

# 2021 Christian Heritage Digital Conference

## Discussion Questions for Douglas Bond's Sessions

### The Drama of the Reformation

1. (ffi8:00') Douglas Bond says, "The devil wants to thrill us with what ought to repulse us; and he wants to repulse us (or at least make us bored) with what ought to thrill us to the core of our being." On a scale of 1 to 10 (from "totally boring" to "totally gripping"), to what degree does the drama of the cross of Christ bore you versus grip you? Discuss what might be the reason(s) for that; and discuss what might move you closer to a 10.
2. (ffi9:25') Douglas Bond says, "The tyranny of the temporal gets us distracted and enthralled with the wrong things every day." Do you agree or disagree? Why? What mid-course corrections would be good to make in our lives (both personally and as a family) to fully engage ourselves in the drama of redemption?
3. (ffi11:45') Douglas Bond says, "The Reformation was about the recovery of the free grace of the gospel of Jesus Christ, which is [a] terrifying drama—the greatest story ever told." If there were to be a dramatic reformation in our generation, what would it be about? What should be some of the major "theses" on the "Wittenberg door" of our times? What truths have been lost that need to be found? What have we made peripheral that ought to be central? What entrenched idolatries ought to be smashed so that the simplicity of Christ is restored?
4. (ffi13:07') Of what did Johann Eck accuse Martin Luther during the Leipzig debate of 1519? What kind of argument was Eck using in calling Luther a Hussite? Was that a valid or invalid argument? Why? How do you see the same kind of argument used today by enemies of Christ against followers of Christ? How should we respond?
5. (ffi20:54') After being challenged by Jerome to read the Bible, Jan Hus said, "The more I read of Scripture, it's as if the Lord speaks to me in its pages; and the more knowledge of Christ it gives me in its pages, the more stupidity it discharges from my foolish mind." To what degree does your experience with Scripture parallel that of Hus? Discuss your personal and family habits of scriptural intake versus media intake. To what degree is your growing knowledge of Christ "discharging stupidity from your foolish mind"? To what degree does the knowledge of Christ get choked out by the media messages that bombard you?
6. (ffi26:12') Jan Hus said, "I would rather suffer the penalties of a terrible death, than affirm anything else outside of faith alone in our Lord Jesus Christ." How many "Christians" in America today do you estimate would affirm the same thing (cf. Rev. 12:10-11)? Would you? Really? Why or why not? How close do you think we are in America today to being called upon—under penalty of death—to deny allegiance to Christ alone and his gospel of grace alone, and to affirm a Christ-gutted gospel? How ready are you for that challenge to your own faith?

## The Mighty Weakness of John Knox

1. How did Knox become the titan of the Scottish Reformation? (~7:54)
2. Early on how did Knox first react to being asked to preach? (~14:06)
3. How did Knox sum up what he preached? (~20:54)
4. What did Knox do that influenced literacy in Scotland and why? (~22:35)
5. How could Knox view his weakness as strength? (~29:30)

## The Poetic Wonder of Isaac Watts

1. In what ways do the hymns of Isaac Watts “recalibrate our wonder”?
2. How do hymn writers like Isaac Watts help us balance some of the excesses of modern church music?
3. What are some of the ways that great hymns unify the church?
4. What difficulties did Issac have to overcome? How did they ultimately help him with his career as a hymn writer?