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Preface

The present study is an extension of the work on the western church developed throughout two thousand years of Christian history. The sixteenth-century Protestant Reformation was 'the article by which the church separated itself from the mother church (et cadentis ecclesiae).¹ It reflects the work of modern scholarship, especially the introduction of the sixteenth century within the Christian tradition. The pioneering work of Albrecht Ritschl (*Die Rechtfertigung und Versöhnung*) in this earlier work remains a landmark. Three reasons may be given for the study of justification within the Christian tradition. The historical study of the development of the doctrine in the present day is inherently justifying and evaluating the fact of doctrine in general. The study is thus a paradigm for the study of doctrine, illustrating the related as theologians respond.

¹ For the sense and origins of this phrase 'et cadentis ecclesiae'. It is necessary to suggest that the phrase is first used by the German Valentin Löscher in his famous *Die Darlegung der Wahrheit und die Reformationslehre* (1708–21), and is restricted to the sixteenth century. The phrase is clearly incorrect. The *Reformation* a century earlier, opening his discussion with the following: 'articulus iustificationis de ecclesia didacta' (Hanover, 1618) found in the writings of Luther his *Deus est Ecclesia, necne ruit Ecclesia* (*Rechtfertigungslehre als Eckstein*).