

the **REFORMATION**

Countryside Bible Church – March 26, 2017



Hebrews 12:1–2

Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, **fixing our eyes on Jesus**, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Martin Luther

In July, 1505, Martin Luther was nearly struck by lightning while walking home.

He cried out in a panic, “Saint Anne, spare me and I will become a monk!”

Fifteen days later, he joined the Augustinian monastery in Erfurt, Germany.



Monastery at Erfurt

Martin Luther

Ordained to the priesthood in 1507.

Began teaching at Wittenberg (in theology) in 1508 (at 25 years old).

Highly introspective; concerned with personal guilt and need for salvation.



Johann von Staupitz

Martin Luther

Travelled to Rome in 1510; left greatly disillusioned by all of the corruption.

While in Erfurt, began to understand justification after studying Romans 1.

His understanding of the gospel would continue to become more clear as he taught in Wittenberg.

Martin Luther

Though he followed monastic life to the letter, Luther could not abate the guilt he felt.

He wrote: “If ever a monk got to heaven by monkery, I would have gotten there.”

As he studied the Scriptures, he came to a more accurate understanding of the righteousness of God.



**Martin
Luther**

At last meditating day and night, by the mercy of God, I began to understand the righteousness of God is that through which the righteous live by a gift of God, namely by faith. . . . Here I felt as if I were entirely born again and had entered paradise itself through the gates that had been flung open.

Martin Luther

In 1517, Albert of Hohenzollern commissioned Johann Tetzel to sell indulgences in Saxony, including near Wittenberg.

Luther responded with a list of *95 Theses*, written in Latin and intended for inter-church debate; but it was translated into German and the rest is history.



Albert of Hohenzollern



Johann Tetzel



German: Wenn die Münze im Kästlein
klingt, die Seele in den Himmel springt.

English: As soon as a coin in the coffer rings,
the soul from Purgatory springs.

Tetzel's Slogan



Luther nails his *95 Theses*



Ulrich Zwingli



In 1519, Ulrich Zwingli became a parish priest in the Great Minister Church in Zurich.

Taught verse-by-verse through the New Testament.

Ulrich Zwingli

Increasingly preached against Catholic abuses:

- Sale of Indulgences
- Mandatory Fasting
- Private Confession to a Priest
- *The Mass*
- Use of Icons in Church Worship
- Intercession of the Saints, Purgatory



Zurich



Zwingli's Church

Ulrich Zwingli



On March 5, 1522, Zwingli preached a sermon for Lent against the traditional Catholic practice of mandatory fasting.

A few days later (March 9), some of Zwingli's followers (and possibly Zwingli himself) broke the fast by eating smoked sausages in the center of Zurich.

Ulrich Zwingli

On January 29, 1523, Zwingli held his First Disputation in which he convinced the Zurich City Council to embrace the Protestant Reformation.

In 1524, Zwingli (with the help of his colleagues) produced a Swiss New Testament; the entire Bible would be completed in 1530.

John Calvin

John Calvin was born in 1509. His mother died when he was very young.

His father initially encouraged him to pursue the priesthood, but later wanted him to study law.

It was during his studies in law school that Calvin embraced the true gospel in saving faith.

John Calvin

In 1533, Calvin had to flee from France because of growing persecution against Protestants.

In 1535, he arrived in Basel where he penned his first edition of the *Institutes of the Christian Religion* (published in March 1536).



John Calvin

In August of 1536, he set out for Strasbourg.

He was forced to travel through Geneva in order to avoid French troops.

Another Reformer named William Farel convinced Calvin to stay in Geneva.



John Calvin

Calvin would minister alongside Farel for a couple years before finally going to Strasbourg.

After three years in Strasbourg, he returned to Geneva.

He would minister in Geneva for the rest of his life, from 1541–1564.

Understanding the Reformation

Five Common Misconceptions

Common Misconceptions

1. When did the Reformation begin?

Pre-Reformers



Peter Waldo and the Waldensians
(1100s)



John Wycliffe and the Lollards
(1300s)



John Huss and the Hussites (1400s)

Common Misconceptions

1. When did the Reformation begin?
2. What primary issue sparked the Reformation?

John Huss

Huss repeatedly emphasized the headship of Christ.

