**REPORT FROM THE 2015 LIGONIER CONFERENCE**

Brother Andy Kuhn

March 1, 2015

Well, what a wonderful start to 2015 we have enjoyed here at COPC … Pastor Blair has taken us through a lightning tour of the reformation – with an explanation of those five Solas that we have prominently displayed on the back wall of this building.

Notice that I used the word building and not church. … As we have learned together consistently at this church, and especially over the past few weeks, we have learned that Christ’s church – His body – is not comprised of a building, nor is it defined in the innumerable ways that man has tried to define it literally since its founding by Christ through the Apostles. God has established His church through His Son Jesus Christ, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. And hopefully over the past few weeks, you have been able to gain an understanding of why the Reformation is so vital to the defense of the two essential elements of Christ’s true church that were (and remain) in danger from Rome:

1. How lost people are forgiven and saved

2. Who or what has final Authority in the Church.

Now the message that I will bring today, although not expositional in nature --- and yes we still love expositional preaching at this church and it should return next week – yet this message today is quite fitting as we close our mini-series on the Reformation, especially in the context that Blair introduced last week --- *Semper Reformanda*. You see not only must we continue to uphold the truths of Scripture against the persistent threats both within and without the church, we also must do so without compromise with an ever-increasingly pagan world. In fact, this was the core theme of the Ligonier National Conference… It was titled “***Post Tennebras Lux***”, the title of Blair’s 1st sermon in our series.

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Now the conference was a blessing in so many ways, and it even started before we got there…

* Listening to Scripture and audio sermon teachings on the way there and way back … a blessing with my wife
* The wonderful experience of fellowship with 1000s of like-minded believers … shared a table with someone different at every meal, and were immediately able to enjoy deep conversations of the things of God, share similar struggles in faith and ministry … Acts 2:42 in practice --- we had it all covered “the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer”
* Lots of expositional preaching
* One of my favorite topics … Apologetics (in not just one but two sessions)
* Evangelism … mention Ligonier’s efforts at the World Cup and plans for the Olympics in 2016
* Public & Broadcast ministry …mention conversation with Lee Webb, current voice of Renewing You Mind broadcast (Bro Don ☺)
* Biblical Living in the 21st century

So I have a real challenge set before me this morning … How do I adequately share 3 days packed of wonderful teaching about our Glorious God and Savior in our short time together? After prayer and consideration on such a daunting task, I was led to use our time this morning in a way that might make Pastor Blair a little uneasy --- I am going to “hit the high points” from the conference. You see, similar to our efforts to get y’all into the things of God throughout your week, though things like…

* Daily Bible Reading Plan
* Weekly Catechism during Family Devotions
* Monthly Puritan Book Challenge
* Corporate Weekly Bible Study
* Corporate Prayer Meeting

…I want to use our time together this morning to add yet another resource for your growth in the knowledge and obedience to Christ. Conferences like Ligonier last week and the Shepherd’s Conference in California this week provide today’s believers with many resources for your edification and encouragement in the 21st Century. So with a strong warning to be discerning, to always search the Scriptures to see that these things are true – you might recall my previous message on false teaching back in late November -- these conferences often generate very helpful books, lesson series, and videos like the brief clips we are about to see from last week’s conference. Like many of these events today, these videos are available to stream for free – these particular clips are available both from Ligonier’s website and on the Ligonier Channel on YouTube.

Now I wanted to open todays’ message with the passage from Revelation 1&2 because it was our Lord’s first call to Reformation to the early church after His ascension. Have you really thought about that? Yes, during his earthly ministry Christ had warned about persecution, struggles, and deception that would come, and the Apostles also warn and instruct about how to deal with it all through the Epistles. But here in Revelation, where so many people want to go to find the answers about the end of the age, it opens with the call to reformation to the 1st Century Church by the Savior himself, and I think we can learn a lot from this example. This passage is also the reference text for the 1st Conference video that I will share with you today. Let’s read the letter to the church at Ephesus, Revelation 2:1-7:

**Sinclair Ferguson** -- Dr. Sinclair B. Ferguson is professor of systematic theology at Redeemer Seminary in Dallas. He is a visiting professor in the D.Min. program at Ligonier Academy and a teaching fellow of Ligonier Ministries.

