

SESSION 4: THE REFORMATION: HOW CAN WE BE SAVED?

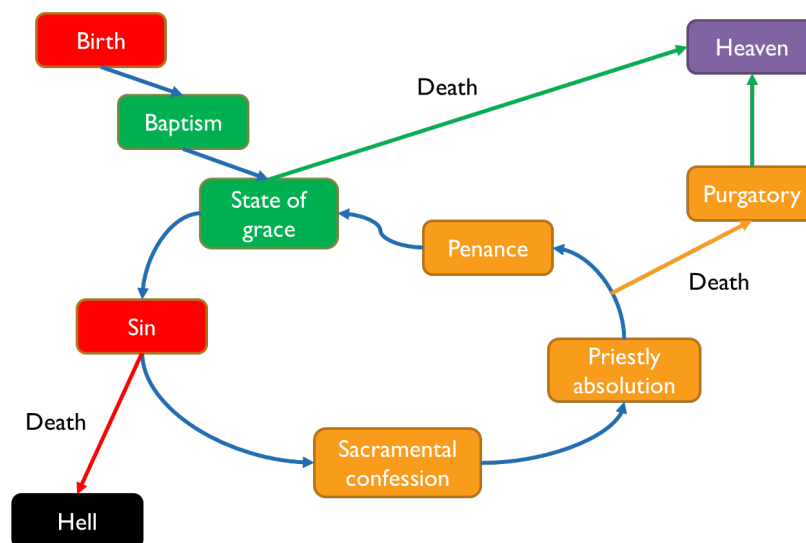
1 Corruption and confusion

1.1 The rise of the papacy

“And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” **Matt 16:18-19**

1.2 The difficult marriage of church and state

1.3 A sacramental theology



REAL FOOD SHORT TALKS:
GLORY TO THE KING OF AGES - LESSONS FROM CHURCH HISTORY

2 Luther's despair at sin

2.1 A life of terror

2.2 Passion for reform



2.3 Relief in Romans

"I had certainly been overcome with a great desire to understand St. Paul in his letter to the Romans, but what had hindered me thus far was... that phrase in the first chapter: 'The righteousness of God is revealed in it.' For I had hated the phrase 'the righteousness of God' which I had been taught to understand philosophically, in the sense of the formal or active righteousness by which God is righteous, and punishes unrighteous sinners.

Although I lived an irreproachable life as a monk, I felt that I was a sinner with an uneasy conscience before God; nor was I able to believe that I had pleased him with my satisfaction. I did not love (in fact, I hated) that righteous God who punished sinners, if not with silent blasphemy, then certainly with great murmuring. Thus I drove myself mad, with a desperate disturbed conscience, persistently pounding upon Paul in this passage, thirsting most ardently to know what he meant.

At last, God being merciful... I began to understand that 'righteousness of God' as that by which the righteous lives by the gift of God, namely by faith. This immediately made me feel as though I had been born again, and as though I had entered through open gates into paradise itself. From that moment, the whole face of Scripture appeared to me in a different light... And now, where I had once hated the phrase 'the righteousness of God,' so much I began to love and extol it as the sweetest of words, so that this passage in Paul became the very gate of paradise to me."

3 Reformed theology

Salvation is by **grace alone**, through **faith alone**, in **Christ alone**,
revealed in **Scripture alone**, to **God's glory alone**.

4 Implications

1. *Assurance*

2. *Authority*

3. *Expectations*

