



Reformation Translation Fellowship Australia

澳洲改革宗翻譯團契

...but the word of God is not bound (2 Tim 2:9)

Navigating Faith in a Post-Christian Era: Embracing the Vital Role of Creeds and Confessions

Among contemporary Christian conversations, one question echoes resoundingly: How do we navigate cultural engagement in this era of Post-Christianity? The task of sharing Christ today goes beyond mere gospel proclamation; it calls for a deep-rooted comprehension of our faith in a culture that challenges its core. Yet, how do we summon the courage to boldly express our hope when it appears elusive?

Reformed churches globally have traversed a path toward church growth over the years, redirecting their focus from a confessional stance towards an emphasis on evangelism. Unfortunately, amidst this shift, many within congregations lack a comprehensive understanding of their beliefs. It's time to realign our churches and theological institutions, steering them back toward a confessional-driven approach that enriches our understanding of God and fuels vibrant evangelism.

The ancient Creeds—the Apostle's, Nicene, and Athanasian—serve as timeless testaments to the collective wisdom of early Christians. Born from rigorous study, prayer, and spirited debate on the Scriptures, these formulations offer believers a succinct yet profound confession of their faith.

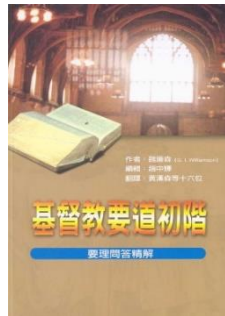
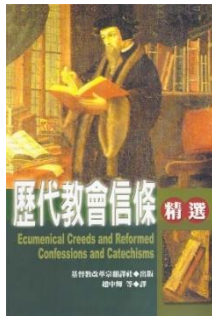
"Creeds or confessions of faith... give a summary of its doctrines and a testimony to the truth as it is in Jesus," aptly remarks Archibald Alexander, acknowledging their significance in encapsulating the essence of Christian belief.

Later Confessions and Catechisms, like the Westminster Standards and Heidelberg, offer a structured framework to plumb the depths of Scripture. They serve as guiding lights, enabling profound reflections on the person and work of Jesus Christ while equipping believers to navigate life's intricate challenges. These documents aren't mere relics of history; they are indispensable tools for engaging in apologetics, offering clear and compelling defences of our faith.

Charles Hodge underscores, "The use of creeds or confessions of faith is not to prevent diversity of opinion, but to prevent a diversity of teaching on fundamental points of doctrine," acknowledging their role in preserving the unity of essential Christian beliefs.

J. Gresham Machen, in his work "Christianity and Liberalism," ardently championed historic Christianity as enshrined in the creeds and confessions. He adamantly defended these documents as the bulwarks against modernist reinterpretations that threatened to dilute or discard core Christian doctrines.

Let us, therefore, embrace these foundational documents as beacons illuminating our path in an increasingly complex world—a world where the proclamation of Christ's truth requires not just conviction but also clarity and depth. In this pursuit, may we stand unified, equipped, and resolute as we navigate this challenging yet opportune era for the Christian faith?



Reformation Translation Fellowship Books on Creeds and Confessions

Pray for China Day 2024

It has been our practice in the past to encourage our supporters and local congregations to unite to uphold Christians in China as well as the works of Reformation Translation Fellowship in prayer before God.

Ever since the Communists took over China, Christians continued to be persecuted and harassed. Here is the latest update on the current situation in China by [Barnabas Aid](#).

The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) is continuing to tighten regulations on all religious activity, including Christianity, alongside the CCP's emphasis on "Sinicisation" (making Chinese).

In measures effective from March 2022, conducting religious activities online now requires official authorisation. Organisations and individuals wishing to provide religious information online must apply to their local Department of Religious Affairs office. Sermons, worship services and training activities run by religious groups, religious schools, and temples and churches may be broadcast online only after obtaining a special licence. Some churches have successfully gained licences, which are valid for three years.

Content aimed at young people is also severely restricted, and no foreign organisations or individuals are allowed to operate online religious information services within China.

Regulations introduced in June 2022 by the State Administration for Religious Affairs (SARA) and the Ministry of Finance increased state oversight and regulation of the finances of churches and other places of worship.

Despite continuing measures against unofficial congregations, known as “house churches”, the number of Christians continues to rise, estimated at around 150 million. The intensity of persecution varies across the country, often initiated at provincial or city level but in the knowledge of the CCP’s approval. Many house churches have been closed and members arrested. Crosses have been removed from churches, and Biblical paintings or Scriptures replaced with portraits of President Xi Jinping or his quotes.