…[Video - Sinclair Ferguson: Christ’s Message to the Church](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AT-ymQ58QPc) (Message to church at Ephesus); display minutes 20:00 – 23:35

…after video, notes from conference

**Introduce Alistair Begg** -- Dr. Alistair Begg is senior pastor of Parkside Church in Cleveland, Ohio, and host of [*Truth for Life*](http://www.truthforlife.org/site/PageServer).

…Introduce this clip from Acts Chapter 17:16-34 … Paul in Athens … Alistair has just reviewed the loss of reality in our culture with some examples… [Video - Alistair Begg: No Place for Truth](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SLdX7D3Jy4A); display minutes 8:15 – 11:30

…after video, notes from conference

**Dr. R.C. Sproul Jr**. is rector and chair of philosophy and theology at Reformation Bible College. Dr. Sproul Jr. is also a teaching fellow for Ligonier Ministries. He is author of several books and teaches on the daily podcast [*Jesus Changes Everything*](http://rcsprouljr.com/jce/).

…Introduce this clip from Genesis 3:1-15 … The Fall … R.C.-Jr. has just introduced that all of mankind became children of Satan at the Fall … [Video – R. C. Sproul, Jr.: It’s All about Me](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Pc2Za0u2c4); display minutes 23:26 – 25:20

…after video, notes from conference Christian Living (there are some young Timothy’s out there today ☺)

**Rev. Kevin DeYoung** is senior pastor of University Reformed Church in East Lansing, Michigan, and president of RCA Integrity. He is also co-author of Why We Love the Church.

…Introduce this clip from 1 John 2:15-17 … Love not the World … In expositing this passage, Kevin has just introduced us to Paul’s writing in Ephesians 5 … [Video – Kevin DeYoung: Do Not Love the World](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xMF8Dh0jWe8); display minutes 18:18 – 23:13

…after video, notes from conference

**Tim Challies** is author of the blog [*Challies.com*](http://www.challies.com/) and a pastor in Toronto. He is author of [*The Discipline of Spiritual Discernment*](http://www.ligonier.org/store/the-discipline-of-spiritual-discernment-paperback/)and [*The Next Story: Life and Faith after the Digital Explosion*](http://www.ligonier.org/store/the-next-story-hardcover/).

…Introduce this topical clip Purity in a Digital Age … Tim is discussing the distractions of modern handheld devices … [Video – Tim Challies: Purity in a Digital Age](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vgtKShuiRNI&index=17&list=PL30acyfm60fVMUKk-udUzhyobwAWSlJuH); display minutes 8:08 – 10:25

…after video, notes from conference

**Dr. W. Robert Godfrey** is president and professor of church history at Westminster Seminary California and a teaching fellow of Ligonier Ministries. He is the author of [John Calvin: Pilgrim and Pastor](http://www.ligonier.org/store/john-calvin-pilgrim-and-pastor-paperback/).

…Introduce this clip Hebrews 4:11-13 … defending the voracity of the Word of God “It’s just a book” … [Video – W. Robert Godfrey: It’s Just a Book](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HjlCO5A975Y&index=12&list=PL30acyfm60fVMUKk-udUzhyobwAWSlJuH); display minutes 2:18 – 6:20

…after video, notes from conference

**Dr. R.C. Sproul** is co-pastor of Saint Andrew’s Chapel in Sanford, Fla., and the founder and chairman of Ligonier Ministries. He is author of the teaching series [*Recovering the Beauty of the Arts*](http://www.ligonier.org/learn/series/recovering-the-beauty-of-the-arts/).

Isaiah 6:1-7 Holy, Holy, Holy … [Video – R.C. Sproul: Holy, Holy, Holy](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AgKzsZUmeBk&index=13&list=PL30acyfm60fVMUKk-udUzhyobwAWSlJuH); display minutes 12:50 -15:55