

Christ's Call TO REFORM the Church

- INTRODUCTION

In the opening chapters of Revelation, Jesus wrote seven letters to the churches

- Matt. 16:1, John 18:36, Romans 8:7

- MORALITY DAMNS

Morality on its own is no solution; it damns just like immorality

- Mark 2:17, Matthew 23: 13, 16

- THE TRUE CALLING OF THE CHURCH

There is no law that can make fallen sinners righteous

- Galatians 2:21, 2 Timothy 3:13,

- CALLING THE CHURCH TO REPENT

Calling the church to repent and reform can be very dangerous

- Mark 2:17, Matthew 23: 13, 16

THE GREAT EJECTION

- Puritan pastors repeatedly called for the churches of England to repent
- English Parliament issued the Act of Uniformity, August 24, 1662
- 2000 Puritan pastors were stripped of their ordination and permanently thrown out of their Anglican churches

- THE LEGACY OF THE REFORMATION

- After rereading the Gospel in Greek, and comparing it to the Latin Vulgate, Thomas Linacre wrote in his diary. "Either this (the original Greek) is not the Gospel...or we are not Christians."
- Johann Tetzel, "As soon as the coin in the coffer rings, the soul from purgatory springs."
- John Wycliffe, John Huss, Martin Luther (Romans 1:17, 3:21)
- The principle (*sola fide*) is known as the *material principle* of the Reformation – Faith Alone
- The *formal principle* of the Reformation, is *sola Scriptura* – Scripture Alone

- THE ALLEGED ADVANTAGES OF THE EARLY CHURCH

Small congregations, simplified organization, and proximity to the apostles did not give the early church the spiritual advantages and insulation we might assume.

- Acts 2:41, 42, 47

THE PATHOLOGY OF AN APOSTATE CHURCH

If Scripture does not speak with absolute, inerrant authority, the offer of justification by grace through faith cannot be extended to desperate sinners

- 2 Cor. 5:21, Gal 3:1

AN APOSTLE IN EXILE

- Christ dictates a message through the apostle John to the seven churches in Asia Minor
- From the letters Christ dictated to the individual churches, we know they were engaged in a variety of sinful behaviors, including sexual immorality, idolatry, and hypocrisy
- Revelation 1:11, John 15:18, 20, Revelation 1:9, 2 Timothy 1:8, 13-14, 1, 3, 15-17, 22-23, 2 Timothy 3:1-5, 13, Romans 16:17-18, 2 Timothy 4:3-4, Acts 20:29-31

JUDGMENT FOR THE HOUSEHOLD OF GOD

- What he saw was the glorified Christ, appearing as ruler, judge, and executioner.
- John saw the Lord in all His glory as the Head of the church, ready to mete out righteous judgment—not on the world, but on His church
2 Timothy 3:12, 1 John 3:13, Revelations 1:17, 2:5, 16, 22, 3:3, 9, 1 Peter 4:17