

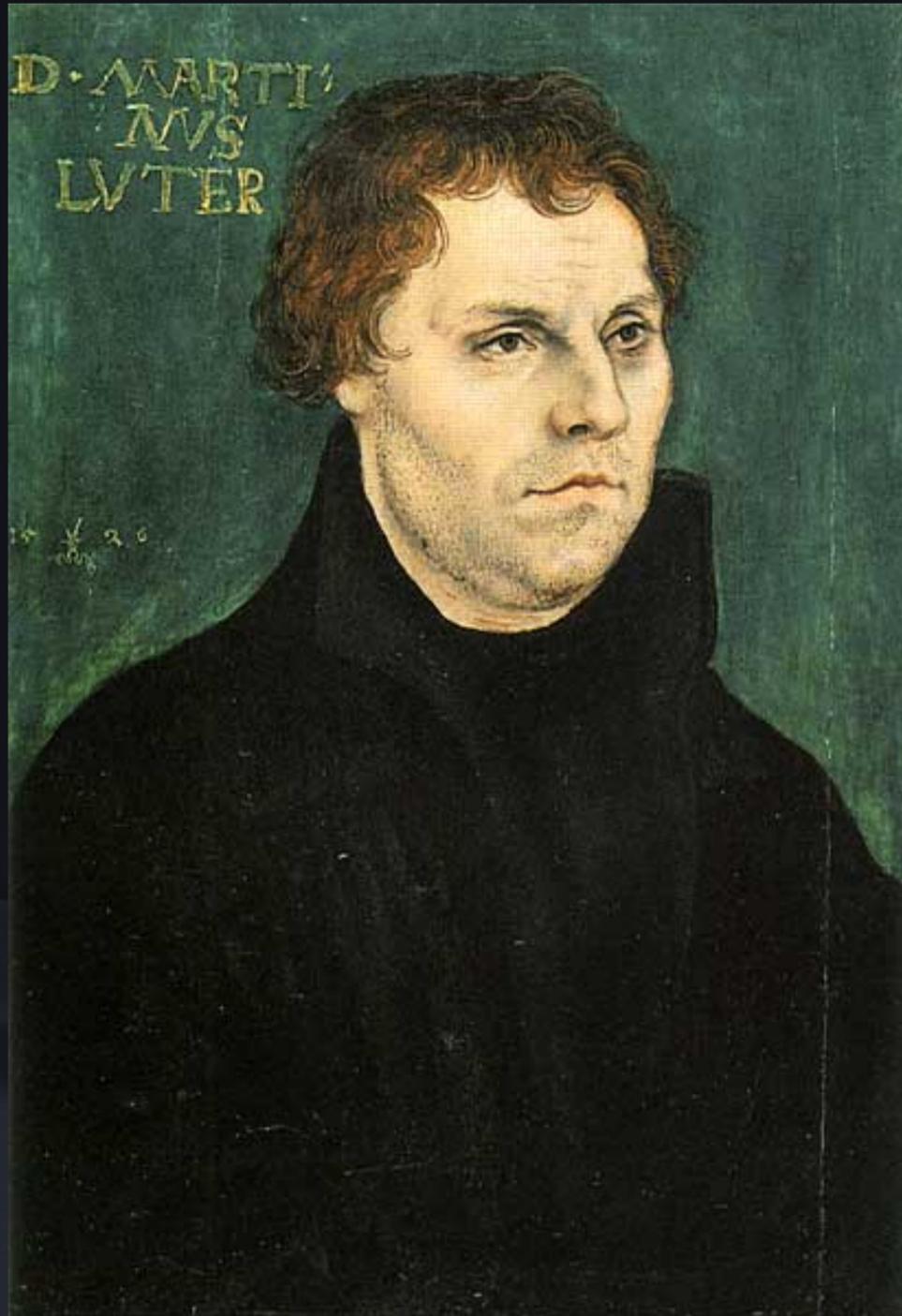
“Reformed Basics”

5. Salvation: the Application of Christ's Work

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Eph 2:8-10

...and here's where things take a Protestant turn...



We Are Born Dead to Spiritual Things

And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked... in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind...

