

## ***What is Reformed Theology - Ephesians 1:3-14***

### **Notes, Family Worship, Bible Reading**

#### **Notes from the Sermon**

CS Lewis is quoted, saying, "In God you come up against something which is in every respect immeasurably superior to yourself. Unless you know God as that - and, therefore, know yourself as nothing in comparison - you do not know God at all."

Lewis' quote isn't just sentiment; it's a real statement about how we view God. Ultimately, from the youngest of you to the oldest, the deepest and greatest part of Christianity isn't based on better performance, sinning less, or doing more "Christian" things, it is knowing God better and better, experiencing the joys found in making Him your one and only true treasure. What is amazing is that all those things I just mentioned (better performance, less sin) happen when we place God where He belongs - above all! The greatest thing about studying what Reformed Theology teaches us is that, properly understood, you will see yourself where you belong - a desperate sinner in need of a savior - and you will see where God is - High and lifted up, in majesty, ruling as King of the Universe, doing and determining whatsoever should come to pass. The problem is, our human brains, even as Christians, cannot comprehend the majesty of God, and therefore, much of His will and character don't make sense to us, and really, as CS Lewis quotes, never will. So, we need good theology to help us to understand, as best as we humanly can, who God is and what He does.

That's really the subject of our sermon this week "What is Reformed Theology?" Reformed Theology, in the smallest nutshell, is recognizing, according to Scripture, that God is sovereignly ruling and reigning over all creation and determines ALL things according to His perfect, loving will. Part of Reformed Theology includes the chain of events that led you to being saved and what comes afterward (The Golden Chain of Redemption), what God does to His people from their sins (the 5 Points of the TULIP), and what the Gospel is and how we receive it (The 5 Solas of the Reformation.)

When considering Reformed Theology, many immediately go to questions about the doctrines of Election (the truth that, according to many passages of scripture, including Ephesians 1 and Romans 8 and 9, that God, in love, predestined some to salvation, and others he passes over) and the extent of the atonement (whether or not Jesus' death applies to every human being, or only to His elect, who are His sheep). These, while being huge theological hurdles many come to and have trouble jumping, because they cause us to examine whether God is truly sovereign or not, are just the beginning. Reformed theology asks the question, "What is God sovereign over? Everything!" Does God get to determine how we worship Him? Does God determine how we should be sharing the Gospel with others? Does God get to determine the course of our lives, or does He only get to be the passenger in our plans?

If we walk away from understanding what Reformed Theology is without also examining ourselves in light of God's sovereignty, we have missed the boat. Therefore, as you discuss this topic this week, and after you listen to the sermon, here are some things you should do as families:

- 1) Make a list of all the things you believe God is sovereign over in your life. Be thorough. Ask yourself, "Where am I taking all my cues from God's direction?"

2) Now, make a list where you believe God ISN'T sovereign in your life, or better, where are YOU trying to take control over your life instead of submitting all things to Him? Maybe it's your kids' sports schedule, your work, your hobbies, things you are always worried about, or something else - be honest!

3) As a family, pray over that list, doing two things:

a. Pray and give thanks to God for where you are being submissive to His will in your life. Praise Him that He is molding and shaping you into looking more like Jesus - that's what we are predestined to be, after all - better images of Jesus!

b. Repent of those things that you are trying to hold onto so tightly in your own hands, and pray that God will help you prioritize putting His will first in your life - letting go of idols and the distractions that are keeping you from following Him more fully.

### **Bible Reading for the Week**

#### **Daily Bible Readings**

Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1 Samuel 8	1 Samuel 9	1 Samuel 10	1 Samuel 11	1 Samuel 12	1 Samuel 13	1 Samuel 14

Reading from this past week's sermon: Ephesians 1:1-14

Reading in preparation for this coming Sunday: Deuteronomy 6:1-9

### **Family Worship**

Song - *His Mercy is More*

[https://youtu.be/l1GiZL60c80?si=oK5doXvKea\\_pHdAb](https://youtu.be/l1GiZL60c80?si=oK5doXvKea_pHdAb)

#### **Gospel Project**

Unit: King Saul

Story: Saul Rescued Israel

Big Picture Question: Who is our King?

Answer: Jesus is our King forever, and He rules over the world.

Scripture: 1 Samuel 11-13

#### **New City Catechism**

Question 24: Why was it necessary for Christ, the Redeemer, to die?

Answer: Christ died willingly in our place to deliver us from the power and penalty of sin and bring us back to God.

Verse: Colossians 1:21-22

Ephesians 1:3-14

- What about Reformed theology most bothers you? What about it gives you hope and greater faith?
- Why would this text use the words, "chosen in Him" and "predestined"? What do you believe the Scriptures communicate when it uses these words?
- Look over the text. What are all of the blessings listed in this passage that are a result of God's sovereign saving work in us? (Note, there are lots)
- If we understand God's saving work, it will be "to the praise of His glorious grace." Why is praise the only proper response to the saving work God does in our lives?
- 

#### **Prayer**

\*Pray that we would find great hope in knowing that all of our salvation is of and from God who chose us and saved us.

\*Pray for our church planting partner Redemption River Church in Poplar Bluff and church planting pastor Krag Runzi.