**THOMAS CRANMER**

Thomas Cranmer was greatest theologian in all of England during the outset of the Reformation. He was the mastermind behind the shaping of Church’s understanding of the Lord’s supper & the way of the salvation.

Burned 5 months later, March 1556, next to Tyndale who was the single most important person to Reformation in England. Cranmer was the architect of the doctrinal statement entitled, The Thirty Nine Articles, He was the archbishop over the other bishops who then gave oversight over all of the pastors.

He recanted, and then recanted his prior recant to the shock of the Roman Church. He is known as the man who got up after he stumbled. As he came to the fire, it was his right hand that he placed in the fire 1st because it was with his right hand that he wrote his recanting of the faith. So convicted afterwards re violation of his conscience, knowing he had offended God, that when put it into the flames at Oxford he watched his right hand burn representing his repudiation and his repentance of this recanting of the gospel, and he died as a hero of the gospel.

**BRILLIANT AND EDUCATED PRIEST IN CATHOLIC CHURCH**: Graduated in 1515. Ordained a priest in the Catholic Church in 1520. Soon after, he found himself at The White Horse Inn. Earned his doctorate in 1526 from Cambridge.

**FOREIGN AMBASSADOR**: 1532 - He catches the eye of Henry VIII & was sent to Rome. While in Rome, works closely with the holy Roman Emperor, Charles V, who was same Emperor at Diet of Worms when Luther was condemned for being a heretic. Travels with Charles throughout Europe. Extraordinary position of power. Represents how extraordinarily gifted Thomas Cranmer was. As travels, he sees what Reformation is doing throughout Europe. Exposed to Luther like doctrine. He marries as a priest despite his vow. Speaks to his elevated status that he is able to break the rules within RCC.

**APPOINTED ARCHBISHOP:** 1533 - Over all 9000 churches in England. Henry VIII says to him that he would like to divorce his wife. Rome had denied permission to King to get a divorce which Henry wanted because he wanted a male heir to assume His throne. His wife has not been able to produce a male heir to the throne. Cranmer and others looked for loopholes. They find a rare passage in Leviticus where cousins are not allowed to marry. Cranmer cuts a deal to give King an annulment. With this, the Church in England breaks with Rome and is no longer a Catholic Church – becomes the Anglican Church. Parliament in England passes The Acts of Supremacy and makes Henry VIII the head of the Church. Pope is head of RCC. Monarch in England is the head of the church in England even to this day. The King appoints Cranmer as Archbishop of Church of England making him highest bishop in all of England.

**CHURCH REFORMER**: 1547 - King Henry dies and Prince Edward, a Protestant, assumes the throne. Gives Cranmer the power to reform the Church of England. Becomes overseer of The Common Book of Prayer [1549] which governs the worship of the Church. This guarantees that the Anglican church would not be as Popish. Cranmer now insists the church service be in the English language. So congregation can worship in their native tongue. 1552, The 2nD Book of Common Prayer which brings much more Protestant influence into the Church. [It was like moving over time a battleship rather than a rowboat.] No Catholic was put to death during this time. Edward VI dies at age 15. Mary assumes throne.

**ARRESTED HERETIC**: Mary has never forgotten that Cranmer was the architect for her Mom’s annulment. Hatred for Cranmer. He is Protestant & reformed so Mary comes after him. He is the arrested and put on trial for treason against the throne of England. Cranmer held his ground. Found guilty also of heresy. Imprisoned in Tower of London along with Latimer and Ridley. He too with them is then transferred to Oxford to stand trial. He is held captive longer than the other two men because Mary was concerned about the public response of the dual martyrdom of Latimer and Ridley.

**CRANMER WEAKENS AND DENIES THE FAITH**: In March of 1556, Cranmer is taken to the church of St. Mary. Latimer and Ridley have already been executed. Forced to listen to a Cardinal’s sermon on transubstantiation. Cranmer than declares his faith in this Popish doctrine. He is required to write a manuscript of his repudiation that he would read. He is alone. Been here longer than other Reformers. His faith begins to weaken. [We need to be connected to one another, and need one another’s encouragement, to pray with one another and to study Word together. We all need this.] His is laughed at, and they indicate they will kill him anyway. Before they burn him, they require a public written statement of his repudiation of the gospel in front of all the dignitaries and church representatives. So he writes out what he is going to say. They approve it, and order him to go into the pulpit and read the document. He gets into the pulpit, and calls the Pope The Antichrist. Then he is pulled out of the pulpit.