“If the papal utterances agree with the law of Christ, they are to be obeyed. If they are at variance with it, then Christ’s disciples must stand loyally and manfully with Christ against all papal bulls whatsoever and be ready, if necessary, to endure malediction and death. When the pope uses his power in an unscriptural way, to resist him is not a sin, it is a mandate.”

Martin Luther

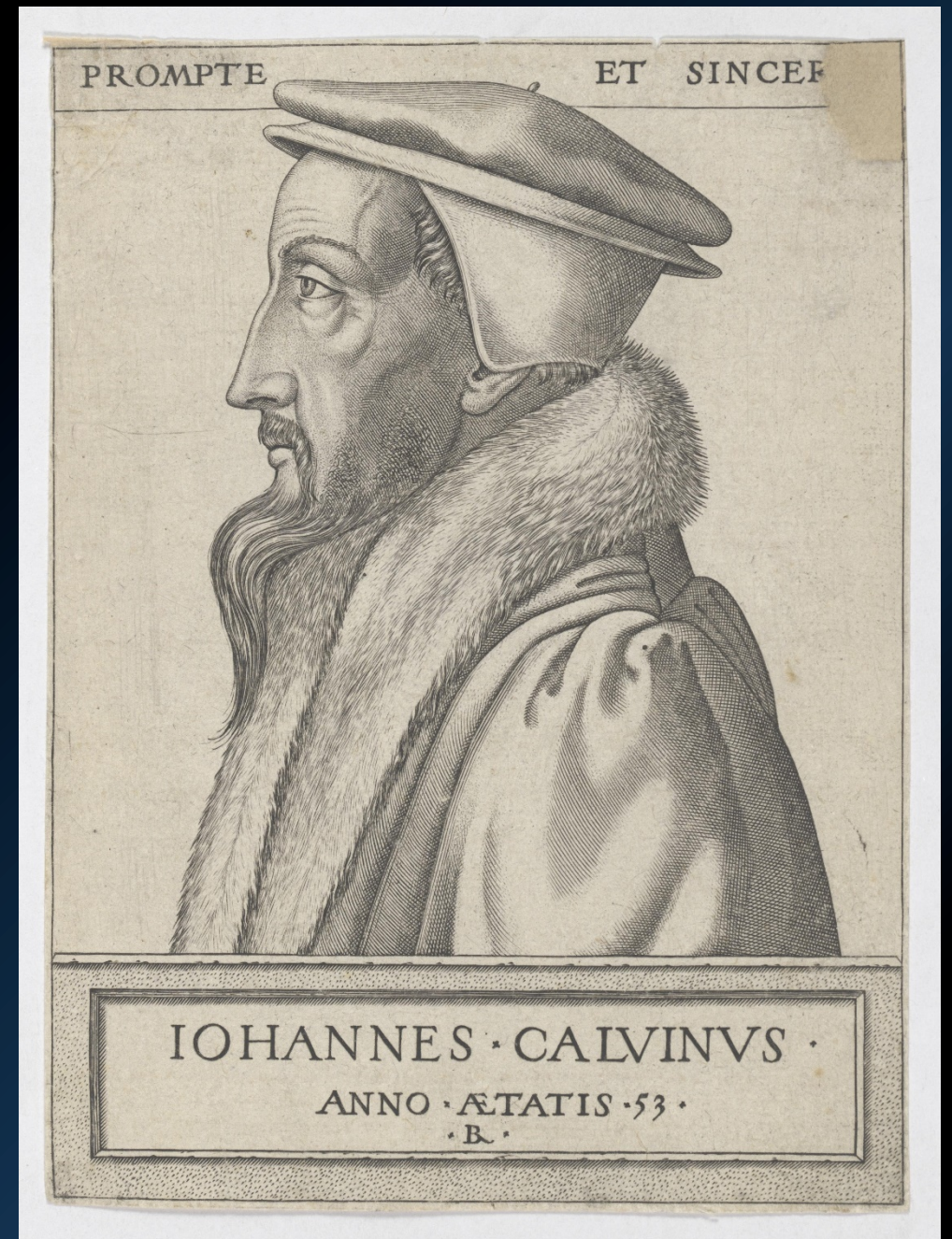
The chief cause that I fell out with the pope was this: the pope boasted that he was the head of the church, and condemned all that would not be under his power and authority. . . . Further he took upon him power, rule, and authority over the Christian church, and over the Holy Scriptures, the Word of God; [claiming that] no man must presume to expound the Scriptures, but only he, and according to his ridiculous conceits; so that he made himself lord over the church.

