

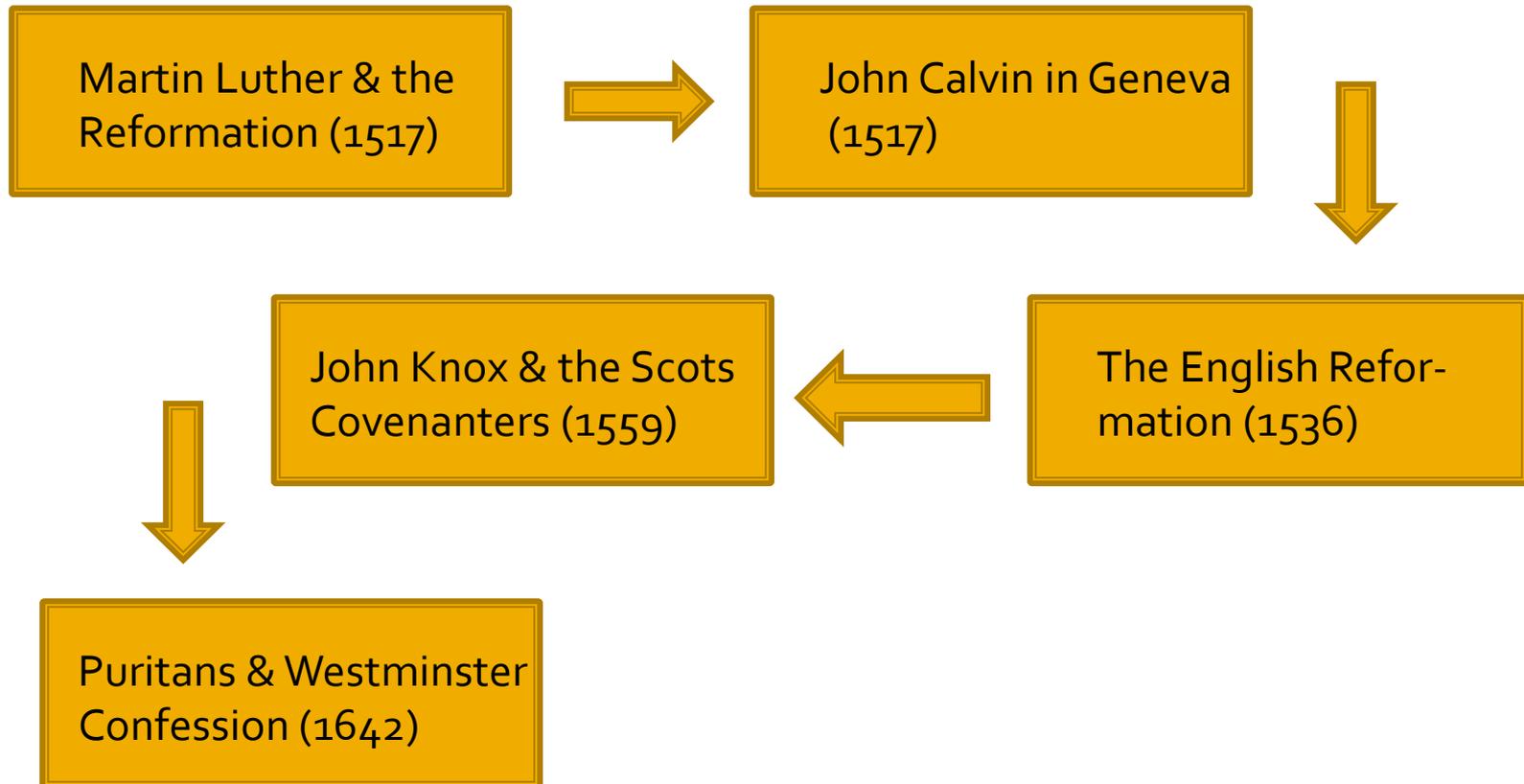
Second Presbyterian Church  
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# New Members' Class

Lesson #1: Solas of the Reformation

# The Solas of the Protestant Reformation

- Our Reformation Lineage



# The Five Solas of the Reformation

- Sola Scriptura (Scripture Alone): the *Formal* Principle
  - The principle that gives form to the other beliefs
  - The Bible is the sole authority that binds the conscience of Christians and rules the Church.
  - Not just *Scripture*, but *Scripture alone*

*"The supreme judge by which all controversies of religion are to be determined and all decrees of councils, opinions of ancient writers, doctrines of men, and private spirits, are to be examined, and in whose sentence we are to rest, can be no other but the Holy Spirit speaking in the Scripture"* (WCF 1:10).
- Roman Catholic dual authority: Scripture and Tradition
- What about creeds and confessions?

# The Five Solas of the Reformation

- Some Bible Proofs for *sola scriptura*
  - But Jesus answered them, "You are wrong, because you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God" (Mat 22:29).
  - "built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone" (Eph 2:20).
  - "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away" (Mat 24:35).
  - "For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it" (Isa 55:10-11).

# The Five Solas of the Reformation

## ■ Important Convictions about the Bible

### ■ Inspired

“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness” (2Tim. 3:16; cf 2 Pet. 1:21).

### ■ Inerrant

- “The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple” (Ps. 19:7; cf. Heb. 1:1).

### ■ Sufficient

- “that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work” (2Ti 3:17).
- Sufficient for evangelism (1 Pet. 1:23), sanctification (Jn. 17:17), and Christian decision-making (Rom. 12:2).

### ■ Interpretation

- “Good and necessary consequences” (WCF 1:6)
- Perspicuity (WCF 1:7)
- Illumination of the Holy Spirit / role of prayer
- Due use of ordinary means
- Infallible rule of interpretation (Scripture interpreting Scripture).

# The Five Solas of the Reformation

- Sola Fide (Faith Alone): The *Material* Principle
  - Sinners are justified through faith alone, apart from works
- Luther's Desperate Plight and "Discovery" of the Gospel
  - The Way of "Monkery"
  - Relics and the treasury of saints
  - Mystical approaches
  - "Martin, just love God"
  - The Appeal to Scripture and Romans 1:17
- Why Reformation Day is Always Halloween

# The Five Solas of the Reformation

- Biblical Proof for “Faith Alone”
  - “we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified. (Gal 2:16).
  - “he believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness” (Gen 15:6).
  - “For in [the gospel] the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, ‘The righteous shall live by faith.’ (Rom 1:17).
  - “It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith” (Rom 3:26-27).
- Rome vs. Reformation on works
  - Rome: Faith + Works = Justification
  - Reformation: Faith = Justification + Works
- What about James 2:18-24
  - “But someone will say, ‘You have faith and I have works.’ Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works... You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works... You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone” (Jam 2:18, 22, 24).
  - Paul: Faith = Justification + Works
  - James: Faith  $\neq$  Justification – Works. Faith proved by a justification that includes works.