

Reformation or Rebranding?

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Introduction

Paul's last words about the time that would come have indeed developed into the condition of the church today, "**For the time will come** when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall **turn away their ears from the truth**, and shall be **turned unto fables [mythos]**" (2Ti 4:3-4). The Greek noun *mythos* is where our English word "myths" is derived. The teaching of Protestant churches that God is a Trinity of Persons, man is an eternal spirit being, and salvation is by faith are myths. But because these beliefs have been taught consistently for hundreds of years, people have become acclimated and settled with them and now turn their ears away from hearing the truth.

This current plight is no accident. The devil is deceiving, confusing, and distracting with false doctrines to keep people from the truth so that they will perish. The Protestant Reformation wasn't an initiative to return to the beliefs of the early church as it was acclaimed. It was a calculated and formulated deception by the enemy to infiltrate myths to the multitudes in a façade of the truth.

The Protestant Reformation

The Protestant Reformation was an apparent split from the Roman Catholic Church (RCC) about 500 years ago and is hailed as the point where Christians finally returned to "the faith which was once delivered unto the saints" (Jde 1:3). However, it wasn't so much a reforming as it was a rebranding. A reform is an improvement upon what is wrong to something better which would have been the case if it was a matter of getting a wrong gospel message right. But the errors of the RCC were far deeper and more pervasive—it had a wrong view of God, a wrong view of man, and a wrong gospel message. But rather than discarding the entire mess and truly reforming, the Reformation kept the same wrong view of God and man, then simply formulated another wrong gospel message out of it. Protestant churches today are essentially the RCC rebranded under a new name and image with a new message. It's the same "product" but in new packaging—a subtle and devious marketing strategy.

Similarly, as the Protestant Reformation wasn't a reformation, it also wasn't a protest—it was by the agency and design of the RCC. Its own Martin Luther appeared to lead a dissent from the mother church after having come to the "enlightenment" that justification is by faith. The true intent of this event, however, was that in the course of diverting everyone's attention to the noble endeavor of getting the gospel message right, it was covertly reinforcing the Trinitarian view of God as right! In other words, it was a deflection from the underlying issue while buttressing it in the process. Though both sides have been hotly debating for hundreds of years whether salvation is by faith plus works or by faith alone, hardly a peep has been chirped about the correct view of God. This was never in question. Fighting passionately against the things that were wrong left the false and fatal impression that everything else was substantially right.

Making all of this the more disheartening and discouraging is the fact that both sides of the “faith” debate are also wrong! Protestant churches contending “faith alone” and the RCC defending “faith plus works” has been two false gospel messages duking it out and accumulating myriads of converts to boot. The entire ordeal has proven to be a sinister and successful campaign by the enemy to destroy us.

The mother of harlots

So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, **full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads** and ten horns. **And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls**, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication: And upon her forehead *was* a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, **THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS** AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. And I saw the woman drunken with **the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus**: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration. (Revelation 17:3-6)

Many have recognized and maintain that this woman is the RCC. She is decked in the pomp and pageantry of her popes and cardinals attired in purple and scarlet, gold and precious stones. She established the doctrine of the Trinity by anathematizing and putting to death those that stood for the truth taught by Jesus Christ. And she is “THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS” by virtue of having given birth to thousands of Protestant Trinitarian churches all over the world committing fornication with a Trinity of Persons rather than knowing “the only true God” (Jhn 17:3) the Father, and His Son Jesus Christ.

The seven heads of the beast carrying the woman could possibly be the seven largest Trinitarian organizations: the RCC, Reformed, Anglican, Methodist, Lutheran, Pentecostal, and Baptist. We were told earlier, “And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw **a beast** rise up out of the sea, **having seven heads** and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and **upon his heads the name of blasphemy**” (Rev 13:1). If this is the true identity of the seven heads, then “the name of blasphemy” on the heads is the name “Trinity.”

In the end times, however, God’s people will come out from this woman, “**Come out of her, my people**, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues” (Rev 18:4). Within the RCC and Protestant churches are many of God’s people that embrace the Trinitarian view of God in sincere ignorance—only because it was taught to them. But the day will come when they’ll no longer be ignorant of the truth and will be given a final opportunity to depart.

Now the Spirit [*Breath*] speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to **seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils**; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; **Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats**, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and **know the truth.** (1 Timothy 4:1-3)

Paul described the coming RCC quite descriptively. They forbid their priests from marrying and require abstaining from meat on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, and all Fridays during Lent. And this is what the Breath spoke expressly or specifically would happen in the latter times.

