

# The Reformation

*Context, Characters*

*Controversies, Consequences*

Class 1: Introduction and Brief

Review of Church History

# Organizational Information

- Please fill out Course Registration forms.
- Any Volunteers?
  - We are looking for people to help out with setting up coffee and refreshments prior to class as well as assisting with clean up after class.
  - We are looking for people to sign up to bring refreshments each week.

# The Context of this Class at Grace

- 4 Pillars
  - Christian History
  - Biblical Doctrine
  - Deeper Discipleship
  - Compassion/Justice
- The Grace Chapel Christian History Series
  - Turning Points in Church History
  - A Cloud of Witnesses: History of the Early Church
  - Christian History in America
  - The Reformation

# Major Topics of the Course

- Review of Church History
- Medieval Christianity
- The World in 1500
- Martin Luther and the German Reformation
- Huldreich Zwingli and the Swiss Reformation
- Fires of Radicalism – The Anabaptist Challenge
- John Calvin – Genevan Crucible
- The Huguenots and the Reformation in France
- Global Awareness Week
- The Netherlands – Reform and Reaction
- 7 Wives and one Church – Reformation England and Scotland
- The Catholic Reformation – Toward the Council of Trent
- The Catholic Reformation – Toward a Global Church
- Legacies and continuing controversies

# Organizational Principles

- Use the latest scholarship from both secular and Christian sources to examine Reformation History.
- Make use of Primary Source documents to illustrate key aspects of that history.
- Combine lecture with small and large group discussion of key ideas.
- Use a Biblical world view consistent with the Grace Chapel statement of faith to critically examine major themes and events in the Reformation.
- Suggest practical application of this material in our lives as believers and citizens of two kingdoms.

# Class 1 Goals

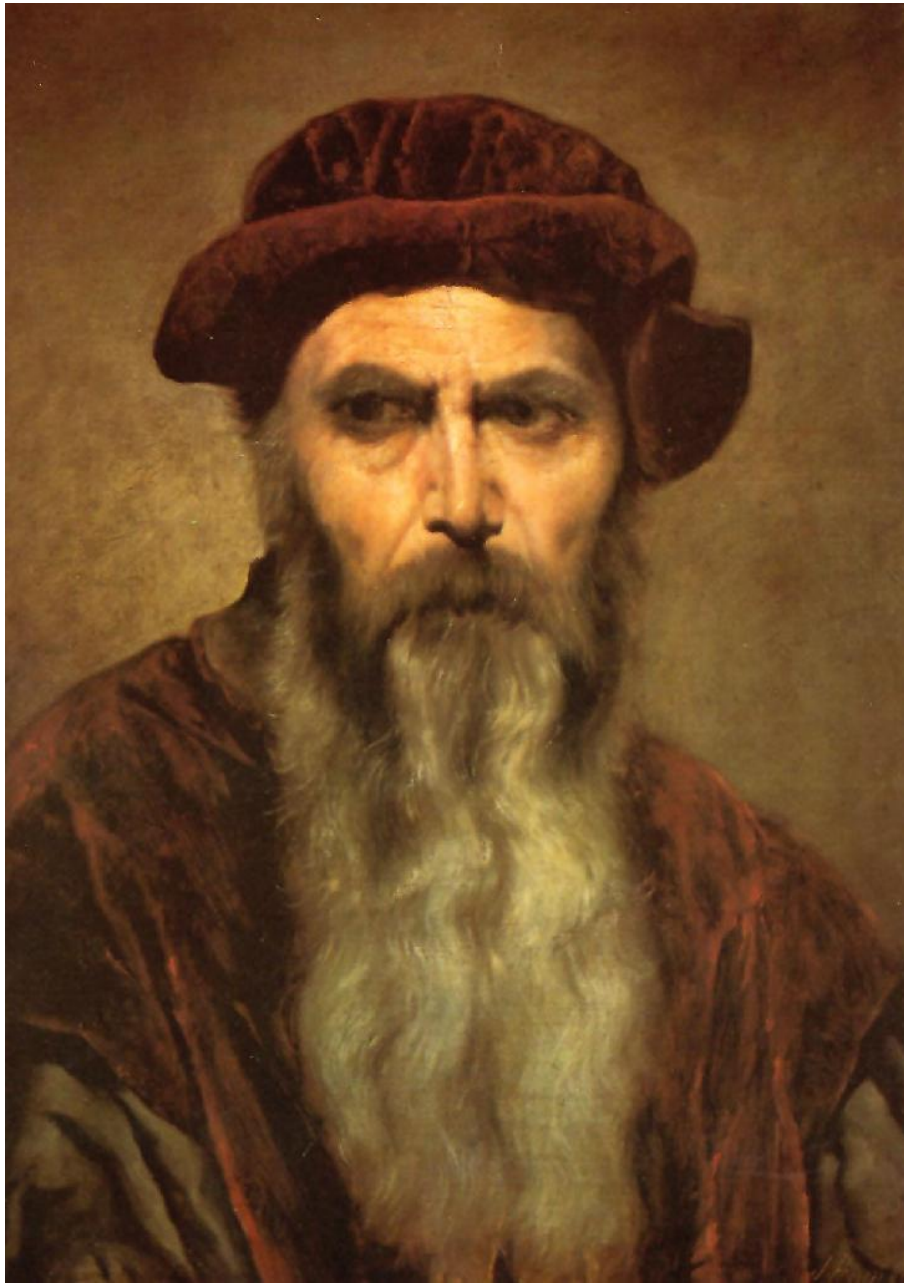
- Introduce the structure and mechanics of the class.
- Identify the prior knowledge of the class about The Reformation.
- Review the major trends and themes of Church History

