

## Workshop 10

***Impact: Reformation Theology and Pastoral Care***

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## The Pastoral Ministry of Scottish Reformer John Knox

*Workshop Summary*

In this workshop, Dave Saxton plans to introduce you to the life and ministry of Scottish Reformer, John Knox (1513-1572). Although Knox has been widely known as a fiery preacher and bold defender of the Gospel of grace through Christ alone, he was also a warm-hearted, gentle pastor and counselor. To this end, we will consider both some of the trials in his personal life, as well as disappointments in his ministry, that the Lord used to shape Knox into a tenderhearted pastor. Not only will we study how Knox encouraged entire English congregations facing persecutions through the promises of God, but we will also look at some of his correspondence to women who struggled with issues of assurance of salvation and worry. I hope you will come to this session with a heart expectant to be encouraged in the love and truth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

*Workshop Outline*

1. Opening consideration of John Knox: Can one maintain a balance as a bold defender of the truth in Christ and still remain a tender-hearted person of compassion? We find this biblical balance in the life and ministry of Scottish Reformer, John Knox.
2. The Making of a Pastor's Heart in John Knox
  - a. Difficulties in Knox's Personal Life
    - 1) The Martyrdom of His Spiritual Mentor
    - 2) His Suffering as a Slave aboard a French Ship
    - 3) His Numerous Personal Illnesses
    - 4) The Untimely Death of His Wife, Marjorie
  - b. Knox also experienced great disappointments in his Gospel Ministry
    - 1) False Accusations and Multiple Exiles

2) His Rejection by the Frankfurt Church

3) Set-Backs in the Reformation of the Scottish Church

3. John Knox as a Pastoral Comforter

a. Pastoral Comfort to Christian Congregations

1) Sermon on Isaiah 26:13-21 preached to persecuted English church.

2) “Two Comfortable Epistles to Afflicted Brethren in England”

b. Pastoral Comfort to Individual Christians.

1) Letters of Comforting Assurance to his mother-in-law, Elizabeth Bowes

2) Letters of Comforting Perseverance to Anne Locke

c. Pastoral Counsel Concerning Trials and Afflictions

4. Concluding Lessons from the Pastoral Ministry of John Knox

a) Spiritual Leaders Must Maintain a Personal Ministry with People

b) Pastors Must Both Fervently Defend the Gospel of Grace and Gently Care for God’s People

c) The Primary Tool in Personal Counsel and Public Ministry is God’s Word.

d) Knox’s core ministry philosophy – whether in comforting, counseling, or exhorting people to godliness – lay in his utmost commitment to the truthfulness and authority of God’s Word.