

WORKSHOP SUMMARIES

Workshop Session A – Friday 10:30-11:45

A1: RENAISSANCE – THE POWER OF THE GOSPEL HOWEVER DARK THE TIMES

Os Guinness

A2: CAN I BE SPIRITUAL WITHOUT BEING RELIGIOUS?

Dick Keyes

To be spiritual but not religious is one of the most popular clichés of self-description today. When we examine what this actually means, it may take us to surprising places.

A3: WHERE DO WE DRAW THE LINE? INTERSECTIONS BETWEEN ART & MORALITY

John Hodges

What place do the arts hold in God’s economy? What is beauty, and how does aesthetics interact with ethics?

A4: THE REFORMED ROOTS OF MODERN SCIENCE?

Greg Grooms

In this workshop we’ll consider how the ideas of the Bible, as understood by the Reformers, contributed to the birth of modern science.

A5: THE UNEXPECTED REFORMATION: MARTIN LUTHER AND HIS TIMES

Larry Snyder

About all that many people today know of the 16thC Reformation is that an obscure monk posted 95 theses on the church door in Wittenberg, and afterwards the unity of the medieval church broke apart. We will look at the life of Martin Luther, warts and all, to better understand the reformer and his times.

A6: LIFE THE MOVIE: THE RIDDLE OF WORLDLINESS

Hans Madueme

Earlier generations of believers were concerned about the problem of “worldliness.” They tried to avoid it in every way possible. Christians today are far less concerned about such matters—in part because of the legalism and judgmentalism of an older tradition. But with widespread cultural pressures (e.g., our post-Christian context, social media, entertainment, and so on), the problem is more pressing than it ever was. This workshop revisits these issues in light of the unique challenges confronting us today.

A7: LIVING IN THE LION’S LAIR: POLITICAL PARTICIPATION WHILE KEEPING THE FAITH

Timothy Padgett

We all say we’re against legislating morality . . . unless we find something we think should be the law. From health care to pornography, we find someplace where we think the principles of Christianity should be enshrined in law. How can Christians play an active and constructive role in the political machinery of our nations without compromising our faith or our principles? What are some positive testimonies of Christians engaging in political action that we might look to as examples for our own lives?

A8: IMAGING GOD AND WORKING: IS THERE ANY CONNECTION?

Luke Bobo

In Genesis 1, we find God doing creative activity for six days and then He rests or ceases from His work on the seventh day (Genesis 2:1-3). The creation of human beings concludes God’s creative activity on Day 6. Human beings are said to

be made or created in God's image. We image God in a multitude of ways: God is rational, we are rational; God is moral, we are moral; God is relational; we are relational; God is wildly creative, we are wildly creative. How does working our Monday through Friday gig fit into the mix of imaging God?

A9: FINDING TRUE FREEDOM IN A CULTURE OF SEXUAL LIBERATION

Richard Winter

Non-Christians see the Bible as incredibly restrictive. Are people really liberated by the sexual revolution of the last 60 years? How does the Word of God shape our hearts, bodies and relationships towards true sexual freedom?

A10: SPIRITUAL TRANSFORMATION THROUGH FIVE DOCTRINES OF THE REFORMATION

Doug Groothuis

The Reformers gave us five essential principles for reforming the church. All must be done for (1) the glory of God alone, (2) according to the Bible alone, (3) salvation comes by grace alone, (4) through Christ alone, and (5) through faith alone. We will consider how these doctrines can ground and transform our spiritual lives.

Workshop Session B – Friday 3:30-4:45

B1: IMPOSSIBLE PEOPLE – CHRISTIAN COURAGE AND THE STRUGGLE FOR CIVILIZATION

Os Guinness

B2: HOW SHOULD CHRISTIANS BE TOLERANT?

Dick Keyes

Christian people may want to reject distorted modern ideas of tolerance, but what place should tolerance actually have in a Christian's life?

B3: BACH'S CANTATAS

John Hodges

What is a cantata, and how did Bach's cantatas reflect Reformational ideas about worship?

B4: WHAT HAPPENED WHEN? A REFORMATION TIMELINE

Larry Snyder

In this workshop I want to put into historical context the players, great and small, and the surprising turn of events that propelled and oftentimes hindered the progress of the reformation. We will use a historical timeline to better understand the early 16th Century.

B5: A THEOLOGY OF FILM: IMAGE-BEARING BECOMES IMAGE- MAKING

Mike Sugimoto

How are key concepts, such as ideology (Marx), dream state (Freud), or world view (Schaeffer), informed by cinematic thinking? In what ways has media replaced the church as a platform of meaning? This workshop explores a theological critique of the production and consumption of images from the inaugural years of motion pictures and camera photography to social media. Clips from *Mad Men's* final season will illustrate how, in our own day, TV and social media unbridle desire and define social identity.