Eph 2:1-2

Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

John 3:3

God Said: “Let There be Light”... in our Hearts

Effectual Calling: the Spirit applies Christ to us

- The Spirit “convinces us of our sin and misery”: we see our need of a Savior.
- He “enlightens our minds in the knowledge of Jesus Christ”: we see Christ as the Savior we need.
- He “renews our wills”: we are enabled to act on our knowledge of our misery and Christ’s goodness.
- He “persuades and enables us to embrace Jesus Christ”: we believe in and rely on Jesus Christ alone for our salvation

Justification

Christ's righteousness becomes ours

...all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. (Rom 3:23-24)

Justification

Christ's righteousness becomes ours

...all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. (Rom 3:23-24)

Justification is an act of God's free grace, wherein he pardons all our sins, and accepts us as righteous in his sight, only for the righteousness of Christ imputed to us, and received by faith alone." (SC 33)

Sanctification

We grow to resemble Christ more and more

What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? 2 By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? 3 Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. (Rom 6:1-4)

Sanctification

We grow to resemble Christ more and more

What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? 2 By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? 3 Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. (Rom 6:1-4)

Sanctification is the work of God's free grace, whereby we are renewed in the whole man after the image of God, and are enabled more and more to die unto sin, and live unto righteousness. (SC 35)

For by grace you have been saved through faith.
And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,
not a result of works, so that no one may boast.
For we are his workmanship,
created in Christ Jesus for good works,
which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Eph 2:8-10

We are Adopted into God's Family!

But to all who did receive [Christ], who believed in his name,
he gave the right to become children of God... (John 1:12)

We are Adopted into God's Family!

But to all who did receive [Christ], who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God... (John 1:12)

In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ... (Eph 1:5)

We are Adopted into God's Family!

But to all who did receive [Christ], who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God... (John 1:12)

In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ... (Eph 1:5)

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son... so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!' So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God." (Gal 4:4-7)

Adoption Conveys Benefits

...and responsibilities

- A new identity: new name, new parents and siblings, new standing before the law
- A new family code, new expectations
- New privileges:
 - the resources of the family are mine
 - eventually I inherit
 - access to the Father! I can come freely, knowing I will be welcomed

More Benefits of Adoption

- Our Father protects us: he sees to it we do not suffer harm
- Our Father disciplines us
 - It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. (Heb 12:7)
- He gives us the Holy Spirit as a “seal” of our inheritance: we are marked as his possession

Jesus' Own Will Make it to the End

God preserves the saints as they persevere in grace

For I the LORD do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed." (Mal 3:6)

Jesus' Own Will Make it to the End

God preserves the saints as they persevere in grace

For I the LORD do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed.” (Mal 3:6)

I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. (John 10:28–29)

How are the Saints Preserved?

By persevering in grace

Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. (2 Pet 1:10)

How are the Saints Preserved?

By persevering in grace

Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. (2 Pet 1:10)

No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him; and he cannot keep on sinning, because he has been born of God." (1 John 3:9)

God Chooses His People

- If God must save me, and I can't save myself, God must **choose** to bring me to himself
- God's work is not accidental, but purposeful.

God's choosing begins in Old Testament

“Choosing” also called “election”

- God's election began with choosing Israel from among all the nations
 - Not because of anything attractive or commendable in them

For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth.” (Deut 7:6)

God's Election Continues in New Testament

Both God's whole people and individual believers

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he **chose** us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for **adoption** to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will... (Eph 1:3–5)

Nobody gets adopted by accident: the parents take action

Election is a Difficult Topic

It involves God's secret decisions

- We can know about election only insofar as God reveals it
- We must not speculate about what is hidden from us

The doctrine of this **high mystery** of predestination [of which election is a part] is to be handled with **special prudence and care**, that men, attending the will of God **revealed** in his Word, and yielding **obedience** thereunto, may, from the **certainty** of their effectual vocation, be **assured** of their eternal election. (CF 3.8)

Why Do the Scriptures Even Bring This Up?

To reassure us that God is in control

- So we can be confident God will stick with us
 - If we are among those whom the Father has given to the Son, no one can snatch us from the Father's hand
- To explain why some do not believe
 - Paul in Rom 9–11 agonizes over his fellow Jews' disbelief
 - God has always had a remnant chosen by grace
 - This can be hard—why does God pass some by? He is good and just. Jesus wept over Jerusalem.

Two Errors to Avoid

- “Once saved always saved”—yes, but if you are content with a life of disobedience, do you really belong to Jesus?
- “If God wants to save the heathen he will do it himself”
 - “Hypercalvinism” ignores the fact that God uses means (preaching, witnessing) to spread his Kingdom

For God has consigned all to disobedience, that he may have mercy on all. Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!

“For who has known the mind of the Lord,
or who has been his counselor?”

“Or who has given a gift to him?
that he might be repaid?”

For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen. (Rom 11:32–36)