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Volume X

*** This article was originally written as a blog post for Grace School of Theology. Within the article you will find a helpful list that can help provide a better understanding of the soteriology of the Reformation and the Calvinism that emerged after.*

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January 8, 2018

The Church Still in Need of a Reformation

Posted by Dr. Fred Chay | Jan. 8, 2018 |

We begin a new year which marks the end of the 500-year celebration of the Reformation. This past year has seen many good and helpful reminders of what the Reformation under Luther, Calvin and Zwingli accomplished. We must never forget that before the great reformation there were other godly men who gave their lives for the Gospel which launched Luther and Calvin and the reformation. Men like John Huss and John Wycliffe provided the pre-reformation kindling that later ignited into a raging theological fire over Europe and ultimately reached the shores of what was to become American Puritanism. However, many of us in the Free Grace movement realize that not everything of the Reformation was accurate or complete. There have been many excellent works evaluating the Soteriology of the Reformation and of the Calvinism that emerged in that day and is still so prominent today around the world.

Many of you have read some of these works and found them to be helpful. Some of the works are highly academic like *Calvin and English Calvinism to 1649* by RT Kendall, *Calvin and Scottish Theology*; *The Doctrine of Assurance* by M Charles Bell and *No Condemnation: A New Doctrine of Assurance* by Michael Eaton. Other works have provided a more accessible style like *The Five Points of Calvinism; Weighed and Found Wanting* and *The Dark Side of Calvinism; the Calvinist Cast System*, both by George Bryson. *Beyond Calvinism and Arminianism* by C. Gordon Olson, *Calvinism a Road to Nowhere* by John Mason, *A Cultish Side of Calvinism* by Micha Coate, *Debating Calvinism*

by Dave Hunt and James White, *Against Calvinism* by Roger Olsen, *Confronting Calvinism* by Anthony Badger. And of course, the magisterial work of Laurence Vance, *The Other Side of Calvinism* (775 pages!). These resources are very helpful at both the exegetical and theological level as well as the historical aspects of Calvinism.

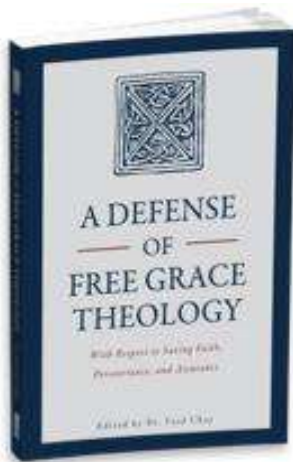
Let me add a newcomer to the list. *Is Calvinism Biblical? Let the Scriptures Decide* by Dr. Robert N. Wilkin. This is a short and precise evaluation of the Five Points of Calvinism. Each point is defined and defended utilizing two passages of scripture, followed by a brief analysis of the deficiencies of the Calvinistic system and its use of scripture from a Free Grace perspective. The book is very short by design, 175 pages including a scripture and subject index. This is a helpful work to give to believers in both camps and provides a clear understanding of the issues. It is not intended to be the definitive deconstruction of Calvinism, but it is a helpful tool to introduce people to the theological and biblical issues that are involved.

Remember: Readers are leaders and leaders are readers.
Happy reading!

Serving Him with you
Until He comes for us,

Fred Chay

New Resource!



A Defense of Free Grace Theology with Respect to Saving Faith, Perseverance and Assurance

Edited by Fred Chay

This is an excellent resource for anyone looking for an accurate explanation and defense of Free Grace Theology.

The contributors to this book seek to biblically describe and defend a true Grace Theology and answer the deficiencies and criticisms that have been expressed by Reformed theologians with clarity and charity.

Contributing authors are: David R. Anderson, Fred Chay, Joseph Dillow, Paul Tanner, and Ken Wilson.

The Book is Available through the [Grace Line bookstore](#) and Amazon.com

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