**BURNED MARTYR**: 1556 – Same place as death of other martyrs. Burned in same way as the others. As flames burned around him, he held out his right hand into the fire, the very hand with which he 1st wrote his repudiation of the saving gospel of grace, before huge crowd with these words “This unworthy right hand must be put into the fire 1ST.” He extended his left hand into the heavens, and his dying words were, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” Though Cranmer faltered, by God’s grace, he got back up on his feet, and in a strange way, and by an even greater testimony, by the way in which in a public way He repudiated his repudiation. Died for the true saving gospel issue of Jesus Christ, the finality and the perfection of Jesus Christ upon the cross, for a once and for all fully sufficient atonement for all who would call upon the name of the Lord. This sacrifice of Christ was never be repeated again. It never needed to be repeated again. And that anything else is worthy of anathema. **Gal 1:8 -** But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed!

Catholic Church added so many things in addition to the gospel: church membership, water baptism, marriage inside the Church, the purchase of indulgences, the treasure of merit, good works, dying last rites, the mass, and coming to mass to have sins removed only to come back the next week to have more sins removed, the confession of the sins to a priest, etc. The whole issue of the reformation per the reformers – grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone. Rome said - by grace, and through faith and through Christ and . . . It was such a confusing maze that no one even on their death bed had any idea whether or not he or she would go to heaven. And there was not one drop of saving grace in the entire foul popish system. **Prov 14:12** – **Proverbs 14:12 -** There is a way which seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death. There are many roads to hell, but there was only one road to heaven. They died for how a sinful man is made right man with a holy God.

**Lessons We Learn from the Marian Martyrs**:

1. **They were Bible Men**: Sufficiency of the Scriptures. Sola scriptura was the foundation upon which they stood. The Scripture alone was the rule for their faith, worship and practice. They accepted all the truths of the Bible were correct without exception or dispute. They would not budge one inch from the rock of the word. **Matthew 7:24–27 -** “Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock. **25** “And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock. **26** “Everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not act on them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. **27** “The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and it fell—and great was its fall.”
2. **They were gospel men**: Lived and preached sola gratia, solo fide, and solos Christos. All rests on sola Scriptura, and there are three massive pillars that are erected on top of this immovable foundation of sola scriptura. This is the most minimalist statement of the true saving gospel that there is. By grace alone, by faith alone, in Christ alone. When this foundation is in place and these three pillars are secured, the roof line over the temple points upward toward heaven. And it is sole de Gloria – for the glory of God alone. Any additions to the middle three pillars or any crack in the foundation of this edifice robs God of His glory and then the whole building will come down. They knew what was at stake – the glory of God. The Catholic mass robs God of His glory. It is a frontal assault on His glory. They were part of a generation that for most part had been lost for centuries. Earlier Tyndale came to the realization that the entire nation of England was lost, and that they must have an English Bible so that people can understand the gospel of Jesus Christ. Yes, there were remnants, [i.e.. The Lollards, and their movement from John Wycliffe] but it was very underground and never reached critical mass. Our priority must be for the power of the gospel. **Romans 1:16–17** For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. **17** For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “But the righteous man shall live by faith.” It has the power to blow any other human ideology out of the water. Nothing can match the power of the gospel. We must take the gospel whenever and wherever God will send us.
3. **They were courageous men**. It is one thing to know the gospel, but if you do not have the courage to put it out there at personal risk. We must be believers who are fearless. Only by the power of the Holy Spirit. They were undaunted even in face of their own martyrdom. They sang praises as they went to the stake, knowing that this was the means by which God would be glorified in their lives. In book of Acts, whenever it says men were filled with the Holy Spirit it always also says that they spoke the gospel with boldness. So we must be dominated and controlled by the Spirit of God. It would be easier to dam up Niagara Falls with tooth picks than to hold back the witness for the Lord Jesus Christ that is within ourselves. Not by might, not by power, but by My Spirit says the Lord, **Zech. 4:6**. We must imitate these men as they imitated their Savior who set His heart like a flint to the cross. As we see our culture unraveling all around us.
4. **The example of the Marian Martyrs should inspire us to live for Him rather than for ourselves**.

**Hebrews 11:35–38 -** Women received back their dead by resurrection; and others were tortured, not accepting their release, so that they might obtain a better resurrection; **36** and others experienced mockings and scourgings, yes, also chains and imprisonment. **37** They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were put to death with the sword; they went about in sheepskins, in goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, ill-treated **38** (men of whom the world was not worthy), wandering in deserts and mountains and caves and holes in the ground.

1. **The Catholic Teaching of Transubstantiation Violates Scripture**:

**Hebrews 7:27 -** who does not need daily, like those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the sins of the people, because this He did once for all when He offered up Himself. **Heb 9:12, 27-28 -** and not through the blood of goats and calves, but through His own blood, He entered the holy place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. . . . **27** And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment, **28** so Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a 2ND time for salvation without reference to sin, to those who eagerly await Him. **Hebrews 10:10–14 -** By this will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. **11** Every priest stands daily ministering and offering time after time the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins; **12** but He, having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, sat down at the right hand of God, **13** waiting from that time onward until His enemies be made a footstool for His feet. **14** For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified.

