

S T U D Y G U I D E



THE
REFORMED
PASTOR

IAN HAMILTON

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The Reformed Pastor

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Prototypical Reformed Pastor

INTRODUCTION

All pastors are to model the prototypical pastor, Jesus Christ. In this introductory lesson, Rev. Hamilton highlights the distinguishing characteristics of a servant of God with a view to the servant of God, Jesus Christ.

LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. To answer the question, “What is a reformed pastor?”
2. To present Christ as an example for all truly pastoral ministry
3. To instill a deeper devotion and love for God’s people

SCRIPTURE READING

For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

—Mark 10:45

LECTURE OUTLINE

- A. What is a reformed pastor?
 1. The term “reformed pastor” will be used throughout this series in the same way Richard Baxter used it in his book *The Reformed Pastor*.
 - a. The use of the word “reformed” does not simply point to an adherence to the doctrines of grace.
 - b. The use of the word “reformed” places an emphasis on the character of life the doctrines of grace inevitably produce.
 2. The reformed pastor is concerned that people will be shaped and styled into the likeness of Christ.

- a. The reformed pastor must model this transformed lifestyle to the people of God.
 - b. God's grace is not passive or inert; it is transformative.
 - c. The Holy Spirit establishes God's rule and reign in both the hearts and minds of believers.
- B. Servitude is the defining mark of the reformed pastor.
1. The reformed pastor's life is modeled after Jesus Christ.
 - a. The Apostle Peter calls Christ the chief Shepherd (1 Peter 5:4).
 - b. All undershepherds are therefore to be conformed to Him.
 2. Isaiah 42 is the template for the servant of God: "*Behold my servant, whom I uphold . . .*" (Isa. 42:1).
 - a. God's purpose in calling any man into Christian ministry is to lay the template of His Son's life upon his life.
 - b. Christ's life was a life of servitude.
 - i. Isaiah 42 is a prophecy fulfilled by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (Matt. 12:18).
 - ii. The Holy Spirit aims to reproduce in us what He first produced in Christ.
 - iii. This is even more the case with the men set apart to be servants of Christ as undershepherds in the church of God.
 - c. God's pattern for bringing hope into the world has always been to raise up a servant—Jesus Christ.
 - i. God's answer to the futility of idolatry is Jesus Christ as a servant. (Is. 41:24, 29; 42:1)
 3. All pastors are to be modeled after the prototypical pastor.
 - a. The reformed pastor will have a lifestyle and mind-set of servitude (Mark 10:45; Luke 22:27).
 - b. If there is anything that disqualifies a man from pastoral ministry, it's the absence of a servant's heart.
 - c. Service, not status, is to be the primary mark of the reformed pastor.
- C. Isaiah 42 highlights five distinct characteristics of the reformed pastor as modeled on Christ.
1. Reformed pastors recognize that they are upheld men: "*Behold my servant, whom I uphold*" (Isa. 42:1).
 - a. Jesus Christ was dependent on the Lord's Spirit, and in His humanity He was upheld by the Father.
 - b. Reformed pastors are Spirit-dependent servants (Isa. 42:1).
 - c. Reformed pastors understand that they can do nothing without the Spirit and so should give God all the glory (Ps. 115:1).

2. Reformed pastors are not self-promoters: *“He will not cry aloud, or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street”* (Isa. 42:2).
 - a. Jesus Christ did not come to be admired for His gifts and abilities.
 - b. Paul did not attempt to flaunt his Apostleship but identified himself as a servant (2 Cor. 4:5).
 - c. Reformed pastors are to be men who serve the people of God.
3. Reformed pastors are gentle and kind to the weak and needy: *“a bruised reed he will not break, a faintly burning wick he will not quench.”*
 - a. Jesus Christ was accessible to the weakest, the poorest, and the most in need during His earthly ministry.
 - b. Paul stresses gentleness as an essential characteristic of the Lord’s servant (2 Tim. 2:25).
 - c. The only quality of His own life to which Christ ever drew attention was His meek and lowly heart (Matt. 11:29).
4. Reformed pastors are undeviatingly faithful: *“He will not grow faint or be discouraged till he has establish justice in the earth”* (Isa. 42:4).
 - a. Jesus Christ was the perfect example of faithfulness.
 - i. He was obedient unto death, even the death of the cross (Phil. 2:8).
 - b. Reformed pastors understand that faithfulness leads to fruitfulness.
 - i. If the faithfulness of every Christian pleases and honors God, how much more so the undershepherds in the flock of Christ?
 - c. Faithfulness is becoming more costly as the world becomes increasingly anti-Christian.
 - i. Christ’s life provides the perfect example of faithfulness amid persecution for all Christians, especially pastors.
5. Reformed pastors are sustained by the knowledge that they are dearly loved: *“Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights”* (Isa. 42:1).
 - a. The love of the Father sustained Christ during His earthly life and ministry (Matt. 3:17).
 - b. God loves His children to the point that He rejoices over them with singing (Zeph. 3:17).
 - c. Reformed pastors, sustained by God’s love, should take the greatest joy to be in service to all those dearly loved by God.
 - i. One of the principal notes of the reformed pastor will be to help his people understand God’s love for them.

