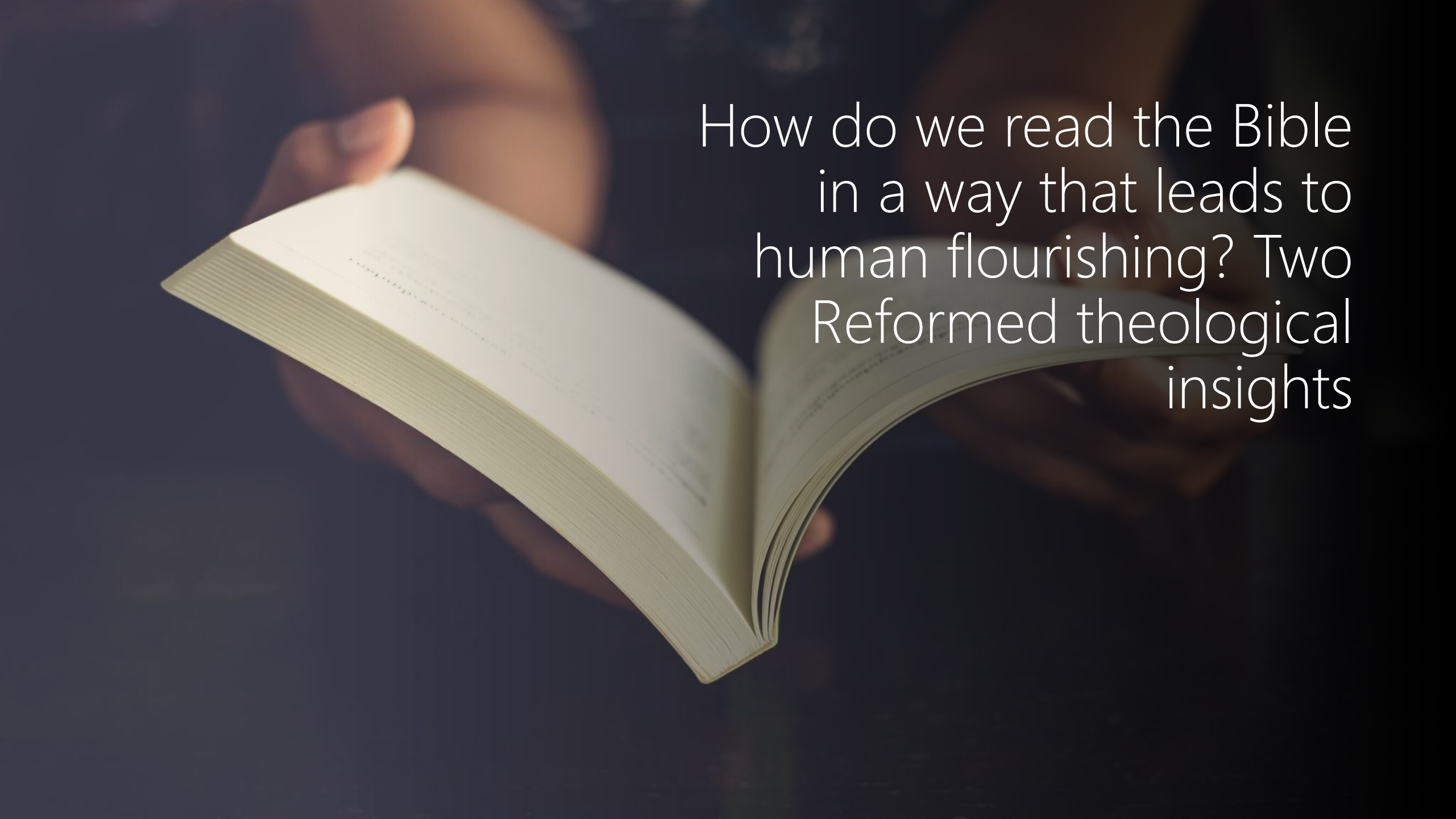
A decorative, ornate lantern with intricate cutouts, set against a dark background with a grid and circular lines. The lantern is the central focus, with a warm glow emanating from within. The background features a dark brown color with a subtle grid pattern and two large, thin, curved lines that frame the top and bottom of the scene.

“A Lamp Unto my Feet”:
How do we read the
Bible today?

