

HOW DID WE GET HERE?

A Short Course on Church History

The Puritans

⁹ But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

1 Peter 2:9-10 (ESV)

The Character of an Old English *Puritane*, or Nonconformist:

"He was...[a man foursquare], immovable in all times, so that they who in the midst of many opinions have lost the view of true religion, may return to him and there find it."

I. Who were the **Puritans**?

II. Why study the Puritans?

III. **The Five Solas** of the Reformation:

Scripture alone (*sola Scriptura*) is the formal principle of the Reformation and the foundation of all theology.

God's glory alone (*solus Deo gloria*) functions as a capstone for all Reformation theology, connecting its various parts to God's one purpose for creating this world and humanity in it.

In between these two *solas*, the other three emphasize that God has chosen and acted to save us by his grace alone (*sola gratia*), through faith alone (*sola fide*), and grounded in and through Christ alone (*solus Christus*).

IV. The Solas and their effects on the Church:

A. Preaching:

B. The church service:

C. The pastor:

V. The Puritans in **England**:

A. James I (1603-1625)

Balance between _____ theology and _____ ecclesiology

But the Puritans wanted reform:

- Abolish _____
- Establish _____ OR _____
- Banish rite of _____
- _____ in every church rather than minister merely reading the Book of Common Prayer

Hampton Court Conference ...

B. Charles I (1625-1649)

Sympathetic to Catholic teaching

Growing _____ presence

- i. More ceremonial worship
- ii. Use of sacraments
- iii. Romish drift

William Laud – Archbishop of Canterbury

Civil War between Parliament and the King

Westminster Assembly

Oliver Cromwell

C. Charles II (1658-1688)

The “Great Ejection”

VI. The Puritans in **America**:

- A. Puritans (Massachusetts Bay Colony)
- B. Pilgrims (Plymouth Colony)
- C. Covenant and Half-Way Covenant

Premise:

Practical expression:

Entry point:

The dilemma:

The solution:

The effect:

D. Puritan writings:

Pilgrim's Progress, John Bunyan

Mortification of Sin, John Owen

A Call to the Unconverted, Richard Baxter

The Bruised Reed, Richard Sibbes

Valley of Vision

VII. The **Legacy** of the Puritans

- 1) "integration of their daily lives":
- 2) "the quality of their spiritual experience":
- 3) "passion for effective action":
- 4) "program for family stability":
- 5) "sense of human worth":
- 6) "ideal of church renewal":

O THOU MOST HIGH,

*Creator of the ends of the earth,
Governor of the universe,
Judge of all men,
Head of the church,
Saviour of sinners;
thy greatness is unsearchable,
thy goodness infinite,
thy compassions unfailing,
thy providence boundless,
thy mercies ever new.*

We bless thee for the words of salvation.

*How important, suitable, encouraging
are the doctrines, promises, and invitations
of the gospel of peace!*

*We are lost: but in it thou hast presented to us
a full, free and eternal salvation;*

*weak: but here we learn that help is found in
One that is mighty,
poor: but in him we discover unsearchable riches,
blind: but we find he has treasures of wisdom
and knowledge.*

We thank thee for thy unspeakable gift.

*Thy Son is our only refuge, foundation, hope,
confidence;*

*We depend upon his death,
rest in his righteousness,
desire to bear his image;*

*May his glory fill our minds,
his love reign in our affections,
his cross inflame us with ardour.*

*Let us as Christians fill our various situations
in life,*

*escape the snares to which they expose us,
discharge the duties that arise from our
circumstances,*

*enjoy with moderation their advantages,
improve with diligence their usefulness,*

*And may every place and company we are in
be benefited by us.*

Next time: The Always Reforming Church