

MARSHALL COUNTY DEVOTIONAL PAGE

The true Reformation

"The Holy Spirit indicating this, that the way into the holiest of all was not yet made manifest, while as the first tabernacle was yet standing: Which was a figure for the time then present... Which stood only in meats and drinks, and divers washings, and carnal ordinances, imposed on them until the time of reformation." - Hebrews 9:8-10

October 31st is commonly known as Halloween. This popular holiday is celebrated with its candy and ghosts. However, this same day is also a special day because it is celebrated as Reformation Day. Reformation Day

acknowledges its start at the time when Martin Luther nailed "The 95 Theses" on a church door in Wittenberg, Germany, disputing the overreaching power of the Roman Church's pope and clergy. It was on October 31, 1517, that the Protestant Reformation came to the forefront and began. This is what most Christians mean when they refer to the Reformation.

However, when God speaks of the reformation in the Bible, He is not referring to anything Protestant or Catholic. As we read in our opening scriptures, reformation is directly referring to the time when Christ came and fulfilled the Old Covenant

and then instituted the New Covenant. The Lord Jesus Christ fulfilled the carnal ordinances imposed upon the Jewish people in the Law by the sacrifice of Himself. His blood sacrifice not only ended all animal sacrifices, but Christ's sacrifice also put an end to all earthly priesthoods. Therefore the true reformation is the spiritual reality found in the New Covenant whereby God the Father set up His Christ (His Anointed) as the last and only High Priest (Hebrews 5:5,6,10).

The true reformation has nothing to do with Luther or Calvin, but the true reformation is where Christ came as the only sinless High Priest

over the house of God in this better covenant called "a new and living way" (Hebrews 10:19-21). The true reformation is where Christ went into that greater, perfect tabernacle located in heaven, not made by men nor part of this world, but in the presence of God His Father. There Christ the High Priest brought before God His sinless sacrificial blood into that inner room, the Holy of Holies, located in heaven, and sprinkled it on the heavenly mercy seat making the full payment for all the sins of all His people once for all. The work of Christ secured the eternal salvation for all who will believe Him and receive

Him as their one and only sacrifice and their one and only High Priest. Consider how precious and powerful the blood of Christ is when it is Christ who presents His blood to God - as God's High Priest! Such a sacrifice frees us from the condemnation of sin, while such intercession from our "one Mediator" (1 Timothy 2:5) frees us from the worry of ceremonial rites and rituals. Such freedom makes us want to worship the Living God by offering up "spiritual sacrifices" of thanksgiving (1 Peter 2:5). This is the one true reformation.

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