Jesus Christ was sent by God and He taught that He is the Son of God and that His Father is God and even His God. The doctrine of a Triune God didn't come from Him! Then where did it come from? What's its source? Paul said that doctrines of devils come from those forbidding marriage and requiring abstinence from meat, and the doctrine of the Trinity came from the very organization that fits this description.

Vain babblings

The Protestant Reformation wasn't about standing for the true gospel message, but about furthering the spread of the false Trinitarian view of God through another means. People seeking the narrow road that leads to life now had an option other than the RCC. And although this other option might have seemed more appealing, it's still not the narrow road.

The subtlety behind the Reformation is that it continued the spread of the RCC false view of God and man primarily through diversion tactics. Its first and main diversion was that salvation isn't by "faith plus works" as taught by the RCC but by "faith alone" or the Latin *sola fide*. But Martin Luther was wrong in this understanding of "The just shall live by faith" (Rom 1:17) because Habakkuk wasn't talking about faith but faithfulness, "because of his faithfulness" (Hab 2:4 NET) "by his faithfulness" (Hab 2:4 NIV). Paul even clarified this later in Romans, "This was also to demonstrate his righteousness in the present time, so that he would be just and **the justifier** of the one who **lives because of Jesus' faithfulness**" (Rom 3:26 NET). The just live—have eternal life—by Jesus Christ's faithfulness to His Father sending Him as the sacrifice for our sins.

Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort *you* that ye should earnestly contend for **the faith [faithfulness] which was once delivered unto the saints**. For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ. I will therefore put you in remembrance, though ye once knew this, how that **the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed them that believed [trusted] not**. (Jde 1:3-5)

Trinitarian theologians claim that "the faith [faithfulness] which was once delivered unto the saints" is a body of doctrinal beliefs that was delivered to the early church by the apostles. And this body of beliefs, of course, is their system of theology that they teach today! But Jude wasn't talking about a belief system but the faithfulness God delivered to His people at the time of the Exodus, "the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt." God disciplined them to be faithful to Him and trusting in Him—the same way we're saved today! Jesus Christ taught us to be faithful servants to Him as Lord: "No man can serve two masters" (Mat 6:24); "Who then is a faithful and wise servant" (Mat 24:45); "Well done, *thou* good and faithful servant" (Mat 25:21); "And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?" (Luk 6:46).

The Protestant doctrine of justification by "faith alone" is just as false and damning as the RCC doctrine of "faith plus works." It only sounds more appealing because it supposedly glorifies the finished work of Christ on the cross by excluding any of our own works. But this isn't what it does. It's just another false gospel message founded upon the RCC false view of God and intended to keep people from the truth.

By inventing the artificial issue of “faith alone” versus “faith plus works” and making such a racket about it, it underhandedly sold the bill of goods that the RCC had the correct view of God since that issue wasn’t even questioned. Paul warned Timothy several times about those spreading vain babblings or words to no profit: “From which some having swerved have turned aside unto **vain jangling**” (1Ti 1:5-6); “O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane *and* **vain babblings**, and oppositions of science falsely so called” (1Ti 6:20); “Of these things put *them* in remembrance, charging *them* before the Lord that they strive not about **words to no profit**, *but* to the subverting of the hearers” (2Ti 2:14); “But shun profane *and* **vain babblings**: for they will increase unto more ungodliness” (2Ti 2:16).

The devil is a master distractor. Sola Fide, Calvinism, the rapture, Once Saved Always Saved, speaking with tongues and many other popular mainstream doctrines are simply smokescreens intended to confuse and deceive, waste precious time and resources, and divert people’s attention away from the real issues of the false Trinitarian view of God and the false view of man as an eternal spirit being. Much of what’s being taught in Protestant Trinitarian churches today is simply vain babblings intended to distract and divert people away from the narrow road that leads to eternal life so that they will perish. These churches are not trying to help us get saved.

Calvinism has proven to be a huge distraction that has wasted unfathomable amounts of time and resources over hundreds of years. It’s simply a cloak to divert people’s attention away from the true gospel message hidden in a mystery from the beginning, “in heavenly *places* in Christ” (Eph 1:3), “Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven ... the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night” (Gen 1:17-16). Trinitarian theologians don’t want us to learn the truth hidden from the beginning, that becoming God’s child is by being joined to His chosen people in Christ Jesus, “According as **he hath chosen us in him** before the foundation of the world, **that we should be holy** and without blame before him in love: Having predestinated us unto **the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself**, according to the good pleasure of his will” (Eph 1:4-5), “**Ye are the children of the LORD your God**: ye shall not cut yourselves, nor make any baldness between your eyes for the dead. **For thou art an holy people** unto the LORD thy God, and **the LORD hath chosen thee** to be a peculiar people unto himself, above all the nations that *are* upon the earth.” (Deu 14:1-2).

