



Reformation Era Church History (1500 – 1600)

June, 2018

Topics



- Introduction & Context for the Reformation
- Desiderius Erasmus and the Humanists
- Martin Luther & Germany
- Huldrych Zwingli & Switzerland
- Reformation Radicals
- John Calvin & Geneva
- The Reformation in England
- The Reformation in Scotland
- Roman Catholicism during the Reformation
- Results of the Protestant Reformation

James 3:1 - Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. (ESV)

Introduction

Why Study Church History?

- The “Third Testament” – The Record of God’s Work in the Midst of His People
 - Both faithful and unfaithful people
- Intriguing / Useful – Real People facing real problems
 - Some Similar, Some Different than what we face today
- Connection with an Extended Church Family (**Hebrews 11, 12:1**)

Bounding the Scope

- When? – Discussion will focus on ~1500 AD to ~1600 AD
- Where? – Discussion will focus on Western Europe
- This is a survey level discussion based on a 13 lecture online course

Hebrews 12:1, 2a - *Wherefore seeing **we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses**, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us ...*

“The past is never dead. It’s not even past.” – William Faulkner in Requiem for a Nun

“Augustine and Thomas Aquinas and Luther and all the others are not dead, but living. They still speak.” – Karl Barth

“Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.” – George Santayana

*“Those who cannot remember the past are condemned **not** to repeat it.” – David Calhoun*

Important Definitions

Humanist

One dedicated to the study of the humanities (history, language, literature, the arts) especially the ancient classical texts in their original languages

Conservative

One who is loyal to traditional Roman Catholic theology and/or practice

Evangelical, Lutheran, or Protestant (not used until 1529)

One who rejects the current religious order but is, at best, hesitant to disrupt the political order

[Reformation] Radical

One who rejects the current religious *and political* orders

Medieval Times - Sneak Previews of the Reformation

- **Peter Waldo** (d. ca. 1218)
and the Waldensians

- Lyons (France)

- **John Wycliffe** (1320-1384)

- England

- Died peacefully but bones interred, burned, scattered

**Bible authoritative
over the Pope and
Church Tradition**

Mark 7:9-13

**Bibles to all in the
common language**

Joshua 1:8

**Preach Scripture:
Sermon vs. Mass
II Timothy 4:1-2**



Luther Monument Worms, GE

- **Jan Hus** (1369-1415)
 - Bohemia (Czech Republic)
 - Burnt at the stake

- **Girolamo Savonarola**
(1452-1498)

- Florence, Italy
- Hanged and burned

**Poverty vs.
worldliness and
extravagance
Matthew 6:19-20**

**Indulgences – Bad!
I John 1:9**

**Grace – Salvation by
Faith Alone
Ephesians 2:8-9**

Context – Early Renaissance Church Leadership



WAR



INTRIGUE



**BRIBERY /
SIMONY**



LICENTIOUSNESS



MONEY



**ARMIES
CATHEDRALS**



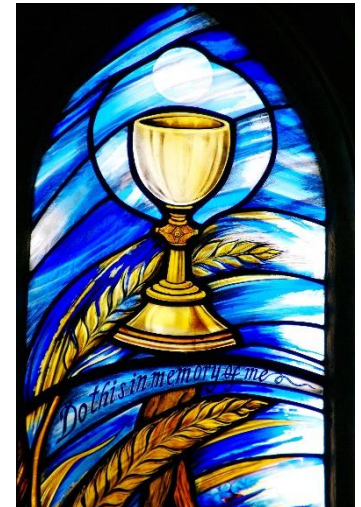
“... that the souls entrusted to the clergy receive great damage, for we are told that the majority of the clergy are living in open concubinage, and that if our justice intervene in order to punish them, they revolt and create a scandal, and that they despise our justice to the point they arm themselves against it.” – Isabella of Castile

“ Born Rodrigo de Borja y Borja, Alexander’s [Pope Alexander VI] vices are infamous. He had children both before and after his election to the papacy. His life was so scandalous when he had been a cardinal that he had been rebuked by [Pope] Pius II” – A History of the Popes by Wyatt North Publishing

Context – Church Doctrine

WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?

