

Here We Stand: Commemorating the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation

Edited by Prof. Ronald Cammenga

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“Here We Stand”, a variation of Martin Luther’s powerful concluding statement from his speech at the Diet of Worms, is an appropriate title for this book and theme for the event it summarizes. In October of a 2017 a conference was held to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the great Reformation. Spread over two days, it included six different speeches that were then adapted by the speakers into written form. Each section highlights a different aspect of one of the most significant events of Christ’s church on this earth.

Professors Ronald Cammenga, Barry Gritters, and Russell Dykstra, and Reverends David Torlach, Martin McGeown, and Steven Key each write their own chapter based on a different topic. Subjects include Luther’s internal struggle with the assurance of salvation, the return to Sola Scriptura, the priesthood of all believers, the recovery of right worship, the response to radical reformers, and reformation progress in the lowlands.

The Reformation has no shortage of subject matter, and the writers do well in covering a wide range of issues in depth without overlapping into each other’s material. Each chapter covers a serious error of the Roman Catholic church of that day, how various reformers responded to the error, and the application and effects we feel to this day. The writers did a good job of drawing parallels to doctrinal issues that we still encounter, and emphasized the importance of defending them with scripture. It was interesting to read how much of the weekly worship services in our churches today originated from reform 500 years ago.

Throughout the book, even with the multiple authors and topics, there is a clear theme of God’s grace in the gathering and preserving of His church. In the years leading up to the Reformation it must have been very difficult and seemingly hopeless for the saints of that day. In His perfect will the Lord worked in the hearts of men such as Martin Luther, Ulrich Zwingli, John Calvin, and many more, to stand firm against the heresies of the corrupt church. As we October begins and we approach another anniversary of the beginning of the Reformation, there is no better time to pick up this book.

Hard copy and eBook available for purchase at rfpa.org, by emailing mail@rfpa.org, calling 616-457-5970, or contacting our book club agent Ed Lotterman.

Book Review by Kevin Huizinga