1. **Suffering is God’s means to makes us more like His Son which is a great blessing**.

**1 Peter 1:7–8 -** so that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ; **8** and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory,

**Rom 5:3–5 -** Not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; **4** & perseverance, proven character; & proven character, hope; **5** & hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out w/in our hearts thru the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

1. **Those who suffer for the Lord will receive great eternal rewards**.

**Matthew 5:11–12 -** “Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. **12** “Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

**Mark 10:29–30 -**  Jesus said, “Truly I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or farms, for My sake and for the gospel’s sake, **30** but that he will receive a hundred times as much now in the present age, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and farms, along with persecutions; and in the age to come, eternal life.

1. **Christ will supply the grace when it is needed to suffer for our faith even unto death**.

**1 Corinthians 10:13 -** No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.

**2 Timothy 4:18 -** The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed, and will bring me safely to His heavenly kingdom; to Him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

**Acts 7:54–60 -** Now when they heard this, they were cut to the quick, and they began gnashing their teeth at him. **55** But being full of the Holy Spirit, he gazed intently into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God; **56** and he said, “Behold, I see the heavens opened up and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.” **57** But they cried out with a loud voice, and covered their ears and rushed at him with one impulse. **58** When they had driven him out of the city, they began stoning him; and the witnesses laid aside their robes at the feet of a young man named Saul. **59** They went on stoning Stephen as he called on the Lord and said, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!” **60** Then falling on his knees, he cried out with a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them!” Having said this, he fell asleep.

**Romans 8:35–39 -** Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? **36** Just as it is written, “For Your sake we are being put to death all day long; We were considered as sheep to be slaughtered.” **37** But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. **38** For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, **39** nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

1. **The Marian Martyrs should motivate us to strive against indwelling sin.**

**Heb 12:1–4 -** Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance & the sin which so easily entangles us, & let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, **2** fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author & perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, & has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. **3** For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary & lose heart. **4** You have not yet resisted to the point of shedding blood in your striving against sin;

1. **Our call to salvation is at the same time a call for us to suffer if this is God’s will**.

**1 Peter 2:20–25 -**For what credit is there if, when you sin and are harshly treated, you endure it with patience? But if when you do what is right and suffer for it you patiently endure it, this finds favor with God. **21** For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps, **22** who committed no sin, nor was any deceit found in His mouth; **23** and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously; **24** and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed. **25** For you were continually straying like sheep, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls.

**Matthew 16:24–26 -** Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me. **25** “For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. **26** “For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?

**Matthew 10:16 -** “Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves; so be shrewd as serpents and innocent as doves.  **. . . Matthew 10:26-28** “Therefore do not fear them, for there is nothing concealed that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. **27** “What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the housetops. **28** “Do not fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.”

**Luke 9:23 -** And He was saying to them all, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me. **Luke 14:26 -** “If anyone comes to Me, & does not hate his own father & mother & wife & children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple.

1. **False religion is an evil tool of Satan often directed against the Church with great cruelty**:

**Luke 11:47–50 -** “Woe to you! For you build the tombs of the prophets, and it was your fathers who killed them. **48** “So you are witnesses and approve the deeds of your fathers; because it was they who killed them, and you build their tombs. **49** “For this reason also the wisdom of God said, ‘I will send to them prophets and apostles, and some of them they will kill and some they will persecute, **50** so that the blood of all the prophets, shed since the foundation of the world, may be charged against this generation,

1. **Things could change rapidly in our country, and we need to be prepared to suffer**.

**1 Peter 4:1–2 -** Therefore, since Christ has suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same purpose, because he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, **2** so as to live the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for the lusts of men, but for the will of God.

1. **It is a privilege to suffer in our faith for Jesus Christ**.

**Acts 5:40–41 -** They took his advice; and after calling the apostles in, they flogged them and ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and then released them. **41** So they went on their way from the presence of the Council, rejoicing that they had been considered worthy to suffer shame for His name.

**Acts 16:23–25** When they had struck them with many blows, they threw them into prison, commanding the jailer to guard them securely; **24** and he, having received such a command, threw them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks. **25** But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns of praise to God, and the prisoners were listening to them;

**Colossians 1:24 -** Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I do my share on behalf of His body, which is the church, in filling up what is lacking in Christ’s afflictions.

**Philippians 3:8 -** More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ, **. . .** that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death;

**1 Pet 4:12–14 -** Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as tho some strange thing were happening to you; **13** but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that also at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice w/exultation. **14** If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory & of God rests on you.

**2 Corinthians 5:14–15 -** For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; **15** and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.