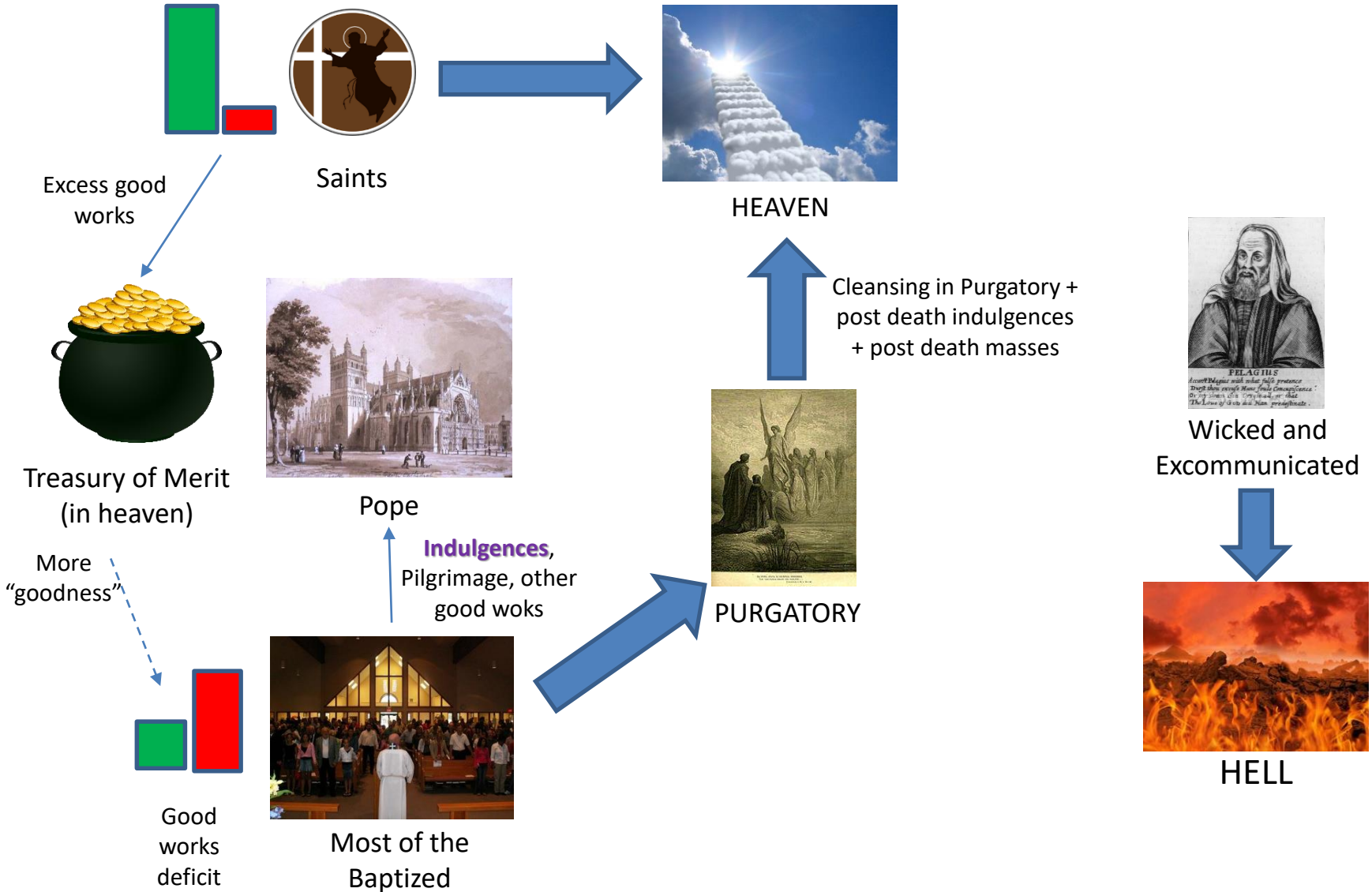
- God's Grace is Imparted through the Seven Sacraments by the Church
 - Baptism
 - Confirmation
 - Eucharist
 - **Penance**
 - Extreme Unction
 - Marriage
 - Ordination
- } For everyone
- Laity only
- Priests only



*Acts 16:30-31 - And brought them out, and said, Sirs, **what must I do to be saved?** And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.*

Context – Church Doctrine

INDULGENCES AND THE TREASURY OF MERIT



Context – Political Situation



Psalm 2:2-4 *The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying, Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us. He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the LORD shall have them in derision.*

Reformation Timeline 1500 - 1600

