

divine sovereignty than Calvin was, though the followers of Luther made a very definite retreat on some of these points. But these were the great reformation doctrines, and of course they also included the tremendous stress on justification by ~~faith~~ faith as the only possible means of salvation, the great stress on the Bible as ~~the~~ the only source of knowledge in religious things, these great Reformation doctrines were held solidly by Luther and Calvin. In Calvin's lifetime there were those who attacked the doctrine of predestination, just as Luther had found the doctrine attacked, and both had stood by it strongly. It was an important part of their doctrine but ~~neither~~ neither of them made it a part out of all ~~proportion~~ proportion to the rest of their teachings. Some of the followers of C° had a certain tendency in that direction, and so we will make small b. Beza and Gomar. Now Beza ~~of~~ was the great Ref° leader who followed C° in Geneva, and in the main he followed C°'s teaching, but on the sovereignty of God and on predestination he laid a somewhat heavier stress than C° had laid. He carried forward the work of C° very energetically and very effectively during the remainder of the 16th century. Gomar is a man from Holland who studied with Beza, and who went perhaps as far beyond Beza as B° had gone beyond C°. And Gomar thus represents a certain viewpoint which was erroneously called infra supra lapsarian ~~super~~ superlapsarian. Now we'll look at superlapsarian under our next head. Here I just want to say that the view of Gomar, while he called it ~~super~~ superlapsarianism, has qualities in it which are not essential to superlapsarianism, and which tend, I believe, to be very harmful. One of the great principles, I believe, facing any field of knowledge, and particularly ~~in~~ the a field of theology, is to recognize that there are certain things we know which we should stand upon; they are vital; we can be sure; and that our knowledge is incomplete. There are many things we do not ~~know~~ know. And if we have certain definite facts which are clearly taught in Scripture, it is interesting to try to fit these facts together. But unless the Scripture shows exactly how they fit together, we should label all such fitting together as guesses rather than as doctrine. I/~~would~~ would say that where Beza went a little beyond and Gomar still