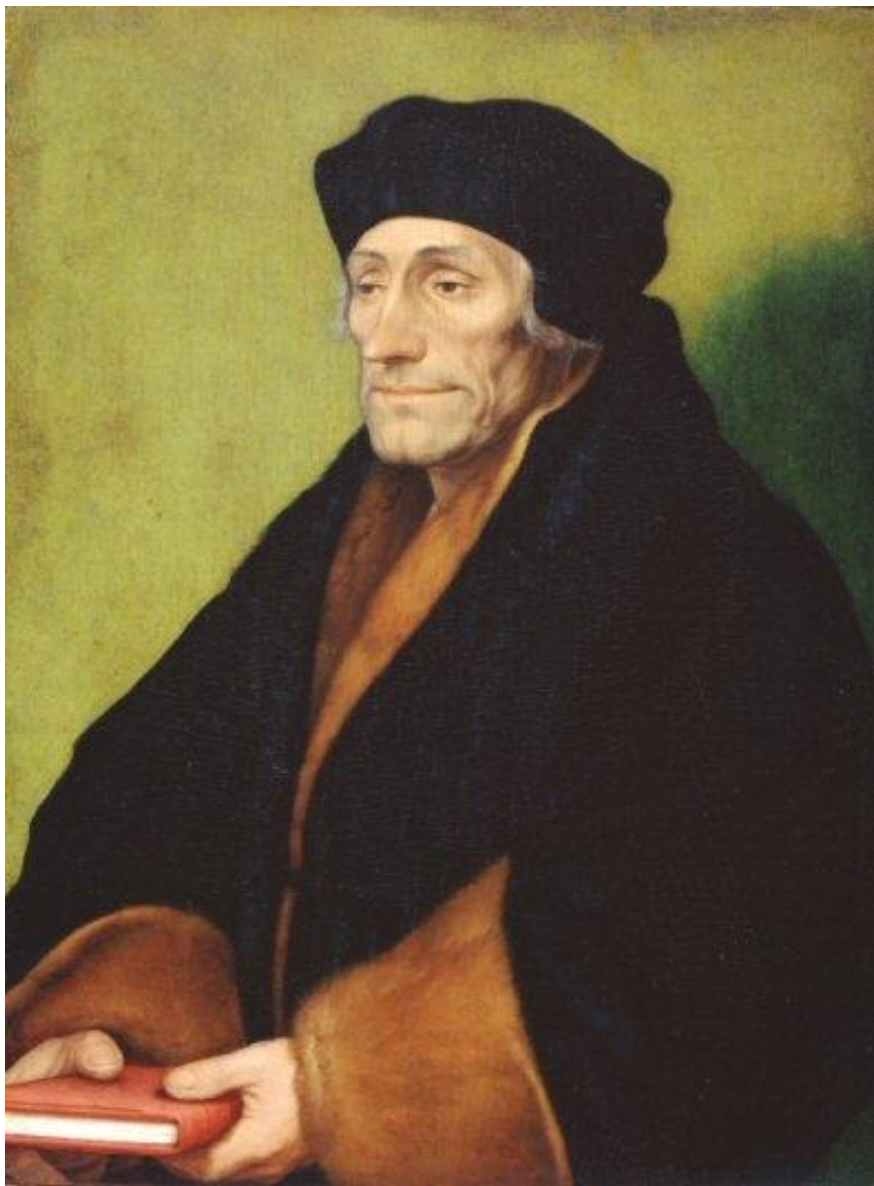
## Opening Questions/Pretest:

- How would you define The Reformation?
- What importance does it have for today?
- Can you identify the following people who reshaped the world during the era of the Reformation?
- Were they living “On Mission”?