Inadequate approaches to scripture

- Biblicism, which identifies the words of scripture as the literal words of God
 - Bible as historical source
 - Bible as literary classic
 - Bible as personal individual devotional tool
-
- Adapted from Daniel Migliore, *Faith Seeking Understanding* , 4th ed. (2023)

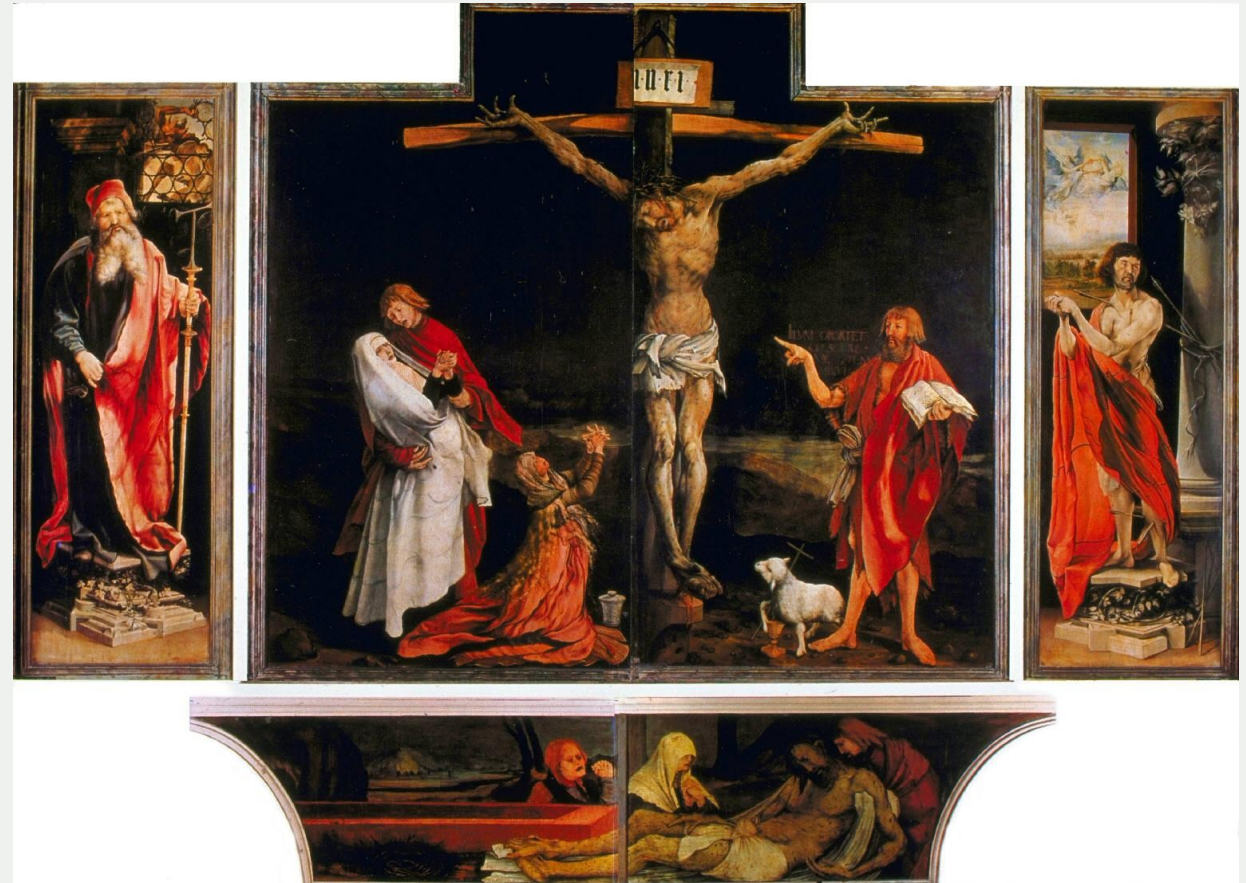


A close-up photograph of a person's hands holding an open book. The book is held open, showing its pages. The background is dark and out of focus. Overlaid on the right side of the image is white text.

How do we read the Bible
in a way that leads to
human flourishing? Two
Reformed theological
insights

First insight: Barth and the “threefold form of the Word of God”

- Jesus Christ, the incarnate Word, is the primary form of the Word of God, to whom the word of God in scripture and proclamation point.
- “The one sufficient revelation of God is Jesus Christ, the Word of God incarnate, to whom the Holy Spirit bears unique and authoritative witness through the Holy Scriptures, which are received and obeyed as the Word of God written.” (Confession of 1967 (PC(USA)))



Second insight: Scripture witnesses to the Word of God by the power of the Holy Spirit

- “*By the power of the Holy Spirit, Scripture serves the purpose of mediating the good news of the astonishing grace of God in Christ that moves us to greater love of God and neighbor and calls us to the freedom for which Christ sets us free.*” (Daniel Migliore)

Prayers for illumination

Calvin's Geneva liturgy, 1545:

After the singing of the law, a prayer, and a psalm, "the minister commences again to pray, beseeching God for the grace of his Holy Spirit, that His Word may be faithfully expounded to the honor of His name and the edification of the Church, and be received with such humility and obedience which it deserves. The form is left to the discretion of the minister."

Examples of prayers for illumination from the *Book of Common Worship* (PC(USA), 2018):

Lord, open our hearts and minds
By the power of your Holy Spirit,
That as the scriptures are read,
We may hear with joy what you say to us today.

Guide us, O God,
By your Word and Spirit,
That in your light we may see light,
In your truth find freedom,
And in your will discover your peace;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.