

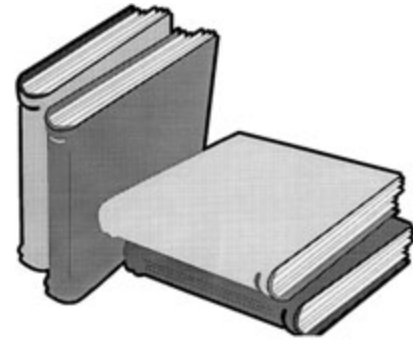
# The Rock and Pit

*Look unto the rock whence ye are hewn,  
and to the hole of the pit whence ye are digged.*

Isa 51:1

Selections from the Christian's heritage in print,

collected by Dean Brown



Special Issue for May 26, 2019.

## **Synod of Dort, 4. Nov 13, 1618 - May 9, 1619.**

The Synod of Dort accomplished what it set out to do.

It articulated and protracted the Reformed understanding of the Bible recovered in the Reformation.

It rejected the Arminian challenge to Calvinism.

For a time, it united most of the reformed churches of Europe in a synod that reached a unanimous decision on key doctrinal points.

It made important decisions for the life and future of the Dutch Reformed church [and its successors to form around the world]: a Bible translation, catechism teaching, baptism in a missionary context, the Sabbath, and a church order.

**It prompted theological fidelity and piety.**

It saved the Reformation by clarifying and buttressing key elements of *sola fide*, *sola gratia*, *solus Chritus*, and *sola Scriptura*, all under the rubric *solī Deo gloria*.

Many have confused the Reformation with its effects. The effects of the Reformation were immense over a long time in politics, education, economics, science—indeed, in every area of human endeavor.

But the essence of the Reformation was

**the recovery of biblical religion.**

**And that is what the Synod of Dort helped to save.**

Robert Godfrey *Saving the Reformation:  
The Pastoral Theology of the Canons of Dort*,  
Reformation Trust (Ligonier), 2019, in the church library and bookstall.