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Richard Baxter titled his work *The Reformed Pastor* to stress the gospel minister’s understanding of the doctrines of grace.
 - a. True
 - b. False

2. The only personal characteristics to which Jesus draws attention in the gospel of Matthew are _____ and lowliness of heart.
 - a. Kindness
 - b. Loveliness
 - c. Meekness
 - d. Gentleness

3. Isaiah 42 is commonly understood as one of Isaiah's _____ Songs.
 - a. Suffering
 - b. Prophetic
 - c. Messianic
 - d. Servant

4. Status is a primary mark of the reformed pastor.
 - a. True
 - b. False

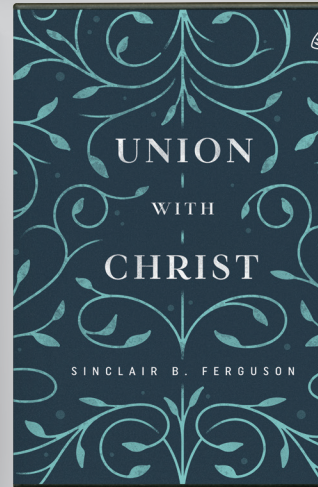
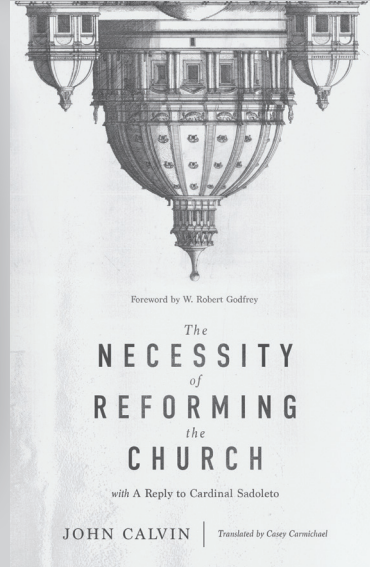
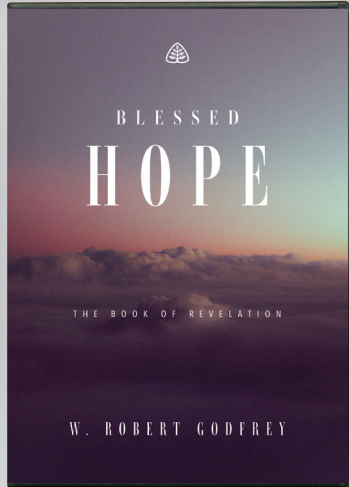
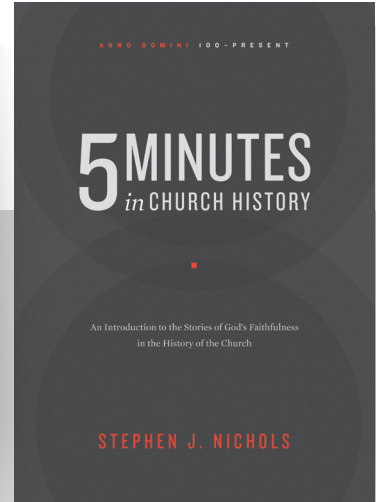
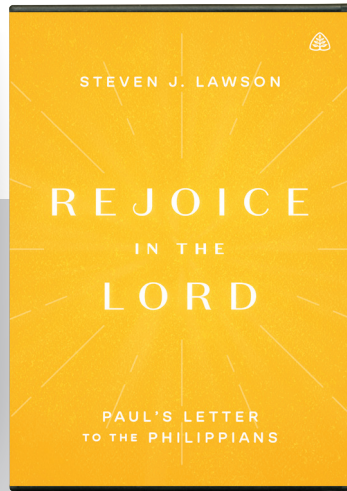
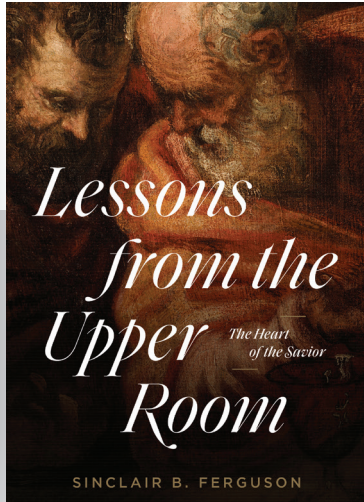
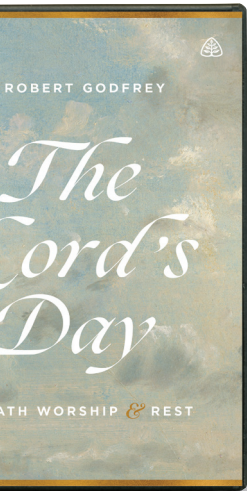
5. Reformed pastors understand that _____ is the source of ministerial fruitfulness.
 - a. Prayer
 - b. Fasting
 - c. Faithfulness
 - d. All of the above

6. Jesus Christ is *the* _____.
 - a. Pastor
 - b. Shepherd
 - c. Servant of God
 - d. All of the above

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What are the primary characteristics of the Servant of God in Isaiah 42?
2. Christ did not come to make a name for Himself. How should this influence your view of Christian ministry?
3. Where did Christ's faithfulness lead Him? What are the implications of this on the Christian life?
4. Why is the reformed pastor obliged to give all glory to God?

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