B6: GOD AND POLITICS IN ESTHER

Marvin Padgett

Yoram Hazony is the president of the Herzl Institute in Jerusalem and author of several books including *The Philosophy of Hebrew Scripture*. His book, *God and Politics in Esther*, is a provocative study of responsibility and leadership in an alien and hostile culture. He believes that it is incumbent upon believers to act even at great risk to stand for the honor of God.

Throughout history Jews, and later Christians, have been persecuted and resisted for standing against the false god of relativism, whether the ancient multiplicity of gods or in its subtler manifestations of our own times. In preparation please read the book of Esther and Hazing's Commentary article *Mordecai's Challenge* at <https://www.commentarymagazine.com/articles/mordecais-challenge-essay-war-leadership-purim/>. Ponder the question, Esther: Victim or Heroine?

B7: SIN, SHAMANISM, SUSPICION, AND THE STATE: WHY CORRUPTION PERVADES & DEVASTATES SOCIETIES AROUND THE WORLD

Bob Osburn

Bribery and corruption are, arguably, among the most pernicious and pervasive social maladies that afflict the lives of billions of people in countries around the world. Most efforts to remedy the problem are either structural or depend upon promising social media technologies. As outlined in my new book *Taming the Beast: Can We Bridle the Culture of Corruption?*, corruption is sustained by four streams of influence: 1) sin's deep corruption of the human soul; 2) the culture of animism; 3) modern government bureaucracies that profoundly incentivize bribery and corruption; and 4) postmodern cynicism that undermines the search for truth. Primordial sin, premodern shamanism, modern state bureaucracies, and postmodern suspicion come together in confluence as one mighty, rushing river that destroys lives and societies in its wake and that only Jesus Christ can conquer.

B8: THE BIRDS AND THE BEES< TAKE TWO: THE MEANING OF SEXUALITY

Clarke Scheibe

While sex and sexuality are prevalent in our society, there is very little reflection on its meaning or its purpose. Our understanding stays skin deep because its meaning is reduced to seeing our bodies as forms for self-expression. This talk will flesh out how culture understands sex, and how the biblical vision of reality opens up a vision of sexuality that is vastly more attractive.

B9: YOU MIGHT BE MORE TRINITARIAN THAN YOU THINK

Joshua Chestnut

Evangelicals are people so convinced of the centrality and importance of the gospel that we went ahead and put it in our name (i.e. *evangel* = gospel). Inheriting the theological commitments of the Protestant Reformation, we have done well to see with clarity the New Testament's teaching of justification by faith alone, yet when it comes to the doctrine of the Trinity all too often our vision has been blurry. Working within the Reformation principle of *sola scriptura*, in this workshop I hope to draw out some of the connections between the Gospel and the Trinity, highlighting both the biblical nature of the Trinity and the Trinitarian shape of the Gospel.

B10: DEVELOPING A REFORMED THEOLOGY OF CULTURE

Doug Groothuis

The Reformation and Reformed thinking in general not only unleashed the gospel from its cultural captivity, it also inspired a biblical view of the Christians place not only in the church but in the culture at large. This workshop explores how these themes should challenge us today.

Workshop Session C – Saturday 10:30-11:45

C1: CAN THE BIBLE REFORM THE 21ST CENTURY WEST?

Vishal Mangalwadi

A return to the Scriptures was the key to repeated renewals in ancient Israel and the modern West. Can the Bible reform and revive the West again? Or, has the postmodern world grown-up beyond the Bible for good?

C2: THE PROBLEM OF DROPPING THE BATON: HOW NEXT GENERATIONS LIKE TO SCOFF AT WHAT THE LAST GENERATION DISCOVERED...AND VICE VERSA

Bob Yarbrough

The recent history of biblical interpretation holds fascinating stories and interesting lessons. Sons (and daughters) of the manse and of godly professors sometimes uphold and sometimes fall away from their forebears' good confession. Or, the young are revived by what their elders' spurned. What are some examples, dynamics, and lessons?

C3: ABRAHAM KUYPER: A MODEL FOR TRANSFORMATION?

Wim Rietkerk

Abraham Kuyper's mainline teaching has led to a neo-Calvinist or better a late Christian culture in the Netherlands, where during the twentieth century mostly Christians ruled the country, the Free University became a prestigious institution and the impact of Christianity on the social life obvious. Yes, until the sixties and then came the great Decay. The Free university turned liberal, the churches lost more than half of their members, there came several non Christian governments that by majority vote instituted the legislation on abortion, euthanasia and same sex marriages, for which Holland is known all over the world today. One cannot blame this to the Christian party, but one can ask the question: What went wrong? Did we lose something essential? What can we learn from this Dutch history? Key-question: is 'search ye the Kingdom' the same as 'build ye the Kingdom'?

