

**The Synod of Dort: lessons for the church today**  
**PTS annual lecture, 26<sup>th</sup> November 2018**  
**Benedict Bird**

**1. The summoning of the Synod**

Jacobus Arminius (1559-1609)

Johannes Uytenbogaert (1557-1644)

Johan van Oldenbarnevelt (1547-1619)

The *Remonstrance* (1610) and the *Contra-Remonstrance* (1611)

Simon Episcopius (1583-1643)

The Sharp Resolution (1617)

Maurice, the Prince of Orange (1567-1625)

The Synod (November 1618 - May 1619)

*Lessons for today*

**2. The sitting of the Synod**

Dutch and foreign delegates

British delegates: George Carleton, John Davenant, Samuel Ward, Joseph Hall,  
Walter Balcanquhall, Thomas Goad

Johannes Bogerman (1576-1637)

Arrival and dismissal of the Remonstrants

Canons approved (23<sup>rd</sup> April 1619)

*Lessons for today*

**3. The *sententiae* (decisions) of the Synod**

Key issue: *Does man's free-will trump God's sovereignty? I.e. are God's eternal decrees conditional upon man's choices?*

Five points - 'TULIP':

- 'Total depravity', or 'Total inability'
- 'Unconditional election'
- 'Limited atonement', or 'Effectual atonement'
- 'Irresistible grace'
- 'Perseverance of the saints'

*Soli Deo Gloria*

*Lessons for today*

**4. The sequel to the Synod**

Confessional outcome

Disciplinary outcome

International outcome

*Lessons for today*

**Questions**