

Reformation to Revival 500 Years of God's Glory Chapter 3 Martin Luther & Reformation in Germany 1517

'Deliver those who are drawn towards death, and hold back those stumbling to slaughter, If you say, "Surely we did not know this," does not He who weighs the heart consider it? He who keeps your soul, does He not know it? And will He not render to each man according to his deeds?' (Prov 24:11-12).

Martin Luther

11-10-1483: Born in Eisleben, Germany to German peasants: Hans (John) a miner, and Gretha (Margaret) Luther;

Age 7: Attended a school where his soprano voice gained him admission to the choir, musical tuition and a wage;

Age 14: Sent to a harsh Franciscan school where he went hungry and cold for lack of finances;

In 1501: Before age 18, he enrolled at the University of Erfurt; he studied logic and philosophy then theology;

Age 20: He first saw a Bible, a Latin translation in a monastery library, which he read in delight over the years;

In 1505: He obtained the M.A. degree and Doctor of Philosophy and began teaching physics and ethics of Aristotle.

That summer he was overtaken by a thunderstorm and vowed to St. Anne that if rescued, he would become a monk.

Age 22: He joined a monastery hoping to find peace for his soul and tried to find salvation by fasting & self-denial.

In 1507: Dr. Staupitz pointed him to the cross of Calvary; where he said, "I believe in the forgiveness of sins."

In May 1507:Luther became a priest in the Roman Catholic Church.

Luther came to the conclusion that, "Good works do not make a man good, but a good man does good works".

Luther began to work in the University of Wittenburg as a professor of philosophy and studied Greek and Hebrew

towards a Master of Divinity. In 1512: In Rome. Italy, while going up the staircase of Pilate on his knees for the promise of 1000 years indulgence, he heard, "The just shall live by faith." Disgusted with the depth of superstition he had plunged, he cried, "No one can imagine what sins and infamous actions are committed in Rome.. If there be a hell, Rome is built over it.. an abyss whence issues every sin."

In 1513: thirty-five printed publications of Luther's appeared. In 1516: he filled the position of Vicar-General. He established several schools in which he ordered the Scriptures to be taught for the way of salvation to be found.

31 Oct 1517: Start of the Reformation as Martin Luther nailed his 95 thesis to the Wittenburg Castle Church door.

They taught the inability and powerlessness of man and the power and source of all good in God in 3 principles:

1. **God's Word as found in the Holy Bible is the final authority on matters of doctrine. Therefore all doctrines and ceremonies for which there was no clear basis in Scripture were to be condemned.**

2. **Salvation is a free undeserved gift given solely by Christ Jesus, being saved by grace alone** (Rom 3:22-25).

3. **The 'priesthood of all believers' where every believer is a priest (1 Pet 2:5-9); There is no basis for the priest to act as a mediator or for the secular power of clergy; thereby making all believers of one status before God.** "For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus" (1 Tim 2:5).

In May 1521: Rome, in an outrage summoned Luther to appear in Worms in regard to the Bull of

Excommunication issued against him to stand before the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of the Catholic Church of Rome to retract his teach-ings. After a night in prayer he stood and said, "If I have spoken evil, bear witness of my evil..

Here I stand, I can do no other. God help me. Amen." Afterwards, he was taken captive to Wartburg Castle where

the governor, John Von Berlepsch, hid him and supplied all his wants as he finished the German translation of the

New Testament. Street preachers abounded in preaching salvation through Jesus Christ alone. After a year of

seclusion, Martin Luther traveled to Wittenburg to quell the trouble which had brought shame on the name of Christ. He taught that "Faith is voluntary but we need something more in living our faith. We need charity (love)."

By 1523: Luther had printed 183 of his writings and sermons which spread their way around civilized Europe.

In 1525: Luther with others "had put together a few hymns in order to bring into full play the blessed Gospel; which by God's grace has risen again, that we may know as Moses does in song [Ex 15] that Christ is become our praise and our song. Whether we sing or speak, we may not know anything save Christ our Savior."

13 June 1525: Luther at age 42 married Catherine Von Bora, a former nun, age 26. They had 6 children.

1529: Emperor Charles V, crowned Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire attempted to curb Martin Luther's movement by force. German state princes came to his defense and stood up to protest. They were called 'Protestants'.

They had always intended to reform Catholicism from within, but separated off and became known as the 'Reformation'. Three main traditions emerged: The Lutherans in Germany and Scandinavia; the Zwinglians and

Calvinists in Switzerland, Holland, France and Scotland; and the Church of England.

"One generation shall praise Your works to another, and shall declare Your mighty acts. Men shall speak of the might of Your awesome acts.. they shall utter the memory of Your great goodness, and shall sing of Your **righteous-ness**" (Psalm 145:4,6-7).