



Trinity Presbyterian Church PCA

Gathering in the Name of the Triune God

Study Notes – October 25, 2020

“Urging the Nations to Repentance – Impact of Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn” Reformation Sunday

1. From Christian to communist, 1918-1930 (Pro 22:6; 23:22-23; Ep 6:4; Eccl 12:1)
2. Education, military service, and criticism of “the whiskered one”, 1930-1945 (Eccl 11:9; 9:18; 5:8; 10:20)
3. Prison, exile, and slow return to the faith of his youth, 1945-1956 (2 Ti 3:13-14; Re 2:5)
4. Freedom, fame, deportation, America, and return to Russia 1956-2008 (Isa 9:2; Jn 8:32; 14:6)
5. Lessons from the life of Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn (Eccl 9:11-17; 12:13-14; Acts 17:30-31; 4:12)

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Teaching Elder: Jeff Pennington (262/968-6769)



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Reformation Sunday – Questions for Discussion

- 1) The penal codes in the OT never included a prison system. Is imprisonment an unbiblical form of punishment?
- 2) Our subject opposed relativism--the view which says that we create truth for ourselves. Is there any area of life where relativism could be said to have legitimacy?
- 3) In what way did the slave mentality of the Russian people have continuity with the revolutionary mentality? What was the result of communism harnessing both these impulses?
- 4) What are some factors in our own culture that lead to “the narrowing of the intellectual and spiritual horizons of a human being, the reduction of the human being to an animal and the process of dying alive”?
- 5) Our subject believed that the struggle between good and evil cannot be resolved by policies, parties and politics, but is a battle that is waged within the human heart. But do political conditions ever help to influence someone’s heart in the right direction?
- 6) Given what we know of our subject’s political views, discuss what he might think of political events today.
- 7) Compare and contrast our subject’s thought with that of Rousseau in as many different areas as possible.

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- 8) What are some examples of modernism (akin to secular humanism; reason, science, technology is exalted over the Scripture) in our culture?

- 9) What are some examples of postmodernism (persons or groups can create truth for themselves) in our culture?

- 10) What are some key areas where there is continuity between modernism and postmodernism? What are some key areas of discontinuity?

- 11) Our subject once remarked, "It is not because the truth is too difficult to see that we make mistakes. It may even lie on the surface; but we make mistakes because the easiest and most comfortable course for us is to seek insight where it accords with our emotions--especially selfish ones." Discuss this quotation in relation to the villain Herod the Great, part of the "little horn" we encounter in Daniel's prophecies & in Matt 2.

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