

Topics

- Introduction
- Transitioning from “Ancient” to “Medieval”
- The Byzantine Empire and Eastern Orthodoxy

THE MEDIEVAL WESTERN CHURCH

- Spread of Christianity
- Early Medieval Learning & Theology
- Monasticism
- Church and State
- The Papacy
- The Sacramental System & Medieval Doctrine
- Sneak Previews of The Reformation



Sneak Previews of the Reformation

- Gottschalk & Florus
- **Peter Waldo** and the Waldensians
- **John Wycliffe**
- Jan Hus
- **Girolamo Savonarola**



Gottschalk and Florus

- Gottschalk of Orbais (808-867)

- Son of a Saxon count
- Benedictine Monk
- Studied under Ratramnus at Corbie
- Reader of Augustine of Hippo
- “God, **prior to the creation of the world, unchangeably predestined** all His elect to eternal life, **and all of the rejected who shall be condemned to eternal death** for their evil deeds on judgment day according to His justice and as they deserve.”
- Main debate adversary was Hincmar, Archbishop of Reims
- Gottschalk ends up defrocked, in prison, and his influence wanes until the Reformation

Romans 8:29 - For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

*“Pelagius would say to a new convert, “Congratulations, **you did it**. You have cleaned up your life, became a Christian, and you did what was required of you.” Augustine, upon meeting a new convert, would say, “**Thank God, you have been saved by grace.**” Others, especially during the Middle Ages, would try to say something in between the two, such as, “**Thank God, and congratulations.** This was a cooperative effort. Praise is due all around.””*

– David Calhoun

- Florus of Lyons (early to mid 9th century)

- Defender of Gottschalk
- Some predestined to hell but not predestined to sin
- “None of the elect can perish because of the hardness and impenitence of their hearts. **None of the reprobate can be saved.**”

Romans 9:21 - Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour?

Waldo and the Poor Men of Lyons



- Waldo (died c. 1218) and the Waldensians
 - Wealthy merchant from Lyons **called to life of apostolic poverty** ca. 1170
 - Known for memorization and **preaching of scriptures** and writings of church fathers
 - Went to Rome to be chartered by the Church – rejected for lack of formal training, no preaching without permission of local clergy
 - Continued to preach (**Acts 5:29**) resulting in expulsion from Lyons but spread of followers (Waldensians) across portions of Europe
 - Waldensians remained in the Catholic Church but excommunication and later persecution soured their view of the Church and relocated many to the mountains of southern France and northern Italy
- Waldensian Theology
 - Strict interpretation of the Sermon on the Mount
 - ❑ **Poverty**
 - ❑ No violence
 - **Papal worldly power denies the humility & poverty of Christ and the apostles**
 - Lay preaching and **distribution of the Bible to all**
 - Observed only baptism and eucharist of the sacraments (some sources)
 - Did not believe in Purgatory, Indulgences, Prayers for the Dead, or Oaths
 - Catechism from ca. 1500 **differentiates true invisible church from institutional visible church**



Peter Waldo at Luther Monument in Worms

Acts 5:29 – Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.

Bradwardine and Wycliffe

- 14th Century England
 - War – Hundred Years War 1337 - 1453
 - Plague – 1348-1350 and other outbreaks
 - Civil Unrest – Peasant’s Revolt 1381
 - Church struggling
 - ❑ Avignon papacy – Pope = French puppet
 - ❑ Western Schism – 2 Popes
 - ❑ Decline in clerical morality

- Thomas Bradwardine (1290-1349)
 - Dr. Profundus – scholar and teacher of Physics and Math
 - Big influencer of John Wycliffe
 - *On the Cause of God Against Pelagians*
 - ❑ **Grace is given freely according to the will of God apart from our works**
 - Served as Archbishop of Canterbury for 40 days then died of plague



