

A Summary of Historic Christian Doctrine

In 23 slides... worth a shot.





The Reformation

- The intent of the Reformation was to return the catholic (universal) church to the faith once for all delivered to the saints.
- Many were persecuted for holding to the “Sola’s of the Reformation” – That we are saved by God’s grace alone through faith alone in the scriptures alone.
- There are really only two religions in the world. One says you are saved by faith, and the other says you are saved by works. Lutheranism (and historic Christianity) teaches that we are saved by faith.





Sola Scriptura – Scripture Alone

- All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. – 2 Timothy 3:16-17
- For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. - 2 Peter 1:20-21
- Scripture is “norma normans non normata” – the norm of norms that can’t be normed. – Dr. Martin Luther
 - Yes, scripture was penned by men, but under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. No scientific, archeological, historical, or philosophical advancement of mankind can result in a need to revise the Bible.



Proper Way to Interpret Scripture

- Exegesis vs. Eisegesis – Draw out the information contained within the Holy Scriptures. Let the simpler verses clarify the more difficult verses. Recognize that an author will tend to use the same meanings for words, unless the context makes it obvious that this is not the case. Do not eisegete your personal biases into the text.
- The Bible has many paradoxes. Jesus is 100% God and 100% man. Jesus desires that none be snatched from His hands, and He is all powerful, but some will still fall away. Being able to hold these paradoxes in tension and not trying to apply human reason to resolve them is a key to avoiding heterodox understandings.
- The Old Testament is about Christ. “You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, ⁴⁰ yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life.” - John 5:39-40
- The New Testament speaks of Christ, detailing how He was the fulfillment of that which was foretold in the Old Testament.



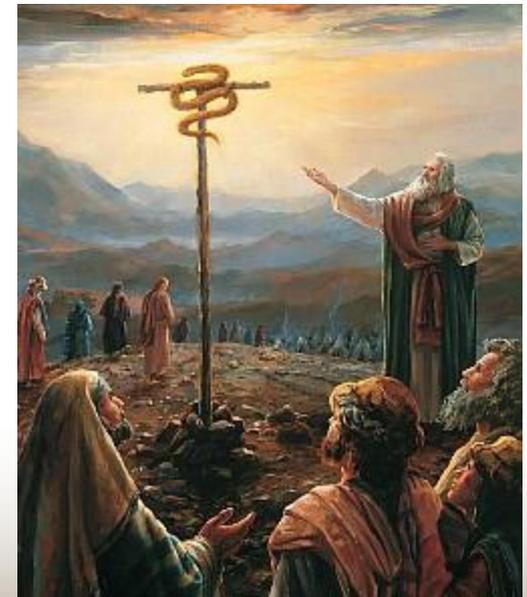
In the Beginning

- In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. - John 1:1-3
- In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. – Genesis 1:1
- I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. – Nicene Creed
- Did the chicken or the egg come first? Chicken. Easy question.



The Breaking of the World

- So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. – Genesis 3:6
 - A promise of God (specifically a curse – “**for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die**”) was attached to the visible element (fruit).
Sound familiar?
 - Other promises tied to visible elements occur in scripture – such as Moses making a serpent lifted up on a pole [Numbers 21:4-9], and those who looked upon it were healed from serpent bites.





God's Plan for Redemption

- So the LORD God said to the serpent, “**Because you have done this, “Cursed are you above all livestock and all wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life.¹⁵ And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.”** – Genesis 3:14-15 Note... He. Not they.
- The plan, from the beginning, was for the offspring of woman – namely Jesus, to crush the head of the serpent – Satan. The cross was not “Plan B,” which has become a common belief in some Christian circles. If the trial and crucifixion of Jesus was a change of plans for God, why did he write about it through Isaiah in Isaiah 53?



The World We Live In

- ...cursed is the ground because of you [Adam]; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life;¹⁸ thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field.¹⁹ By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground... - Genesis 3:17-19
- Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned - Romans 5:12
- For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. – Romans 8:20-21
- Man fell because he wanted to be like God. Yes this world is rough, but the futility of this world helps prevent us from diving into idolatry. But we manage to dive in anyway.



Our Purpose?

- ¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. – Ephesians 2:8-11
- In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. – Matthew 5:16
- We don't do good works to earn our salvation. Our works are like filthy rags [Isaiah 64:6]. Christ already did exactly what was necessary. When He said "It is finished," he meant it. That doesn't mean that we don't do good works – our neighbor needs them. We are free in Christ to pursue good works for the benefit of our neighbor, not for our own benefit. Why is it we are so desperate to earn the gift that was freely given?



Our Hope

- Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.
– 1 Peter 1:3-5
- After the resurrection, we will be in our glorified bodies to live with God forever. Our destiny is not to float around in a spiritual form. We look forward to Christ's return; no more aches and pains, no more desire to sin...



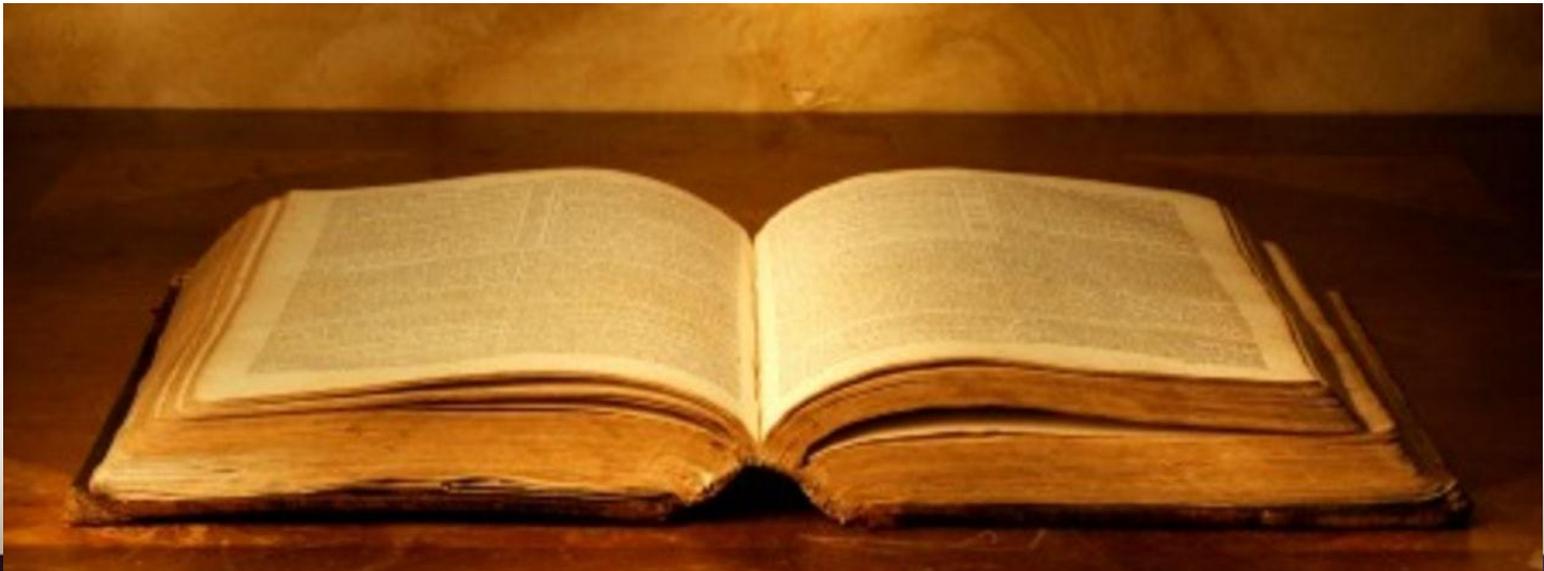
Sola Gratia – By Grace Alone

- Now, therefore, why are you putting God to the test by placing a yoke on the neck of the disciples that neither our fathers nor we have been able to bear?
11 But we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will.” – Acts 15:10-11
- For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast.
– Ephesians 2:8-9
- For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin. – Romans 3:20
- For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. – Romans 4:2
- For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace. – Romans 6:14
- You are severed from Christ, you who would be justified^[a] by the law; you have fallen away from grace. – Galatians 5:4
- and a bunch of other verses...



