no attribute of God more comforting to His children than the doctrine of Divine Sovereignty. Under the most adverse circumstances, in the most severe troubles, they believe that Sovereignty has ordained their afflictions, that Sovereignty overrules them, and that Sovereignty will sanctify them all.

Charles Spurgeon

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His sovereignty extends over all things great or small.

²⁹ Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. ³⁰ But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. ³¹ Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows. (Matt. 10:19-31 ESV)

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Westminster Confession of Faith – Chapter V Providence

1. God, the great Creator of all things, doth uphold, direct dispose, and govern all creatures, actions, and things, from the greatest even to the least, by His most wise and holy providence, according to His infallible foreknowledge, and the free and immutable counsel of His own will, to the praise of the glory of His wisdom, power, justice, goodness, and mercy.

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Heidelberg Catechism Q1 What is thy only comfort in life and death?

A. That I am not my own, but belong— body and soul in life and in death—to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil. **He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven; in fact, all things must work together for my salvation.**

Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him

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“This understanding (the understanding of Reformed Theology) of God’s work in the world, puts everything in perspective. Whatever national or global events are transpiring, whatever challenges or dangers the church may face, Christians—especially those who preach and prize the sovereignty of God—know in an ultimate sense what God is doing. We can make sense of the world because we know that God is sovereign, that everything is according to his good plan and will.” J. Master p.70.

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**NEXT WEEK: MARCH 22: Pastor Jonathan
PAGES 71-82 IN “REFORMED THEOLOGY”**

MARCH 29: Max Bolin

PAGES 83-103 Questions and Answers on Reformed Theology
