The Six Great Ends of the Church

Learning Mini-Series

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**DISCUSSION OUTLINE: GREAT END #1**

**The Proclamation of the Gospel for the Salvation of Humankind**

*Presented by The Reverend Dr. Rob Erickson*

**Series Information:**

This learning mini-series is sponsored by The Reformed Institute of Metropolitan Washington. It consists of seven videos in the “Ted Talk” presentation style. A discussion outline accompanies each of the Six Great Ends presentations. The presentations and presenters are:

* **Series Introduction:** *Rev. Dr. Rob Erickson*
* **The Proclamation of the Gospel for the Salvation of Humankind:** *Rev. Dr. Rob Erickson*
* **The Shelter and Nurture and Spiritual Fellowship of the Children of God:**

*Rev. Emilee Williams*

* **The Maintenance of Divine Worship:** *Rev. Dr. Jacob Bolton*
* **The Preservation of the Truth:** *Rev. Becca Messman*
* **The Promotion of Social Righteousness:** *Rev. Dr. Scott Ramsey*
* **The Exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven to the World:** *Rev. Dr. Raymond I. Hylton, Sr.*

**Discussion Outline:**

1. Read and discuss John 1: 1-5 and 14-18.
2. The Word of God is central in the Reformed Tradition. Draw the concentric circles and what they represent on a blackboard, whiteboard, or flip-chart.
3. How is preaching central to our Reformed Tradition? Does it take a higher place/priority compared to other activities in the church?
4. What information are we supposed to be proclaiming? Specifically, what is the Gospel / Good News?
5. Quote from video “God’s grace is revealed in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.” What does that mean to you?
6. “… Salvation of humankind.” Does this mean one cannot be “saved” without knowing and believing in Jesus as your Lord and Savior?
7. What does salvation of humankind mean to you?
8. Presbyterians as a covenant community…
9. Read John 3:14-21 – what provides salvation?
10. Is proclamation solely talking and teaching? What else could it include?
11. Do you ever feel like you are helping to provide the salvation of humankind? Under what circumstances? What is it you are doing or saying? Does it relate to the Beatitudes?
12. Have you ever thought about yourself as a partner with God?