



October 2019

REFORMATION REMEMBERED

The story is told of a couple who took their son, 11, and daughter, 7, to Carlsbad Caverns. As always, when the tour reached the deepest point in the cavern, the guide turned off all the lights to dramatize how completely dark and silent it is below the earth's surface. The little girl, suddenly enveloped in utter darkness, was frightened and began to cry. Immediately was heard the voice of her brother: "Don't cry. Somebody here knows how to turn on the lights."

During "the Dark Ages" when the darkness seemed overwhelming, this too was the message of the Reformation: "Good news, light [from God's Word] is available!" "For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life:" (Proverbs 6:23) Indeed, in like manner as the older brother instructing his sister, the Reformers fulfilled the prophecy "they that understand among the people shall instruct many." (Daniel 11:33)

Black Beans and Rice with Red Salsa

Simply cook black beans and brown rice according to package directions, adding salt as desired. Then serve rice onto each plate covering with black beans and topping with pre-prepared Red Salsa. If you do not have any pre-canned salsa you can make it fresh. It does not have to be cooked.



Red Salsa

3 large garlic cloves, pressed

½ cup cilantro leaves

2 cans (15 oz.) whole tomatoes, drained

Salt, to taste

1 medium onion

1 tsp organic sugar

1 Tbsp lime juice

Pinch of cayenne

Process until lightly chopped, but not until soupy. You may also add a bit of bell pepper or green onions. If you would like to can this, bring to boil and simmer 10 minutes. Ladle into prepared jars and leave ¼ inch head space. Process 15 minutes in a hot water bath canner (10 minutes in a pressure cooker). This is for pint jars. This recipe makes approx. 3 cups.

Quotable Quotes — A Poem by Martin Luther — Translator Unknown

"Feelings come and feelings go,
And feelings are deceiving;
My warrant is the Word of God--
Naught else is worth believing.

Though all my heart should feel condemned
For want of some sweet token,
There is One greater than my heart
Whose Word cannot be broken.

I'll trust in God's unchanging Word
Till soul and body sever*,
For, though all things shall pass away,
HIS WORD SHALL STAND FOREVER!"

*In other words, "until I die".



LUTHER'S LIBERTY

"Look at that man!" one of my classmates whispered loudly to our French class that was touring one of the lavish cathedrals in Quebec. Leading up to the entrance of the cathedral were multitudinous sections of concrete stairs. As my classmate directed, we looked over at a man who was laboriously climbing up the stairs on his knees.

"I thought that was something out of the dark ages", another of my classmates remarked.

"Do people actually still do that?" another questioned.

"I thought Christians knew that Jesus paid the penalty for our sins and that we don't have to do things like that. Hasn't this man ever heard of Martin Luther?" a different classmate queried.

As we watched the man's painful ascent, we continued discussing amongst ourselves what we should do. Interestingly, it was one of the shyest guys in my class, who said, "I'm going to go tell him he doesn't need to do penance."



I'd like to say the story ended happily, but soon my classmate was back. He told us that the man didn't want to listen to him, and instead had uttered a barrage of profanity.

Sadly, he was still climbing up the stairs on his knees.

I believe this was the first time I came to appreciate the liberty that the Protestant Reformation had brought to mankind. *"And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free"* John 8:32 The Reformers, following in the footsteps of Christ *"preach[ed] deliverance to the captives"* and a gospel that indeed *"set at liberty them that are bruised"*.

Climbing stairs on one's knees is just one form of penance for sin recommended by Rome. According to Webster's 1828 Dictionary, Penance is *"The suffering, labor or pain to which a person voluntarily subjects himself, or which is imposed on him by authority as a punishment for his faults, or as an expression of penitence; such as fasting, flagellation [whipping], wearing chains, etc. Penance is one of the seven sacraments of the Romish church."*

Unfortunately, in the Roman Catholic church, *"By degrees penance was extended to every sin, even to the most secret, and was considered as a sort of punishment to which it was necessary to submit, in order to obtain the forgiveness of God through the priest's absolution.... Instead of looking to Christ for pardon through faith alone, it was sought for principally in the Church through penitential works. Great importance was soon attached to external marks of repentance—to tears, fasting, and mortification of the flesh; and the inward regeneration of the heart, which alone constitutes a real conversion, was forgotten. As confession and penance are easier than the extirpation of sin and the abandonment of vice, many ceased contending against the lusts of the flesh, and preferred gratifying them at the expense of a few mortifications."* (History of the Reformation, D'Aubigne, Vol. 1. Bk.1, p. 16)

