

Reformed Faith and Life

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“The response from Hungary to this series has been a real encouragement to me”

Interacting on Facebook with internet users

« Köszönöm ! » means « Thank you ! » in Hungarian: this is but one of the tokens of appreciation that came on our *Reformed Faith and Life* Facebook page shortly after I posted a series of messages about the seven words of our Lord on the Cross, with commentary by Luther, Calvin, and various church fathers. The response from Hungary to this series has been quite good, and a real encouragement to me. Apparently, French is read and understood by quite a number of people there. Responses from Mali and other African countries have also been very positive.

A French woman, most likely a Protestant believer, wrote the following: *Merci! I took the liberty to share all four meditations on the seven words of our Lord Jesus-Christ on the Cross. It allows me to have them at my disposal during moments of trials and so that I can read them again. Perhaps other people will read and share them as well? Thank you for your superb cover photo which I also shared. And also for your publications: they enable people to get deeper theological insights, which is both important and fascinating. May the Lord in His abundant love bless and guard you!* In another post, which she did not hesitate to share publicly, she wrote about her grief after the loss of her youngest son, a child with down-syndrome (“our sunshine”, as she calls him) who died due to various illnesses twenty years ago. The grief and excruciating sense of loss is still there. Shortly before he passed away, she told him: *When you see the Lord Jesus, there will be no more suffering, no differences...*

As you can imagine, not everybody responds in faith to the messages, articles, or podcasts which appear on our newly revamped site (which I invite you to visit briefly, even if you cannot read French: www.foietvierreformees.org).

To this lady’s expression of grief and faith, and to my response to her, someone commented with a mere: *mdr (mort de rire, which means laughing out loud)*. The same person, a young Muslim citizen of some North African country, challenged me on Jesus’ words in Mat. 16:28 (not properly quoted by him): *Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.*



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The new logo of our website, stylizing the Huguenot cross, gives us a unique identity

“ *In our mind and heart, Reformed Faith can never be divorced from Reformed Life* ”

His question: So, why did Jesus not come back, as he had promised his disciples? I took time to reply by first giving him the correct quote, then explaining the meaning of the transfiguration narrative which immediately follows this passage in all three synoptic gospels. On the mountain Jesus displayed the glory of his coming Kingdom to a few of his disciples, exactly as he had promised. He then did it again after his resurrection by appearing to them and ascending into heaven. Of course I could have also quoted 2 Peter 1:16-18, and 3:1-10, but decided to keep it short. His reply came quickly: *It's not true, this is not a proper answer!* After quoting the verse again, and without bringing any counter argument against my explanation, he pursued: *I don't know why you don't want to accept that your bible is not the Word of God!* I could of course have kept engaging with him, but, in the light of Luke 9:5 and other similar recommendations of our Lord, I must accept that where there is such unwillingness to honestly examine the record of Scripture, it is not wise to pursue a fruitless discussion. Praying for such people that they may see the light remains a constant necessity and duty, though.



In my study, surrounded by useful resources for the ministry of the Word

The politics of the Kingdom

As France is heading towards the second round of a strongly disputed presidential election in a very much troubled national and international context, *Reformed Faith and Life* also sees its calling to stimulate a reflection on the nature of Christian principles in the exercise of political activity. On Saturday, July 8, we are organizing in Paris a day conference around significant figures such as John Calvin (1509-1564), and Johannes Althusius (1557-1638), and their relevance for political thinking today. Federalism, the much called upon, debated, but also attacked, principle of *subsidiarity* will be central to the lectures and discussions. Having secured the participation of several French scholars specializing in political philosophy, history of law, as well as theologians and active or retired politicians (one of them being a former minister of Defense), we hope to have fruitful exchanges and show that in our mind and heart, *Reformed Faith* can never be divorced from *Reformed Life*. The logistics of organizing such an event for the first time in France is no easy task for me, though. Please pray that everything may go well and serve the purpose of the advancement of God's Kingdom. It might be a first step towards more similar events in future, the Lord willing.

We continue to depend entirely on God's Providence through your prayers and material support, and we thank everyone who carries this ministry with us, united in the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints.

In His name

Rev. Eric Kayayan

Please send your donations to the following address:

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