



CHURCH HISTORY: SCOTLAND

For Christ's Crown and Covenant

Class Description: How did a nation once shaped by vibrant Christian faith become one of the most secular in the world? This class explores the rich heritage of the Scottish Church—its rise, struggles, and lasting impact. Through the lives of influential figures like John Knox, Samuel Rutherford, and Thomas Boston, we'll examine key controversies and consider what they mean for the Church today.

Class Teacher: Alex Boston is a covenant member of Emmaus Church and is married to Mackenzie Boston; together they have two children. His occupation is in web development and avocation is in cooking. He is passionate about Church history and promoting Gospel assurance to others, especially towards Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox traditions.

Jacob Cohen serves as the Associate Minister of Discipleship at Emmaus Church. He is married to his incredible wife Dani, and he has his MDiv from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He loves reading theology, church history, and he's a huge Braves fan. He has a special interest in Scottish theology, church history, and Thomas Boston.

Class Resources: There are no required resources to read for this course, but we will be providing you with a gift to further your studies on this topic. When you attend, please simply bring yourself, your bible, and a pen!

Class Outline: Here is an overview of the topics we will cover through the class.

Week 1 - Sunday, June 8

Title: The Sparks of Reformation

Description: This week we'll begin with an overview of the course before introducing the precursors to John Knox, namely Patrick Hamilton and George Wishart. This will help us grasp the landscape of Scotland at the outset.

Week 2 - Sunday, June 15

Title: John Knox and the National Kirk

Description: During this week, we'll cover John Knox's life and contribution to the reformation in Scotland as well as the major men God used following Knox in the formation of the Scottish Church.

Week 3 - Sunday, June 22

Title: The Scots at the Westminster Assembly

Description: The Westminster Standards (Westminster Confession and Catechisms) have been the doctrinal standards for Reformed and Presbyterian churches for centuries. In this week, we'll see how the Scottish commissioners helped to shape the masterful work at Westminster.

Week 4 - Sunday, June 29

Title: The Marrow Controversy

Description: In the eighteenth century, the Church of Scotland entered into intense controversy over a book entitled, *The Marrow of Modern Divinity*. This week, we'll examine that controversy, its players, and the lasting implications it's had on the universal church even today.

Week 5 - Sunday, July 6

Title: The Free Church of Scotland

Description: This week we'll cover the founding of the Free Church of Scotland - the denomination that our church partner, Merkinch Free Church, is a part of. Within this week we'll look at the moderator of the first General Assembly of the Free Church, Thomas Chalmers.

Week 6 - Sunday, July 13

Title: The Twentieth Century Church

Description: As we reach the twentieth century, we'll briefly look at a couple large figures in the Scottish church or prominent Scottish ministers/theologians such as John Murray, Donald Macleod, and Sinclair Ferguson.