Sola Fide – By Faith Alone

- So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ. – Romans 10:17
- In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one... - Ephesians 6:16
- Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. – Hebrews 11:1





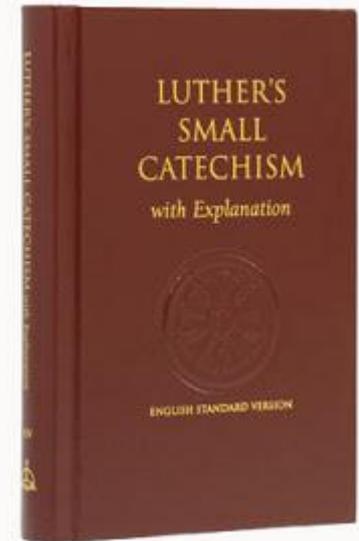
The Object of Our Faith

- For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures... - 1 Corinthians 15:3-4
- Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. – 1 Peter 1:3-5
- Jesus Christ is the object of our faith, and not just His existence, but His suffering, death, resurrection, and ascension and the consequence of our justification and our eternal life.



Six Chief Parts

- The six chief parts of Luther's Small Catechism are:
 - The Ten Commandments
 - The Apostle's Creed
 - The Lord's Prayer
 - The Sacrament of Baptism
 - The Sacrament of the Altar
 - Confession & Absolution





Ten Commandments

- You Shall Have No Other Gods
- You Shall Not Misuse The Name of The Lord Your God
- Remember the Sabbath Day by Keeping it Holy
- Honor Your Father and Your Mother
- You Shall Not Murder
- You Shall Not Commit Adultery
- You Shall Not Steal
- You Shall Not Give False Testimony Against Your Neighbor
- You Shall Not Covet Your Neighbor's House
- You Shall Not Covet Your Neighbor's Wife, or His Manservant or Maidservant, His Ox or Donkey, or Anything That Belongs to Your Neighbor.
- Read the Sermon on the Mount and it will be clear that concupiscence, the inclination towards sin or sinful thoughts, is also sin.



The Apostle's Creed

- I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilot, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen



The Lord's Prayer

- Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever and ever. Amen



The Sacrament of Baptism

- And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” – Matthew 28:18-20
- Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. ⁶ That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.– John 3:5-6
- And they [Paul and Silas] said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.” ³² And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. ³³ And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their wounds; and he was baptized at once, he and all his family.- Acts 16:31-33
- Historically children were baptized. Most still are, except in the case of modern evangelical protestant churches. Nowhere in the Bible does it say that baptism is a symbolic act. Search the Epistles for the word baptism.



The Sacrament of the Altar

- Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, “Take, eat; this is my body.” ²⁷ And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, “Drink of it, all of you, ²⁸ for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.”
– Matthew 26:26-28
- “I am the bread of life. ⁴⁹ Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. ⁵⁰ This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. ⁵¹ I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.” – John 6:48-51
- Again, this is not a symbolic act. Jesus says that the bread and wine are his body and blood, and we just accept it.



Confession and Absolution

- If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. – 1 John 1:8-10
- Truly, I say to you, whatever you [apostles] bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. - Matthew 18:18



Law & Gospel

- Three Uses of the Law:
 - Curb – The Law keeps the sinful nature of Christians and non-Christians in check
 - Mirror – It shows us our sin. This is necessary because sin makes our eyes blurry. If we can justify abortion, we can justify about anything.
 - Guide – The Law is God's will for how we are to live our lives in our Christian freedom.



Comingling of Law and Gospel

- Constraining the Gospel by making God's grace contingent upon our adherence to the Law – or legalistic variants of the Law.
 - Examples:
 - God wants to send his blessings to you but first you have to do your part.
 - God offers the free gift of salvation, but you have to accept it. You have to make a decision for Christ.
- Yikes. If you want the longer version of this, read C.F.W. Walther's "Law and Gospel."



Comfort. And closing words.

- “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” – Matthew 11:28-30
- Jesus is our rest. He is our salvation. The payment for our sins has been made in full. We are set free to do the good works which He has placed before us. That doesn’t mean that our lives will be free of suffering, free of futility, free of doubt. It means that despite the suffering, futility, and doubt, we persevere with belief in a bodily resurrection and eternal life with God, through Christ our savior.
- We are all poor, miserable sinners. But we are baptized into Christ, and wear the white robe cleansed by His blood. Are you really going to stand before God, throw off the white robe, and say “judge me instead by my works?” No. So as you go into the world, smile, and gladly share the message of hope – the gospel of our Lord.