



*Reading Scripture with
the Reformers*

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Relating to the Reformers

In what frame of reference must we approach our understanding of the Reformation and the reformers?

Why should we learn what the reformers were learning? What makes their knowledge applicable to our modern times?

How did the advent of the printing press alter religion during the Reformation?

How did the widespread use of the Bible influence Reformation-era Europe? Why was the reading and interpretation of the Bible by laypersons “dangerous”?

How did initial New Testament translations aid in the acceptance of other biblical translations as well as the understanding of other languages?

How vital were the teachings of Luther? Would the Reformation have happened without him? How did Luther influence the Protestantism of today?

In what ways was the Reformation a success?

“For the reformers it was impossible to separate the core message of the gospel from the written Word of God in which they found it expressed with compelling clarity. For them, the Bible was precious, not as a handbook for happy living or as a primer of metaphysics about God, but because they found there ‘the swaddling clothes in which Christ lies.’ . . . The principle of sola scriptura did not mean that the study of the Bible should be divorced from interaction with its other readers and interpreters across the ages. But the new understanding of the place of the Bible in the life of the church did mean the rejection of the particular synthesis of Scripture, tradition and papal authority that had come to prevail in the Western church during the late Middle Ages.”

—From the conclusion

AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY



Timothy George, Th.D

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Timothy George is the founding dean of Beeson Divinity School of Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama, teaching church history and doctrine. He is also a senior adviser at *Christianity Today*. He is a member of the Southern Baptist–Roman Catholic Conversation Team and has participated in the Evangelicals and Catholics Together initiative.

George has written more than twenty books and regularly contributes to scholarly journals. His most recent books are *Is the Father of Jesus the God of Muhammad?* and *The Mark of Jesus: Loving in a Way the World Can See* with John Woodbridge. He is also the general editor of the forthcoming Reformation Commentary on Scripture series from InterVarsity Press, debuting with *Galatians, Ephesians* (volume 10) in October 2011. An ordained minister, George has been the pastor of churches in Tennessee, Alabama and Massachusetts. He and his wife, Denise, have two adult children.