With this bondage to sin, as well as the oppressions of penances like climbing up the stairs on your knees or paying money for indulgences, it is no wonder that God says, *"Is not this the fast that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke?"* Isaiah 58:6

The Reformation, with its five pillars: "Sola Scriptura" (the Bible only), "the glory be to God alone", "only grace", "only faith", and "only Christ" stood firm against the errors of the Papacy and indeed preached "Christ alone". At the Protestant Augsburg Confession in 1530, Article IV confessed the doctrine of justification. *"Men cannot be justified before God by their own strength, merits, or works. They are justified freely on Christ's account through faith, when they believe in the free pardon of their sins for the sake of Christ, Who has made satisfaction for them by His death. This faith God imputes to them for righteousness."* (History of Protestantism, Wylie, Vol. 1, pg. 596)

The Reformers believed forgiveness and salvation were a gift. *"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."* Eph. 2:8, 9 No penance is necessary, just repentance and confession of sin. 1 John 1:9 promises, *"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."*

However, the Reformers also realized that faith without works is dead. James 2:17 states, *"Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone."* 1 John 2:4 makes this even clearer, *"He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him."* Thus Article VI at the Augsburg Confession also confessed good works. *"Faith ought to bear good fruits, not that these may justify us before God, but that they may manifest our love to God."* (History of Protestantism, Wylie, Vol. 1, pg. 596)

The Protestant Reformation is to be remembered for the Reformers realized, *"To set up a mediatorial caste between God and man—to obtain by works, by penance, and by money the salvation which is the free gift of God—such is Popery."*

To open to all, through Jesus Christ, without any human mediator, without that power which calls itself the Church, free access to the great boon of eternal life which God offers to man—such is Christianity and the Reformation." (History of the Reformation, D'Aubigne, Vol. 1 Book 1, pg. 17)

For truly, *"where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty."* 2 Cor. 3:17

Prophetic News Notes – POPE CALLS FOR A GLOBAL PACT

Pope Francis has announced he is hosting an initiative for a “Global Pact” to create a “new humanism.”¹ This world event, set to take place at the Vatican on May 14, 2020, is themed “Reinventing the Global Compact on Education”² In his message, Pope Francis states that “all change requires an educational process aimed at developing a new universal solidarity.” It is perhaps worth noting that the word Catholic actually means universal. It appears that the Vatican will be reeducating the planet. The Pope calls for “mature individuals capable of overcoming division and antagonism.” The global pact would be “An alliance, in other words, between the earth’s inhabitants and our “common home... An alliance that generates peace, justice and hospitality among all peoples of the human family, as well as dialogue between religions.” Those who attend will apparently look for “to find other ways... of envisioning economics, politics, growth and progress” creating a “new humanism.”²

How might one describe the result of this

reeducation? It depends on who is translating. The English translation on the website says that the pope states, “In this regard, all institutions must be open to examining the aims and methods that determine how they carry out their educational mission.” However, the “Google Translate” of the Italian, also on the website, translates it thus, “In this perspective, all institutions must allow themselves to be questioned about the aims and methods with which they carry out their formative mission.” Then the pope again invites all “to be committed... to nurturing the dream of a humanism rooted in solidarity.” He further states, “Our meeting will take place on 14 May 2020 in the Paul VI Audience Hall in the Vatican.”²

While much of this sounds like a peace and safety message (1 Thess. 5:3), one should consider what the words “solidarity” and “humanism” represent to the papacy. The Catechism for the Catholic Church, from the Vatican Library states—“Solidarity is manifested in the first place by the distribution of goods and remuneration for work.”³ What they are referring to might better be phrased redistribution of goods. Interestingly, it was Paul VI who expounded on this thought stating, “...the duty of human solidarity—the aid that the rich nations must give to developing countries...We must repeat once more that the superfluous wealth of rich countries should be placed at the service of poor nations...Let the aims of the Second Development Decade be fostered. These include the transfer of a precise percentage of the annual income of the richer countries to the developing nations...These aims represent first guidelines for a graduated taxation of income as well as for an economic and social plan for the entire world.”⁴ In plain English, solidarity is a code word for a COMMUNISM/Socialism where wealth is redistributed—where the rich are forced to pay a tax to help them “share” with the poor. While sharing is good, “forced sharing” is not God’s plan for the scriptures state. “Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity [“compulsion”—1535 Coverdale Bible]: for God loveth a cheerful giver.” 2 Cor. 9:7

