

# Reformed Theology

A Kenwood Hall Anchor Class  
Spring 2023



Instructor: Dr. Kyle D. Claunch

Welcome to Kenwood Hall, a ministry of the Kenwood Institute. This twelve-week Anchor Class is a systematic study of the theological convictions of Reformed Theology. The class will cover the doctrine of God, the doctrine of Scripture, doctrine of the person and work of Christ, and the doctrine of salvation from a theologically and historically Reformed perspective.

## Class Schedule

We will meet at Kenwood Baptist Church on Friday mornings from 8am – 9am from February 2 through April 26. We will *not* meet on April 5 for Spring Break.

**Class will begin promptly at 8am each week.**

## Class Objectives

Over the course of the next twelve weeks, you will:

1. Understand and appreciate the “location” of Reformed Theology in the broader framework of Christian theological traditions.
2. Gain a strong familiarity with the Christian heritage of classical theism.
3. Gain a strong familiarity with the Christian heritage of classical Christology.
4. Appreciate the value of Christian theological tradition under the banner of *Sola Scriptura*.
5. Understand the Protestant doctrine of justification by faith and see the folly of alternative proposals.
6. Understand the classic five points of Calvinism from a biblical and historical perspective.

## Required Texts

An English translation of the Bible such as ESV, NASB, CSB, NIV, etc.

Sproul, R.C. *What is Reformed Theology? Understanding the Basics* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1997, reprint 2016). \*\*Provided by Kenwood Institute.

Selected readings from 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century Reformed authors. Included: John Calvin, John Owen, Francis Turretin, *The Canons of the Synod of Dort*, *The Synopsis of a Purer Theology* (by the faculty of the University of Leiden, Netherlands). \*\*Provided by the Instructor.

## Recommended Texts for Further Reading

The following books are trusted resources from deep in the Reformed tradition. Some are written by contemporary authors but most are written a long time ago. In this way, we are keeping with the Reformation principle, *ad fontes*, “to the sources!”

### **16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> Century Authors:**

John Calvin, *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, ed. John T. McNeill, trans. Ford Lewis Battles (Philadelphia: Westminster, 1960).

Francis Turretin, *Institutes of Elenctic Theology*, ed. James T. Dennison, Jr., trans. George Musgrave Giger (Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R, 1997).

John Owen, *The Works of John Owen*, Vol. 10: *The Death of Christ*, ed. Richard Goold (Edinburg: Banner of Truth, 1991).

This volume contains *A Display of Arminianism*, *The Death of Death in the Death of Christ*, and *A Dissertation on Divine Justice*, all of which are of great value for understanding the Reformed faith as taught in Scripture.

Petrus Van Mastricht, *Theoretical Practical Theology*, ed. Joel R. Beeke, trans. Todd M. Rester, 4 Vols. (so far) (Grand Rapids: RHB, 2022-23).

*Synopsis of a Purer Theology*, ed. William Den Boer and Riemer A. Faber, trans. Riemer A. Faber, 2 Vols. (Davenant Press, 2023).

### **18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Century Authors:**

Herman Bavinck, *Reformed Dogmatics*, ed. John Bolt, trans. John Vriend, 4 Vols. (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2008).

John Gill, *A Body of Divinity* – various editions are available from several publishers.

John Dagg, *A Manual of Theology* – various editions are available from several publishers.

**Contemporary Secondary Sources:**

Michael Allen and Scott Swain, *Reformed Catholicity: The Promise of Retrieval for Theology and Biblical Interpretation* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2015).

Richard Muller, *Post-Reformation Reformed Dogmatics: The Rise and Development of Reformed Orthodoxy, ca. 1520 to 1725*, 4 Vols, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2003).

\_\_\_\_\_. *Dictionary of Latin and Greek Theological Terms Drawn Principally from Protestant Scholastic Theology*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2017).

Shawn Wright, *40 Questions About Calvinism* (Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2019).

