

Addendum

John MacArthur began to follow authentic (radical) Reformed doctrine in circa 1994. Sometime afterward, he wrote an article entitled “Justification by Faith.” The article follows the authentic Reformed doctrinal line to a “T,” complete with all of the familiar truisms, ambiguity, nuance, doublespeak, cognitive dissonance, and historical arguments. The article is also very reminiscent of what the Australian Forum used to write.

In the article, MacArthur states, “If sanctification is included in justification, then justification is a process, not an event. That makes justification progressive, not complete.” But yet, the very doctrine he now holds to is referred to by many of his associates as a “golden chain” (pp. 28-33). Clearly then, sanctification must be “included” in justification in some way. MacArthur explains it this way in the same article: “Those two must be distinguished but can never be separated.” This cognitive dissonance speaks doubly for itself. It can’t be included, but neither can it be separate?

Moreover, while saying sanctification cannot be “included” in justification because that would make “justification progressive,” that’s exactly what John Calvin calls his own doctrine by entitling his fourteenth chapter of book three in the Institutes, “The Beginning of Justification. In What Sense Progressive.”

Calvin then goes on to explain in the same chapter that the atoning death of Christ is “perpetual.” There is simply no wiggle room in regard to this blatant theological contradiction.

MacArthur’s aforementioned article can be viewed online at the following address:

<http://www.gty.org/Resources/Print/articles/22>