C4: THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF ART: STORY IN FILM

Denis Haack

The best stories are not merely illustrative, but are expressions and demonstrations of truth and goodness that speak powerfully to the heart and mind through the imagination. In our pluralistic world of advanced modernity, film is the primary story telling medium and so shapes the way we see life and reality. Most Christians do not produce films, and so cannot change much because we are ordinary people living ordinary lives. However, story can be an essential part of our everyday conversations—in film discussions and people's life's story—and in the process the social imaginary of our world—how we imagine life before we even think about it—can be transformed by the gospel.

C5: YOU SAY YOU WANT A REFORMATION: CULTURAL ENGAGEMENT OR CULTURAL RESISTANCE? EVALUATING THE BENEDICT OPTION

Mike Sugimoto

What happens when you lose home advantage? Can the comprehensive - 'all of life' - vision of the Reformation work when a marginal player under the modern, secular State? This workshop examines diverse cases of the Christian's relationship to culture and government, including Rod Dreher's call for a Benedict Option today - a 'hunker down' response by believers responding to the waning influence of Christianity in public life. Historical examples include: Saint Maurice in Rome, Endo's *Silence* in medieval Japan, and Christian higher education in California.

C6: POSTMODERN'S FAILURE TO ASSUAGE YOUR FEARS

Greg Jesson

At the heart of all human endeavors are truth and knowledge. In the last few decades, a new view of these has dramatically changed how many people in both the academic and popular world think about these. We have been told that "all our attempts to interpret the real world can never get beyond (or around) an endless chain of interpretations" and that "everything is just a story," etc. This workshop will aspire to examine these views, the motivations for them, and the catastrophic problems for thought, life, and the Christian faith that they generate. This workshop is for the general audience and does not presuppose specialized knowledge.

C7: CAN WE KEEP IT?

Marvin Padgett

"If you can keep it," is Benjamin Franklin's response at the close of our Constitutional Convention, these many years ago. A woman outside the hall asked Dr. Franklin as he left, "Have we a republic or a monarchy?" He famously responded, "A republic, if you can keep it. *If You Can Keep It: The Forgotten Promise of American Liberty* is a new book from New York Times best-selling author Eric Metaxas. Democracy is fragile and requires an external grounding principles if it is to work. It is not the natural state of all peoples. It works only where people are prepared to surrender some of what they think are rights. Without guiding and mutually agreed underlying, undergirding understandings, it simply cannot work. Were the founding people of the United States prepared? What are those understandings? Do all peoples possess them? Democracy is hard, selfless work.

C8: CULTURAL TRANSFORMATION: A PROPOSED MODEL

Bob Osburn

Amidst growing evidence that cultural transformation generally precedes political and economic transformation, how is cultural transformation effected in a given society? Based on 30 years of campus ministry with international students and extensive study in religion and international development, we will propose a five-part model of Christian cultural transformation that reflects a biblical worldview, while also honoring the best of social science research. Workshop participants will be invited to interact with, critique, and suggest improvements to the proposed model.

C9: FROM CANON TO WIKIPEDIA AND BACK AGAIN: LEARNING TO INTEGRATE EDUCATION AND REALITY

Clarke Scheibe

Contemporary education has erased curious and interesting people. Losing a sense of the whole, how reality hangs together, and emphasizing specialization in isolated areas have devastated thinking and imaginative people and deformed whole societies. To recover a sense of the whole is to recover delight and wisdom in learning. That is what this talk is about.

C10: CULTIVATING SEXUAL CHARACTER IN A PORNIFIED SOCIETY

Joshua Chestnut

The previously unrealized social costs of internet pornography have been brought to public attention over the last few years through new neurological and sociological research which emphasize the destructive and deforming power of consuming pornography - something which is often considered to be just a private matter. In this workshop, we will consider some of this research as well as ways in which Biblical wisdom about human sexuality can help us become people of character in an age of sexual confusion and addiction.

Workshop Session D – Saturday 3:30-4:45

D1: SAVING THE BIBLE FROM EVANGELICALISM

Vishal Mangalwadi

Protestant epistemology peaked in December 1643 when Harvard University adopted its iconic Crest - VERITAS. Capturing the worldview of European intellectuals such as John Amos Comenius, the Crest implied that we know truth by studying God's three books: The books of God's words, works, and reason. The epistemology was inadequate and Enlightenment's Rationalism began dismantling it. Christian "Fundamentalism" reacted to the Enlightenment with an anti-intellectual caricature of "*Sola Scriptura*." After Nietzsche, Freud, Jung, and Joseph Campbell, the university gave up the hope of knowing Truth. An increasing number of Evangelicals are being blown away by the Postmodern wind. They are surrendering to "Story" rather than "Witness" and "Revelation" as their epistemology. Our age makes Francis Schaeffer's insights into Revelation and Truth prophetic.