- “The Monarch was . . . king because he was king, not because he was liege of his nation’s estates, charged with . . . responsibilities to his vassals, and subject to the church’s law. This meant that the church . . . had to be reduced to a national establishment, an office of the state, or a mere social institution. This was the principal reason, after all for the success of the Reformation, which flourished only where it served the interests of the secular state in its rebellion against the customs and laws of Christendom, and in its campaign against the autonomy of the church within its territories.”
- David Bentley Hart *Atheist Delusions: The Christian Revolution and Its Fashionable Enemies*. p. 90.

# Interpreting the Reformation

- [The Protestant Reformation] “occurred in a context of total social and economic change. Indeed, the age that is called the Reformation witnessed the shattering not just of the religious status quo but also of the secular aspects of society. The Reorganization of medieval Europe that resulted produced the fabric of life as we know it today.” Eugene Blake
- The Reformation is *the indigenization of Christianity in Northern Europe*.
- The Protestant Reformation launched the *Dangerous Idea* that each individual has the right and responsibility to interpret the Bible for themselves. - Alister McGrath

# Interpreting the Reformation II

- [The Reformation] is a story of fragmentation. . . . European Christians rethought what it meant to be a Christian, what a Christian place of worship should look like, what the relationship between things made by human hands and worship was to be, and how God was to be present in a world in which his presence was no longer taken for granted, in a world in which God might be absent in this place, in this community, in that place, among those Europeans.” Lee Palmer Wandel

# Interpreting the Reformation III

- “The Reformation was a turning point with great significance for universal history . . . This significance has been described in terms of desacralization and deritualization, which in the critique of institutions and hierarchies provided space for individual self-determination, the internalization of discipline and the ‘civilizing process.’” – Carter Lindberg
- “The study of the Reformation still awaits a Moses who can lead it through the sea of contemporary polemics between social and intellectual historians and into a historiography both mindful and tolerant of all the forces that shape historical experience.” - Steven Ozment

# Considering a Document

- **Author:**
- **Place and Time:**
- **Prior Knowledge:**
- **Audience:**
- **Reason:**
- **The Main Idea:**
- **Significance:**



# The First Century of the Faith

- Major Events
  - The life, death and resurrection of Jesus
  - Pentecost and “Birth of the Church”
  - The Council of Jerusalem
  - The missionary journeys of Paul
  - The fall of Jerusalem
  - The writing of the New Testament
- Major Themes
  - Rapid expansion of the faith/growing persecution
  - Separation from Judaism
  - Development of organizational structure and distinctive “Christian Communities”

# The Church in the Roman Empire

- Major Events
  - Continued waves of persecution
  - Writings of the early Church Fathers: esp. St. Augustine
  - Consolidation of organizational structure and rise of the papacy
  - The conversion of Constantine
  - The major church councils.
  - “Christianization of the Empire” but the “fall” of Rome
- Major Themes
  - Further delineation of doctrine and the canon
  - Struggles between Church independence and imperial influence
  - “Cultural Captivity” of the Church
  - Unity vs. diversity within the Church



# The Early Middle Ages

- Major Events:
  - The continuation of Eastern Christianity in Constantinople
  - The emergence of the monastic movement
  - The rapid expansion of Islam and loss of traditional Christian territory
  - The coronation of Charlemagne
  - Conversion of Kievan Rus
- Major Themes:
  - Struggles between “regular” and “secular” Christianity
  - Development of an “educated” clergy / catechized laeity
  - “Need” for protection / patronage of the state
  - Emergence of the concept of “Christendom”

# The Late Middle Ages

- Major Events
  - The “Great Schism” between East and West
  - The Crusades
  - The bubonic plague
  - Flowering of Christian art and architecture
  - New Monastic Movements (Franciscans/Dominicans)
  - Writings of St. Thomas Aquinas
- Major Themes
  - Maintaining unity in an increasingly diverse church
  - Power struggles between church and state
  - Christian “ordering” of place, time, and daily life
  - Re-acquaintance with “classical learning” from interaction with Muslim Scholars

# Next Week

- Medieval Christianity