

**A Book Recommendation:  
“PORTRAITS OF FAITHFUL SAINTS” by Herman Hanko  
RFPFA, 450 pages**

Dear brothers and sisters,

The celebration of the great 16<sup>th</sup> century Protestant Reformation is around the corner. And as far as I am able, it is my practice to take up a book on the Reformation and read it. In this way, I am refreshed and renewed in my love and appreciation of this mighty work of God in bringing the reformation to His church. There are so many things to learn of the Reformation; especially the truths that have been discovered which is so useful for the church today. The church is much poorer for being ignorant of the truths of the Reformation.

So, in this regard, I would like to recommend you a book on Church History. The author is well qualified to write this book. He has been the Professor of Church History in the Protestant Reformed Seminary for many years and is now emeritus. Reading this book is a course on Church history by itself. But, do not have picture in your mind that it's going to be boring and tedious to read. I believe it is interesting since the book is biographical. 52 important eminent theologians and reformers are described in those pages. And so, if you would read a chapter, a character once a week and within, a year you would have completed the book and had a course in Church History. So, let me encourage you to read it.

The book is divided into 7 parts, covering the different periods of church history, examples are Ancient Period, Middle, Reformation, Post-Reformation and 20<sup>th</sup> Century Reformers in the United States. Of particular interest to us, are the history of the authors of the Heidelberg Catechism (Zacharias Ursinus and Casper Olevianus) and the Belgic Confession (Guido de Bres).

This is the summary of the life of Zacharias Ursinus,  
“Ursinus was not a very good preacher; his gifts lay in the classroom, where his lectures were learned, incisive, instructive, and delivered in a most interesting way. He was ever the cautious man, so much so that when questions were asked of him in class, he almost always postponed the answers to the following day so that he could have time to formulate a careful answer. His strength was in his penetrating mind and his deep commitment to the truth”, page 207.

The life of Guido is also inspiring. He was martyred for his faith. Before he died, he wrote this moving letter to his wife,  
“My dear and well-beloved wife in our Lord Jesus Christ,  
Your grief and anguish are the cause of my writing you this letter. I most earnestly pray you not to be grieved beyond measure ... We knew when we married we might not have many years together, and the Lord has given us seven. If the Lord has wished us to live together longer, he could have easily have caused it to be so. But such was not his pleasure. Let his good will be done ... Moreover, consider that I have not fallen into the hands of my enemies by chance, but by the providence of God ... Good-bye, Catherine, my well-beloved! I pray my God to comfort you, and give you resignation to his holy will. Your faithful husband, Guido de Bres”, page 230.

This book is available at Tulip Bookstore ([www.etulip.org](http://www.etulip.org)) or RFPFA ([www.rfpa.org](http://www.rfpa.org))

Pastor Paul Goh