The entire Calvinist and Arminian debate about whether “**chosen us** in him before the foundation of the world” (Eph 1:4) means God chooses which individuals will be saved, is simply a grand diversion to keep people from learning the truth that it’s about God’s chosen people. They don’t want people to learn that we’re saved by being joined to God’s people and faithfully serving their Lord and Messiah.

It’s an utter shock to come to the realization that Calvinists and Arminians are on the same side! They’re not trying to find the truth but fight the truth. They’re working together to keep people distracted from finding the truth themselves. In the process of endless debates endeavoring to debunk each other, they’re deliberately robbing our precious time from learning what Paul so earnestly wanted us to understand, “The eyes of your understanding being enlightened” (Eph 1:18). The entire Calvinism and Arminianism debate is a sinister ruse to keep us blinded from the truth. It’s a deluge of questions, debates, and controversies along with disputes about the meaning of words, “doting about questions and strifes of words” (1Ti 6:4). Does God choose who will be saved? Do we have a free will? What’s the meaning of foreknowledge, predestination, and election? Are you supralapsarian or infralapsarian? It’s wasting people’s time and damning them in the process.

Another shrewd distraction from the truth is the doctrine of the rapture. The intent is to detour people’s hope away from the Lord’s return and the resurrection by inventing an independent rapture event. Rather than the

living being caught up with the dead at the Lord's return, it's now about looking to escape the Tribulation period by a rapture up to heaven. It's just a digression from our true hope to a false one.

Probably the most nefarious divergence of all is the detouring of honest seekers away from striving to keep the commandments of the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus told us to teach new converts obedience to everything He commanded, "Go ye therefore, and **teach all nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: **Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you:** and, lo, I am with you always, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen" (Mat 28:19-20). But this isn't what's happening today in Protestant churches.

As an unscrupulous substitute, Protestant leaders devised "discipleship" programs where new converts are taught to memorize Bible verses on index cards, stick to a daily Bible reading plan, and participate in small group Bible discussions, but to get their understanding of the Bible from their sermons, books, and commentaries. This isn't simply an oversight or misunderstanding about what Jesus told us to do. Theologians and scholars are highly intelligent men with no problem understanding His simple statement. Rather, it's a deliberate and intentional misleading of honest seekers to the path of destruction. By diverting them to a lifestyle of such religious practices, they're effectively keeping them from a life of faithful obedience to Jesus Christ as Lord. They're preventing their salvation.

Jesus taught that we're to not only hear but also do the commandments He delivered in His Sermon on the Mount, "Therefore whosoever **heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them**, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock ... And every one that **heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not**, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand" (Mat 7:24, 26). He said that if we're not doing His commandments, He will banish us from His presence and we'll perish, "And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: **depart from me, ye that work iniquity**" (Mat 7:23).

Conclusion

Protestant churches are steeped in myths about God, man, and salvation purposely intended to keep its members deceived, confused, and diverted away from the truth taught by Jesus Christ. The pastors of these churches teach and preach anything other than what will get people on the narrow road that leads to life, "Because strait *is* the gate, and narrow *is* the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it" (Mat 7:14). They'll teach topically, they'll teach verse-by-verse, they'll teach on marriage and family, they'll teach apologetics, they'll teach theology, they'll teach against sin, they'll teach on faith, they'll even teach through the entire Bible, but they won't teach the commandments of Jesus Christ and they won't agree with what He declared about God and about Himself.

Jesus said, "But let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil" (Mat 5:37). If someone doesn't answer a simple Yes/No question—also called a polar question—with a simple "Yes" or "No" answer, then evil is involved in their motives. If you feel so inclined, just ask your Trinitarian pastor this simple polar question, "Is God the Father, Jesus Christ's God?" If he answers "Yes," then he isn't a Trinitarian. If he answers "No," then he's disagreeing with Jesus because He called His Father "My God" before His death (Mat 27:46), after His resurrection (Jhn 20:17), and after His ascension to His Father's right hand (Rev 3:12). If he answers something other than "Yes" or "No," then according to Jesus, there's evil

in his motives. Not answering “Yes” or “No” to a polar question is dodging the question as to not be identified with one side or the other. But why wouldn’t a pastor want to be identified with Jesus Christ?