LifeSite states that “In [an] explanatory note accompanying the Pope’s message, the Congregation said that the May 14 global pact initiative seeks to involve ‘international organizations’ and the ‘great ones of the earth’ in helping to ‘heal the fracture between man and the Absolute’ and the separation between ‘reality and the transcendent.’ It also aims to heal the ‘horizontal fracture’ between men of difficult cultures, religions and backgrounds...”¹ Much of this wording sounds strikingly biblical. Prophecy students should recognize Revelation 13:3, 12 also speak of a wound being healed by a religio-political power. Revelation 18:23 states that Babylon’s “merchants were the great men of the earth”. And Daniel 8:25 warns of a power that uses “policy” to “cause craft to prosper in his hand;...and by peace shall destroy many”.

“According to a Vatican statement issued on Thursday, Sept. 12, the Pope is inviting representatives of the main religions, international organizations and various humanitarian institutions, as well as key figures from the world of politics, economics and academia, and prominent athletes, scientists and sociologists”¹ to sign the ‘Global Pact on Education’. What would have been the Reformer’s reaction to such an idea -- combining a religious leader with a political/ economic type agenda? Wylie records “The Confession [at Augsburg in 1530] condemned one of the grand errors of the Middle Ages, the confusion even of Church and State, and the blending of things spiritual and secular, which had led to such corruption in the Church and inflicted so many calamities upon the world. It explained... that Church and State are two distinct societies, and although co-related, each has its own boundaries, its own rights and duties, and that the welfare of both requires the maintenance of the independence of each.”⁵

1-- <https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/pope-francis-global-education-pact> 2-- <https://www.educationglobalcompact.org/it/invito-di-papa-francesco/> 3-- Catechism for the Catholic church, pg. 471 4-- Paul VI, Populorum Progressio (1967), pg. 44,59 as quoted in Ecclesiastical Megalomania, Robbins, pg. 193 5—History of Protestantism, Vol. 1, pg. 598





Study to Show Thyself Approved—Reformers' Protest Remembered (Sola Scriptura)

Using the Bible as their foundation, the Reformers protested against false doctrines—Making them **PROTEST**ants. Today, let us remember the words of a few of the Reformers and compare them with the infallible Word of God. (More in the Bible Banner from October 2017)

The theory of the immortality of the soul was one of those false doctrines that Rome, borrowing from paganism, incorporated into the religion of Christendom. Martin Luther classed it with the *"monstrous fables that form part of the Roman dunghill of decretals."*—E. Petavel, *The Problem of Immortality*, page 255. Commenting on the words of Solomon in Ecclesiastes, that the dead know not anything, the Reformer says: *"Another place proving that the dead have no . . . feeling. There is, saith he, no duty, no science, no knowledge, no wisdom there. Solomon judgeth that the dead are asleep, and feel nothing at all. For the dead lie there, accounting neither days nor years, but when they are awaked, they shall seem to have slept scarce one minute."*— Martin Luther, *Exposition of Solomon's Booke Called Ecclesiastes*, page 152. {Quoted in *Darkness before Dawn*, pg. 17}



The martyr Tyndale, referring to the state of the dead, declared: *"I confess openly, that I am not persuaded that they [the dead] be already in the full glory that Christ is in, or the elect angels of God are in. Neither is it any article of my faith; for if it were so, I see not but then the preaching of the resurrection of the flesh were a thing in vain."*—William Tyndale, *Preface to New Testament* (ed. 1534). Reprinted in *British Reformers*—Tindal, Frith, Barnes, page 349. {GC 547.1}

What is death? A Sleep. Psalm 13:3, John 11:11-14; Acts 13:36 Are The Dead Conscious? No. Psalm 146:4; Eccl. 9:5,6,10; Psalm 115:17 The resurrection of the dead. 1 Cor. 15:51-55, 1 Thess. 4:13-18, John 5:25, 28, 29

