



Psalm 139:16-17 (NIV)

All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be. How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!

Romans 8:28 (NIV)

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

Brief Summary of What We've Learned Thus Far

- The first Christians were Jews, but as Gentiles began to follow Jesus Christianity separated from Judaism.
- For the first thousand years there were no Orthodox, Roman Catholic or Protestant churches, only Christian churches.
- In 1054, the churches in the Roman Empire split when Pope Leo IX and Patriarch Michael I excommunicated each other.
- Eastern churches took the name *The Orthodox Church* and the western church took the name *The Roman Catholic Church*.
- In the 16th century, corruption and abuses of power permeated the Roman Catholic Church.
- In 1517, a priest named Martin Luther spoke out against the church and on October 31, 1517, nailed a list of 95 statements outlining the church's sins to the front door of the church in Wittenberg, Germany.
- When the Pope and the Bishops refused to acknowledge their faults and sought to silence Martin Luther, the Protestant branch of Christianity was born.

The Birth of Presbyterian and Reformed Churches

- Some reformers felt Luther's reforms did not go far enough.
- John Calvin and his protégé John Knox were among the next wave of reformers and their efforts resulted in the birth of the Presbyterian and Reformed churches.

- Those with Dutch, Swiss and German ancestry used the name “Reformed” while those with English ancestry used the name “Presbyterian.”
- Presbyterians take their name from the way they are organized. *Presbuteros* is the Greek word for “Elder.” Their structure does not include bishops, but elders lead each local congregation.

What do Presbyterians and Reformed Churches Believe?

T _____
We are utterly sinful and cannot save ourselves.

U _____
God has chosen from the beginning of time some to be saved and others to be passed by. Those who are chosen were not chosen on the basis of anything they had done, but solely on the basis of God’s choice.

L _____
The sacrifice of Jesus on the cross was not for everybody, but only for those God chose and predestined to receive salvation.

I _____
If you are among those whom God has chosen to receive salvation, you do not have the free will to refuse it. Your will has nothing to do with it.

P _____
If you have been chosen by God to receive salvation, you are unable to lose it, no matter what you do. If you slip away from God, it is a sign that you were not really one of the elect.

The Hallmark of Reformed and Presbyterian Theology:

The _____

Your Notes