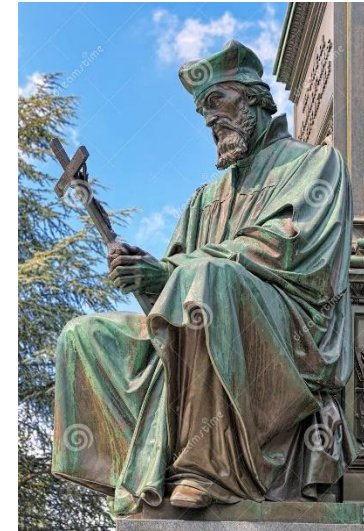
John Wycliffe at Luther Monument in Worms

- John Wycliffe (1320-1384)
 - The “Jewel of Oxford”
 - **All authority (including Pope and King) is a gift from God and can be forfeited**
 - **Bible** vs. Bible + Church Tradition
 - Important for everyone to have a Bible **in a language they can understand**
 - ❑ With Chaucer’s works, Wycliffe’s Bible translation key in standardizing English language
 - Eucharist
 - ❑ Christ present in spirit only
 - ❑ Faith necessary to receive the eucharist
 - **Centrality of sermon** vs. mass ritual
 - **Salvation by grace**
 - Widespread following called Lollards
 - Roman Church condemned his teachings but he died peacefully after leaving Oxford
 - Bones interred, burnt, and scattered in 1428

II Timothy 3:16 – All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

Jan Hus (John Huss)

- Jan Hus (1369-1415)
 - From Bohemia (modern day Czech Republic) but influenced by Wycliffe's writings
 - **Spent most of his money purchasing indulgences for sins in 1393**
 - Student, teacher, rector at University of Prague
 - Pastor at Bethlehem Chapel –
 - ❑ **Preached Bible in native tongue** which resonated with **Bohemian nationalism**
 - ❑ Initially sought relatively conservative reform in the Church
 - Pope John XXIII funds crusade against Naples (for political gain) selling indulgences
 - ❑ Hus driven to more radical and vocal positions
 - ✓ **"God alone can forgive sins through Christ"**
 - ✓ **Christ, not Pope the head of the church**
 - ✓ Stronger positions on **grace** vs. works and **authority of the Bible** vs. tradition
 - Hus is excommunicated, he leaves Prague to spare city pains of an Interdict
 - Council of Constance - 1415 (Ended the western schism)
 - ❑ Hus attends to defend himself by preaching the gospel (safety promised by HRE Sigismund)
 - ❑ Hus denied a hearing at the council and has no allies to back him
 - ❑ Sigismund, pressured by the council, reneges on safety guarantee
 - ❑ Hus burned at the stake as a heretic



Jan Hus at Luther Monument in Worms

"Observe how firmly Hus clung in his writings and words to the doctrines of Christ. With what courage he struggled against the agonies of death. With what patience and humility he suffered every indignity. And with what greatness of soul he at last confronted a cruel death in defense of the truth, doing all these things alone before an imposing assembly of the great ones of the earth like a lamb in the midst of lions and wolves. If such a man is to be regarded as a heretic, no person under the sun can be looked on as a true Christian.." – Martin Luther

Girolamo Savonarola

- 14th and 15th Century Italian Renaissance
 - Revived interest in the classics – secular and Bible – in their original language
 - ❑ Lorenzo Valla points out **improper translations of Hebrew and Greek in the Vulgate**
 - Humanism
 - ❑ Focus on this world here and now not. other worldliness
 - ❑ Emphasis on goodness / greatness of human nature
- Girolamo Savonarola (1452-1498)
 - Dominican monk from Ferrara, Italy
 - Influenced by grandfather regarding **inferiority of pope to Word of God**
 - Brought to Florence by Lorenzo Medici
 - ❑ Appalled by the **worldliness of the citizens and treatment of the poor**
 - Developed into a **moving and powerful sometimes apocalyptic preacher**
 - ❑ Michelangelo heard him preach and kept book of his sermons while painting the Sistine Chapel
 - Eventually emerges as religious and secular leader of Florence after complex political struggle with the Medicis and other powers
 - ❑ Attempted to establish a **Christian City on Earth** (Bonfire of the Vanities)
 - Roused enmity in the pope, aristocrats, and the Medicis
 - Hanged and burned in 1498

Isaiah 2:2 – And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it.



Girolamo Savonarola
at Luther Monument
in Worms

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