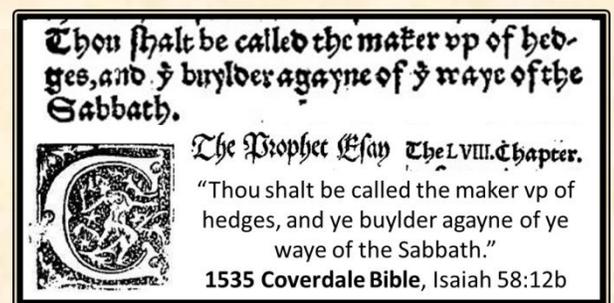
"The Reformation, by abolishing the celibacy of the ecclesiastics, restored the sanctity of the conjugal state. The marriage of the clergy put an end to an immense number of secret crimes. The reformers became the models of their flocks in the most intimate and important relations of life; and the people were not slow in rejoicing to see the ministers of religion once more husbands and fathers." (History of the Reformation, D'Aubigne, Vol. 3, pg. 390) Luther wrote, *"The devil has persuaded the pope, as the same apostle says to Timothy (1 Tim. iv. 1 to 3), to forbid the clergy to marry. And hence have proceeded miseries so numerous that we cannot mention all."* He also wrote, *"To what a sad state have the clergy fallen... I assert, then, that according to the appointment of Christ and his apostles, each city should have a pastor or bishop, and that this pastor may have a wife, as Saint Paul writes to Timothy: A bishop must be the husband of one wife (1 Tim. iii. 2).... The salvation of your soul is greater consequence to you than tyrannical and arbitrary laws, that do not emanate from the Lord."* (History of the Reformation, D'Aubigne, Vol. 3, pg. 190)

Biblical Marriage is honorable. Heb. 13:4, Gen. 2:18; Eph. 5:31, Forbidding Biblical Marriage is a doctrine of devils I Timothy 4:1-5, Marriage of Clergy 1 Timothy 3:1,2; Matt. 8:14; Luke 1:5 Fornication prohibited 1 Cor. 7:9,2; Matt. 5:32

The Papacy has thought "to change times and laws" (Daniel 7:25). They not only removed the 2nd Commandment from the Law of God, but they have also replaced the seventh day Sabbath of the fourth commandment with Sunday worship.
A few Reformers recognized this.

In an old volume in the British Museum Library, published in 1545, the following statement is attributed to Melanchthon. We copy the old English spelling: *"He changeth the tymes and lawes that any of the sixe worke dayes commanded of God will make them unholy and idle dayes when he lyste, of their owne holy dayes abolished make worke dayes agen, or when they changed ye Saterday into Sondaye...They have changed God's lawes and turned them into their own tradicions to be kept above God's precepts."*

--Exposition of Daniel the Prophete, Gathered out of Phillip Melanchthon, Johan Ecolampadius, Etc." by George Joyce, 1545. pg. 119 -- Beacon Lights of Prophecy by W.A. Spicer, pg. 73



In 1738, Count Zinzendorf [of the Moravians] wrote of his keeping the 7th-day Sabbath thus: *"That I have employed the Sabbath for rest many years already, and our Sunday for the proclamation of the gospel that I have done without design, and in simplicity of heart."* - "Budingsche Sammlung" Sec. 8, p. 224. Leipzig: 1742. Spangenberg gives some of Zinzendorf's reasons for keeping the seventh day holy: *"On the one hand, he believed that the seventh day was sanctified and set apart as a rest day immediately after creation; but on the other hand, and principally, because his eyes were directed to the rest of our Saviour Jesus Christ in the grave on the seventh day."* - "Leben des Grafen Zinzendorf" pp. 5, 1422, note. {Quoted in *Facts of Faith*, Edwardson, pg. 150}

The Sabbath is a memorial of Creation. Genesis 2:1-3, Exodus 20:9-11 Jesus kept the Sabbath. Mark 2:28, Luke 4:16; Matt. 12:12 The Disciples and Apostles kept the Sabbath before and after the Resurrection. Luke 23:54-56; Acts 13:42,44; Acts 18:1,4,11
There is a blessing for keeping the Sabbath -- Isaiah 56:2; Isaiah 58:13,14



THE THREEFOLD CORD OF GOOD HEALTH

When I meet health reformers, often they focus on good nutrition and what they eat. This is well and good, but to maintain good health one must have the threefold cord of good health. Eccl. 4:12 tells us *“...a threefold cord is not quickly broken.”* Jesus words in Matt. 15:16,17 explain this. And Jesus said, Are ye also yet without understanding? Do not ye yet understand, that whatsoever entereth in at the mouth goeth into the belly, and is cast out into the draught? Thus, we find the threefold cord of good health is #1 Good nutrition, #2 Good digestion, and #3 Good Elimination.