D2: FROM KHARTOUM TO CAPE TOWN: SCRIPTURE CAPTURING FANCIES AND SAVING LIVES

Bob Yarbrough

This session will reflect on theological education and pastoral training experiences going back to 1995. The Bible has been at the center of initiatives to preserve the church from the ravages of Sharia in Sudan, to ground post-pentecostal pastors in

true Christianity in the Cape Town Flats, and to refresh biblical exposition in churches around Johannesburg. What's the news, and what's been learned?

D3: TRANSFORMATION OF THE CITY: LESSONS FROM UTRECHT

Wim Rietkerk

We read two times in the Gospel that Jesus wept. The first time at the death of an individual (John 11:35), the second time at the 'death' of a city (Luke 19:41). God has a special relationship with *cities*. This workshop helps to discover that unique relationship and gives an example of doing cultural apologetics with the help of 'speaking stones' (Luke 19:40).

D4: THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF ART: MUSIC

Margie Haack

Most Christians are not in a position to change much because we are ordinary people living ordinary lives. However, good music, like all good art, is an expression of beauty demonstrating God's glory that is transformative and life giving. This workshop will be a conversation with singer/songwriter Karen Choi on how human creativity and music is an essential part of human flourishing, and can transform our lives and by grace the lives of our friends and neighbors. Join the conversation as Margie talks to Karen about her music, *Paper Birch* (2012) & *Through Our Veins* (2016), her calling, and how without beauty our witness to truth and goodness is biblically incomplete.

D5: CHRISTIANITY IN THE PUBLIC SQUARE

Greg Grooms

Through the millennia believers have had different understandings of the relationship between the church and culture. These have led to different goals in their interaction with their culture and different tactics to achieve those goals. In this workshop we'll examine some of these in hopes of better grasping the approach of the Reformers.

D6: SCIENCE AND BIBLICAL AUTHORITY: CAN REFORMED PEOPLE HANDLE THE HEAT?

Hans Madueme

Recent debates about the historical Adam point to conflicting views about science among evangelicals. Some see it very positively, as a friend to faith; others see it more negatively, as a challenge to genuine theology. The authority of Scripture is a big part of the puzzle and the root of much of the controversy. This workshop sheds some light on these contested matters and will help Christians gain clarity on the big issues at stake.

D7: LIFE WILL BREAK YOUR HEART: DISAPPOINTMENT, SUFFERING, AND THE EMERGENCE OF CONCRETE HOPE

Greg Jesson

No problem in life is as perplexing and universal as the problem of pain and suffering. If God is all-good and all-powerful, what reasons could he have for allowing such a world? This workshop examines various proposed solutions and finds them seriously wanting. It will also explore the rich Christian framework, which helps us understand why evil is part of the moral and physical order in which we live, developing our character towards good or evil. This workshop is for the general audience and does not presuppose specialized knowledge or training.

D8: PROCLAIMING THE UNPOPULAR: EARLY EVANGELICAL CALLS FOR RACIAL JUSTICE

Timothy Padgett

In recent years there have been many calls for Christians to do more regarding racial reconciliation. There have also been many uncomfortable reminders of the way some theological conservatives in the past either did not speak out against racism or went so far as to defend elements of segregation, or worse. While these calls and reminders are important and should continue, we also need to be reminded of those theological conservatives who did take a stand, and who took a stand at a time when their proclamations would be met with opposition and not the praise they would receive today.

D9: WORKPLACE AS A DISCIPLESHIP LABORATORY?

Luke Bobo

The goal (or telos) of Christian discipleship is replication. Christian disciples are to replicate Our Christ in thought, word and deed. Our workplaces are like a 'discipleship laboratory' as we come face-to-face with broken institutions, broken people like us and diverse worldviews. Our workplaces provide ample opportunities to tease out or refine our faith as we spend 40% or more of our waking hours in our workplaces. We should form or leave our imprint on our work and workplaces. But how is our work forming us?

D10: THE ULTIMATE "TRIUMPH" OF THE WORD OF GOD IN THE THERAPEUTIC CULTURE

Richard Winter

Using Philip Rieff's analysis of culture in *The Triumph of the Therapeutic* we will explore how the Bible gives us a framework for both criticizing and appreciating aspects of the culture of counseling and psychotherapy and the contemporary models of mental health.