The CCP’s high-tech surveillance systems continue to target non-atheist minorities. A sustained campaign of persecution has seen tens of thousands of Muslim Uyghurs interned in “re-education” camps in Xijiang province.

At the 20th CCP National Congress in October 2022, President Xi was chosen to lead for a third term, suggesting that existing repressive policies against Christians are likely to continue.

This year, we invite your church to mark March 17 on your calendar as the 2024 Pray for China Day. Please encourage the congregation to take photos of the occasions so we may use them in our upcoming newsletter updates.

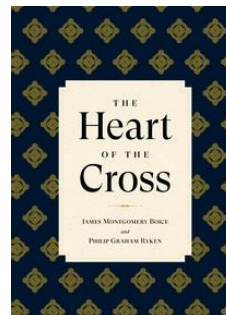
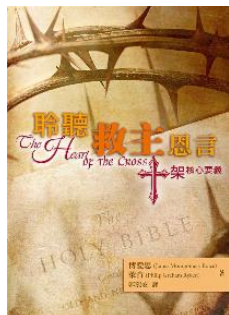
We've prepared several resources to help you spread the word about the Reformation Translation Fellowship; you can find them [here](#) on our website.

Drawing inspiration from Paul's words to the Corinthians, "You help us by your prayers" (2 Corinthians 1:11), we deeply appreciate your past prayers and encourage you to persist in supporting those thirsting for the gospel-centred teachings in China. Your prayerful interest in this ministry is invaluable.



*Do you know you can purchase Reformation Translation Fellowship publications here in Australia?
Visit Reformers Bookstore for more details.*

Reformation Translation Fellowship Australia 2024 - Translation Projects Update



We are glad to report that "*The Heart of the Cross*" by James Montgomery Boice and Philip Graham Ryken has been printed and is now ready for order at [CRTS Books](#).

Our goal for this year is to raise a total of 4,400 AUD to cover the translation and initial publication costs for "*The Heart of the Cross*." We're actively seeking contributions to support this meaningful undertaking. Currently, we have raised around 10% of the target goal.

This book comprises twenty-one meditations based on the last sayings of Jesus. It holds profound depth and insight, making it suitable for serious Bible study while also carrying evangelistic themes that make it perfect for sharing the Gospel with non-Christian friends.

If you'd like to contribute or learn more about how to help, please click on the donation button below to see our donation information. Your support plays a vital role in advancing our mission, and we're immensely grateful for any assistance you can offer.

Request for Speaker

Would you like to invite someone to engage your church or group about the necessity for a translation ministry? Committee members of Reformation Translation Fellowship Australia are available as guest speakers for mission events, youth groups, prayer groups, and other ministry events. Please feel free to contact us at enquiries@rtfa.org.au.

2024 Pray Requests

The Reformation Translation Fellowship welcomes you and your congregation to join in a concerted effort to pray for God's blessing upon the Church in China. We rejoice that many people hear the good news of salvation in Christ Jesus. Yet we continue to pray for:

- The emerging Churches in China will be solidly grounded upon the Scriptures and sound Reformed doctrine.
- That ministers and elders would be rooted in the historic Christian faith so they might train the flock under their care.
- That Reformation Translation Fellowship would be enabled to translate and distribute sound Reformed literature to all who can read it.
- That dangerous cult and false doctrine would be arrested and prevented from spreading.
- That Christians and their families under persecution would be able to stand firm in the faith and speak the Gospel boldly.

Thank God that the Reformation Translation Fellowship has been able to print and distribute the following titles in 2023:

- Richard Rushing (Ed.), *Voices From The Past: Volume 1*
- Joel Beeke, *Reformed Preaching*
- *Biblical Psalms & Hymns* (Chinese Hymnal and Psalter)
- Philip Ryken & James Boice, *The Heart of the Cross*

Pray for those who will be translating, editing, printing, and distributing the following titles in 2024:

- Greg Bahnsen, *Van Til's Apologetic*
- John Calvin, *Commentary on First and Second Peter and Jude*
- Mark J. Boda, *After God's Own Heart*
- Richard Rushing (Ed.), *Voices From The Past: Volume 2*



Do you know you can purchase Reformation Translation Fellowship publications here in Australia?

Visit [The Wandering Bookseller](#) for more details.

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The doctrinal basis of the Reformation Translation Fellowship is the Reformed understanding of Christianity as set forth in:

- The Westminster Standards
 - Confession of Faith
 - Larger Catechism
 - Shorter Catechism
- The Three Forms of Unity
 - Belgic Confession
 - Heidelberg Catechism
 - Canons of Dort