Good Nutrition is fairly simple to figure out just from God’s word. **Fruits, nuts and grains and seeds** were the original diet. *“And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat.”* Gen. 1:29 After sin, God added **vegetables** to replace minerals lost by sweating. Yes, God says “Thou shalt” eat **leafy greens**. *“Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field. In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread...”* Gen. 3:18, 19 **Whole grains**, particularly in the form of bread, are indispensable to good health. *“Give us this day our daily bread.”* Matt. 6:11 Honey and salt may be used in moderation for flavor. (Luke 14:34; Prov. 24:13; 25:16, 27; Phil. 4:5)

Good digestion is less often focused on than good nutrition. However, its importance is undeniable. I once heard a story of a man who was in a concentration camp. He was only given a piece of bread to eat, a diet obviously greatly lacking in sufficient nutrition. To make it last longer, he began trying to chew each bite 100 times. Most of the other men laughed at him, but 2 other men began to do the same thing. When they were later rescued from the concentration camp, only he and the other 2 men, who thoroughly chewed their bread, were left alive from the original group.



Perhaps, what the men didn’t know is that proper chewing is necessary for good digestion. This is because *“Saliva from the parotids containing the enzyme ptyalin changes complex carbohydrates into simple sugar, which in turn converts it to glucose. The stomach has no digestive juices that will simplify carbohydrates, this is why fermentation takes place here if foods are not prepared by chewing.”*¹ In other words, proper digestion, particularly of bread and other carbohydrates, begins in the mouth.

One of my friends told me, *“I was losing weight, and was unable to eat even many healthful foods, like oats, for example, but when I started consciously remembering to chew each bite 30 times, my food began to digest again and I began to get better.”* It is true that *“Any disease can be improved and healing expedited when chewing is practiced in earnest.”*² Other ways to improve your digestion include: not eating in between meals, not overeating, drinking enough water (but not with meals, it dilutes your saliva), getting plenty of fresh air, exercise, and sunshine, not eating too many different kinds of foods at one meal, not eating foods like baking soda that may neutralize your digestive juices, eliminating stress while eating, eating something raw with each meal, and eating meals at regular times.

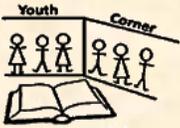
Good Elimination is also highly important for good health. Elimination in the body is done by the skin, the blood, the lungs, the kidneys, the lymph, the liver, and the colon. 2 Chr. 21: 15,18,19 tells of King Jehoram who had a *“great sickness by disease of...his bowels,”* In the end *“he died of sore diseases.”* Bad bowel health indeed causes many diseases.

From eating to exit, a normal bowel transit time should be 18-24 hours. A good way to measure transit time is to eat a large portion of beets or take activated charcoal, and then note how long it takes before the change in the color your bowel movement to reddish or black. Normal stool [solid waste] should be light brown (earthy color, although a few foods change this), 2-3 inches in diameter, should somewhat float/sink slowly, and should be released with ease. It should have almost no odor.² If you eat two meals a day, you should typically have two bowel movements.

Here are a few ways to improve your elimination. 1. Take a brisk walk daily, head up, breathing deeply. 2. Drink water until urine is pale. 3. Use 1 T. freshly ground flaxseeds twice a day in food. 4. Eat only whole-grain breads and cereals and plenty of raw fruits and vegetables (this provides fiber—the broom to sweep the intestines). 5. Drink 2 cups of slightly hot water at a “set time”. 6. Maintain regularity. 7. Wear clothing that does not restrict the bowels

When you have this threefold cord—good nutrition, good digestion, and good elimination -- you will be happier and healthier too!² *“Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.”*

3 John 2



A REFORMED THIEF

John Wesley was robbed as he was returning from a service one night. As the bandit was leaving, Wesley called out, "Stop! I have something more to give you." The surprised robber paused. "My friend," said Wesley, "you may live to regret this sort of life. If you ever do, here's something to remember: the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin!" The thief hurried away, and Wesley prayed that his words would bear fruit.

Years later, Wesley was greeting people after service when he was approached by a stranger. It surprised Wesley to learn that this visitor, now a Christian and a successful businessman, was the one who had robbed him years before! "I owe it all to you," said the transformed man.

"Oh no, my friend," Wesley exclaimed, "not to me, but to the precious blood of Christ that cleanses us from all sin!"



Kids' Corner

Match each Reformer with what he did.



Luther

Kept the seventh day Sabbath.

7



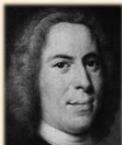
Wyclif

Sang about Jesus when burnt at the stake.



Tyndale

Gave the people the first Bible in English.



Zinzendorf

Taught "The just shall live by faith".

Faith



Huss

Translated the Bible into English from Greek.



Answers to Kids' Corner (from top to bottom) Zinzendorf, Huss, Wyclif, Luther, Tyndale