



# Why a Reformation Was Necessary Then... and Now

by Jeffrey Breshears

I returned a week ago from our Areopagus-sponsored Reformation History Tour. As anticipated, it was an inspiring experience as we visited many of the key sites associated with this momentous period in Christian history – Wittenberg, Worms, Geneva, Zurich, Canterbury, Oxford and Cambridge universities, Edinburgh and St. Andrews, and many others where committed Christians worked so passionately and fearlessly to restore their vision of New Testament Christianity despite great opposition from the established church of their day.

Being there, it not only expanded and enriched my historical consciousness of this transformative era but further emphasized just how informed, how equipped, and how engaged we need to be regarding the great challenges facing us currently in America. Although many (but certainly not all) of the issues that sparked the Reformation have been resolved – there is far greater harmony and cooperation today between Protestant, Anabaptist, Catholic and Orthodox Christians than at any time in the past – we nonetheless face formidable opposition from radical secular humanists who are hell-bent on destroying the last vestiges of Christian influence in our culture. Like the great reformers of the past, God still needs men and women who understand the times in which we live and his particular calling is for us at this time in history.

This fall The Areopagus will sponsor three forums of vital interest to Christians who value our religious and spiritual heritage and who sense that the church in America desperately needs a new vision for renewal in the midst of a society and culture in chaos.

On October 19<sup>th</sup> **Dr. Rob Bowman**, the Executive Director of the Institute for Religious Research and one of the most

astute Christian apologists of our time, will focus on why the Reformation occurred and what we can learn from it in terms of a new vision for the renewal of evangelical Christianity today.

In November we will sponsor two forums on consecutive Thursdays. First, on November 9<sup>th</sup>, **Rod Dreher**, a prominent conservative editorialist, is the author of the best-seller, *The Benedict Option*, which many consider to be the most important Christian book of the decade. As a prophet for our time, Rod will challenge us to seriously re-examine conventional status quo American religion and lifestyles in the midst of a decadent society that is falling apart all around us.

One week later, on November 16<sup>th</sup>, we are privileged to have with us one of the great Christian thinkers and cultural critics of the past 25 years, **Ken Myers** of the Mars Hill Audio Journal. I have hoped to schedule Ken for an Areopagus Forum for many years, and I'm delighted that we've finally been able to work it out as he'll be speaking on the relevant theme, "Repairing the Damage of Modern Culture."

These are unique opportunities, and I hope you'll make it a priority to join us and encourage others to do so as well.

*Soli Deo Gloria!*

## The Areopagus Calendar

### Fall Seminars

#### The Reformation Era, Part 2

The origins, the legacy, and the major people, issues and events associated with one of the most momentous periods in Christian history.



Part 2 focuses on...

- The English and Scottish Reformations;
- The evangelical movement in France;
  - The Anabaptist movement;
- The Catholic Counter-Reformation;
- The Reformation era religious wars;
  - The legacy of the Reformation;
- The mixed legacy of the Reformation;
- What are the issues that continue to divide Protestants and Catholics?

Tuesdays, Aug. 15 - Nov. 14  
7:00 PM

Perimeter Church / Ministry Center

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Wednesdays, Aug. 16 - Nov. 15  
7:00 PM

Johnson Ferry Baptist Church / Room 108

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— Sundays —  
11:15 AM

Johnson Ferry Baptist Church / Room 270

# The Areopagus

## FORUM

Presentations and discussions of significant issues, literature and films related to Christianity and culture

**Mark your calendar and join us for these three special Areopagus Forums this fall:**

— THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19<sup>th</sup> —

**Dr. Rob Bowman**

Executive Director, The Institute for Religious Research

*“Why The Reformation Happened, and Why It Still Matters Today”*

What every Christian should know about why the Reformation happened, why it was necessary, and why it is still relevant to Christians today.



— THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9<sup>th</sup> —

**Rod Dreher**

Author of the best-seller, “The Benedict Option”

*“How To Be a Christian In a Society That No Longer Is”*

Our culture is rapidly deteriorating, and anti-Christian forces are becoming increasingly hostile in their opposition to Christian values and beliefs. As Christians, we face not only unprecedented challenges but great opportunities as well.



— THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16<sup>th</sup> —

**Ken Myers**

Founder, host and producer of The Mars Hill Audio Journal

*“Repairing the Damage of Modern Culture”*

How can Christians live more thoughtfully, more responsibly, and more effectively in the midst of a society and culture that has become increasingly toxic and immoral?

**Perimeter Church / 7:30 PM**

\$5 students / \$10 adults / \$15 per couple

## The Areopagus Calendar

### Fall Forums

**Why the Reformation Happened and Why It Still Matters Today**

**Dr. Rob Bowman**

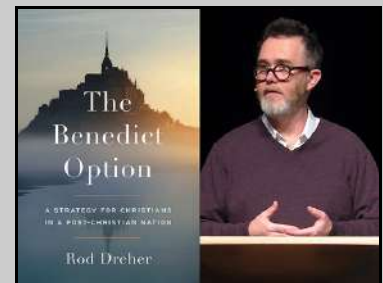
— Thursday, October 19<sup>th</sup> —  
Perimeter Church / Fellowship Hall



**How To Be a Christian in a Society That No Longer Is**

**Rod Dreher**

— Thursday, November 9<sup>th</sup> —  
Perimeter Church / Ministry Center



**Repairing the Damage of Modern Culture**

**Ken Myers**

— Thursday, November 16<sup>th</sup> —  
Perimeter Church / Fellowship Hall