**Reformed Confessions of Faith:**

The Three Forms of Unity of the Dutch Reformed Churches

The Belgic Confession (1561)

The Heidelberg Catechism (1563)

The Canons of Dort (1618-19)

2<sup>nd</sup> London Baptist Confession of Faith (1677/1689) – A revision of the Westminster Confession of Faith (1646 – Presbyterian) and the Savoy Declaration (1658 – Puritan Congregationalist).

The Abstract of Principles (1859)

## Class Requirements

### 1. Read R.C. Sproul, *What is Reformed Theology?*

You are required to read all of this book at your own pace during the 12-week course.

### 2. 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> Century Primary Sources

A reading from a Reformed author or group of authors is assigned each week of the class. Ideally, each selection will be read *after* the class period in which the topic related to the reading has been discussed. If your schedule requires, you may adjust this. But all assigned 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century sources must be read to receive credit for the class.

### 3. Writing Assignment

You are required to write a 4-8 page paper (12-point, Times New Roman, double-spaced) on one of the following topics (your choice):

1. The Reformed Doctrine of *Sola Scriptura*
2. The Reformed Doctrine of Justification by Faith
3. The Reformed Doctrine of Unconditional Election
4. The Reformed Doctrine of the Atonement
5. The Reformed Doctrine of Effectual Call
6. The Reformed Doctrine of the Perseverance of the Saints

In your paper, you are to do the following:

1. Give a positive description of the doctrine you have chosen.
2. Explain why this doctrine is important for evangelism, personal holiness, and other aspects of the Christian life.
3. Give a thoroughly biblical defense/support for the doctrine.
4. Answer objections raised against this doctrine.

Feel free to cite from sources other than Scripture in the writing of this paper, though such research is not required. It is required that you demonstrate an understanding of the doctrine and give support for it from Scripture.

## Instructor Contact Information

If you have any questions or issues during the class, please reach out to the instructor.

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## Class Schedule

Class Date	Lecture Topic	Primary Source Reading (provided as PDFs in class) To be read the week following each class session
February 2	What is Reformed Theology?  Broad Theological Considerations	
February 9	The Five Solas: <i>Soli Deo Gloria</i>  Classical Theism and the One God	Francis Turretin, <i>Institutes of Elenctic Theology</i> , Vol. 1: 181-205 (pdf provided)
February 16	The Five Solas: <i>Soli Deo Gloria</i>  Classical Theism and the Triune God (1)	John Owen, <i>A Brief Vindication of the Doctrine of the Trinity</i> , 377-413 (read 1st half this week)
February 23	The Five Solas: <i>Soli Deo Gloria</i>  Classical Theism and the Triune God (2)	John Owen, <i>A Brief Vindication of the Doctrine of the Trinity</i> , 377-413 (read 2nd half this week)
March 1	The Five Solas: <i>Sola Scriptura</i> and the Christian Tradition	John Calvin, <i>Institutes of the Christian Religion</i> , Book 1, chs. VI-VIII
March 8	The Five Solas: <i>Sola Fide</i> and the Doctrine of Justification	John Calvin, <i>Institutes of the Christian Religion</i> , Book 3, ch. XI
March 15	The Five Solas: <i>Sola Gratia</i> and the Impotence of Human Merit in Justification	Francis Turretin, <i>Institutes of Elenctic Theology</i> , Vol. 2, Sixteenth Topic: Justification, QQ 1-4.
March 22	The Five Solas: <i>Solus Christus</i> and the Person of the Mediator	<i>Synopsis of a Purer Theology</i> , Vol. 1, Disputations 25-26.
March 29	The Five Solas: <i>Solus Christus</i> and the Work of the Mediator	<i>Synopsis of a Purer Theology</i> , Vol. 1, Disputations 27-29.
April 5	No Class	
April 12	The Five Points of Calvinism: TULIP (1)	"The Articles of Remonstrance" (1610)
April 19	The Five Points of Calvinism: TULIP (2)	"The Canons of the Synod of Dort" (1618-1619)
April 26	The Biblical Theology of the Reformed Tradition: Covenant Theology	