REFORMATION AFFIRMATIONS FOR OUR TIMES
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Sola Scriptura
The 500th anniversary year of the Reformation has come to a close. The affirmation of Reformation principles, however, must continue. The core impetus for the Reformation was Sola Scriptura (the Bible alone). Luther insisted that the Scriptures were the norma normans non normata, maintaining that The Bible is the norm (basis of truth) and cannot be normed (judged or changed by other sources). He established scriptura ex scriptura explicanda est (Scripture must be explained by Scripture) as the sole principle for Biblical interpretation.

Scripture and Science
Prior, during and after the Reformation, Scripture and science were compatible. Theistic Science (God controlled science) was espoused. For example, Isaac Newton, whose brilliant Newtonian Principles influence scientific thought to this day, was a Bible believer and saw no conflict between science and the Scriptures. Then came the Enlightenment, also called The Age of Reason, which challenged Scriptural truths on the basis of theoretical scientific assumptions. Biblical skepticism took root. Theism, the belief that God personally controls all things, was replaced by Deism, the belief that God is impersonal and inactively passive; that nature runs by itself. In 1859, The Origin of Species by Charles Darwin, challenged the factuality of Biblical creation by proposing theoretical assumptions of biological evolution. In 1925, the American Civil Liberties Union initiated The Scopes Trial in Dayton, TN. Even though a school teacher, John T. Scopes, was found guilty and fined for violating the Butler Act which prohibited the teaching of evolution in public schools, the theory nevertheless catapulted to oppose creationism.

Scripture and the Church
In 1941, Rudolph Bultmann, a German Lutheran Theologian, endeavored to stem the anti-Biblical onslaught by compromising Scripture with theoretical science. He developed The Higher Critical Method of Biblical Interpretation calling the creation account and miracles in Scripture theological myths (not historically true yet containing theological truths). The majority of Protestant denominations embraced his Biblically degrading system and fell into the mire of error.

Cultural Impact
The moral decadence of our times was enabled by theoretical scientific assumptions, a secular culture and theologically decadent denominations. The Pew Research Center reports that from 2007 to 2014 the number of Americans claiming they are Christian fell from 78 to 71%. Those claiming to be agnostics, atheists and non-religious rose from 18 to 23%. Church membership and worship attendance keep falling. The cause? For many, the pipeline to the Holy Spirit, namely the Bible, has been plugged up eliminating the power of conversion.

Reformation Affirmations for Our Times
• The historicity and words of Scripture are totally true. • Evolution is not a scientific fact. • The Bible alone is the source of theological truth. • Salvation is by God’s grace and Gospel faith alone. • Persistent prayer, outreach and vigorous personal evangelism must be pursued for a cultural reformation.

Answers in Genesis
Answers in Genesis, an organization supporting Scripture and scientifically refuting evolution, built a multi-million dollar Creation Museum in Petersburg, KY, and a replica of Noah’s Ark in Williamstown, KY. The Ark, built according to Biblical dimensions (510' long x 85' wide x 51' high), has three stories, room enough for all of life including infant dinosaurs.

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