

REFORMATION Sunday

The Son of God Has Set Us Free from Sin and Death by His Grace



Background: The Reformation of the church is recognized this Sunday. The Lessons this Sunday are rich. Like the events of the Reformation, John describes a debate between Church leaders and Jesus. He tells them, they are slaves of sin and hardly children of Abraham. If they want to be free, they must abide in Him. Being free is used by Christ in a slightly different context.

Martin Luther posting his 95 Theses [Ferdinand Pauwels](#) 1572

It is free to serve God and man, which is our Christian calling. We receive our freedom through Christ. His saving act on the cross, in our behalf, provides us forgiveness of all our sins. We receive this forgiveness by trusting that Christ's sacrificial death on the cross is how we receive forgiveness, rather than any form of sacrifice or penance that we might want to undertake to "please God." The Reformation brought this principle back to the church. Yet, reformation is a continuous process. Even today, church bodies are straying from the truth as taught in the scriptures. This truth is important. As Jesus said, I tell you the truth, that I had heard from God. This is why reformation churches adhere to the reformation principle of "sola scriptura."

The Lessons: Revelation 14:6–7, Romans 3:19–28, & Matthew 11:12–19 or John 8:31–36
"Wisdom is justified by her deeds" (Matt. 11:19), and the true Wisdom of God, Christ Jesus, the incarnate Son, justifies us by His deeds. He prepares His way by the preaching of repentance, but He has suffered the violence of the Law and voluntarily handed Himself over to violent men, that we might eat and drink with Him in His kingdom and "remain in the house forever" (John 8:35). For He is "a friend of tax collectors and sinners" (Matt. 11:19), and He has rescued us by His grace from the slavery of sin and death. By the proclamation of His eternal Gospel "to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people" (Rev. 14:6), "the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law" (Rom. 3:21), "that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus" (Rom. 3:26). And by hearing the Gospel of Christ Jesus, "whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith" (Rom. 3:25), "you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free" (John 8:32).