Martin Luther

I am persuaded that if at this time, St. Peter, in person, should preach all the articles of Holy Scripture, and only deny the pope's authority, power, and primacy, and say, that the pope is not the head of all Christendom, they would cause him to be hanged. Yea, if Christ Himself were again on earth, and should preach, without all doubt the pope would crucify Him again.

John Calvin

Since Christ is the Head of the church, all those who have ever been ordained to rule over the church are subject to Him.



Charles Spurgeon

Of all the dreams that ever deluded men and probably of all blasphemies that ever were uttered, there has never been one which is more absurd and which is more fruitful in all manner of mischief than the idea that the Bishop of Rome can be the head of the church of Jesus Christ. No, these popes die and how could the church live if its head were dead? The true Head ever lives and the church ever liveth in him.

The Five Solas

- *Sola Scriptura* – Scripture alone
- *Sola fide* – Faith alone
- *Sola gratia* – Grace alone
- *Solus Christus* – Christ alone
- *Soli Deo Gloria* – For the glory of God alone

Common Misconceptions

1. When did the Reformation begin?
2. What primary issue sparked the Reformation?
3. What famous writing fueled the Reformation?

Martin Luther

All I have done is put forth, preach and write the Word of God, and apart from this I have done nothing. . . .

It is the Word that has done great things. . . .

I have done nothing; the Word has done and achieved everything.

Martin Luther

I will not have recourse to arms and bloodshed in defense of the Gospel. By the Word the earth has been subdued; by the Word the Church has been saved; and by the Word also it shall be reestablished.

Martin Luther

You must boldly take your stand on His words, which no devil, hell, or death can suppress. Therefore no matter what happens, you should say: **There is God's Word. This is my rock and anchor.** On it I rely, and it remains. Where it remains, I too remain; where it goes, I too go. The Word must stand, for God cannot lie; and heaven and earth must go to ruins before the most insignificant letter or tittle of His Word remains unfulfilled.

Diet of Worms

Luther's commitment to Scripture is illustrated during his trial at the Diet of Worms.

He had published the *95 Theses* in 1517. But it took some time for the pope to respond.

Nonetheless, in 1520, Pope Leo X ordered Luther to recant within 60 days or face excommunication.



Papal bull ordering Luther to recant

Diet of Worms

Luther was excommunicated on January 3, 1521.

He was summoned to Worms to make a defense of his teachings before Emperor Charles V.

He was promised safe passage.

Diet of Worms

On the morning before the trial began, Luther prayed:

“Stand by me, You true eternal God. In no man do I trust. Stand by me, O God. In the name of your dear Son, Jesus Christ, who shall be my defense and shelter, yes, my mighty fortress, through the might and strength of Your Holy Spirit. Amen.”



Diet of Worms

Diet of Worms

“Since your Majesty and your Worships desire a simple reply, I will answer. Unless I am convinced by Scripture and plain reason, I do not accept the authority of popes and councils for they have contradicted each other. My conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and I will not recant anything, for to go against conscience is neither right nor safe. God help me. Amen. [Here I stand.]”

HIER STAND
VOR KAISER UND REICH
MARTIN LUTHER
15 21

Diet of Worms



Diet of Worms

Emperor Charles V presented the Edict of Worms (May 25, 1521), declaring Luther to be a notorious heretic.

It made it a crime for anyone in Germany to assist Luther or even to provide him with food or shelter.

The Wartburg Castle

Luther was “kidnapped” by Prince Frederick III of Saxony, who took him to Wartburg Castle.

Luther took the name “Junker Jorge.”

While in hiding, he worked on translating the NT from Greek to German.



Wartburg Castle



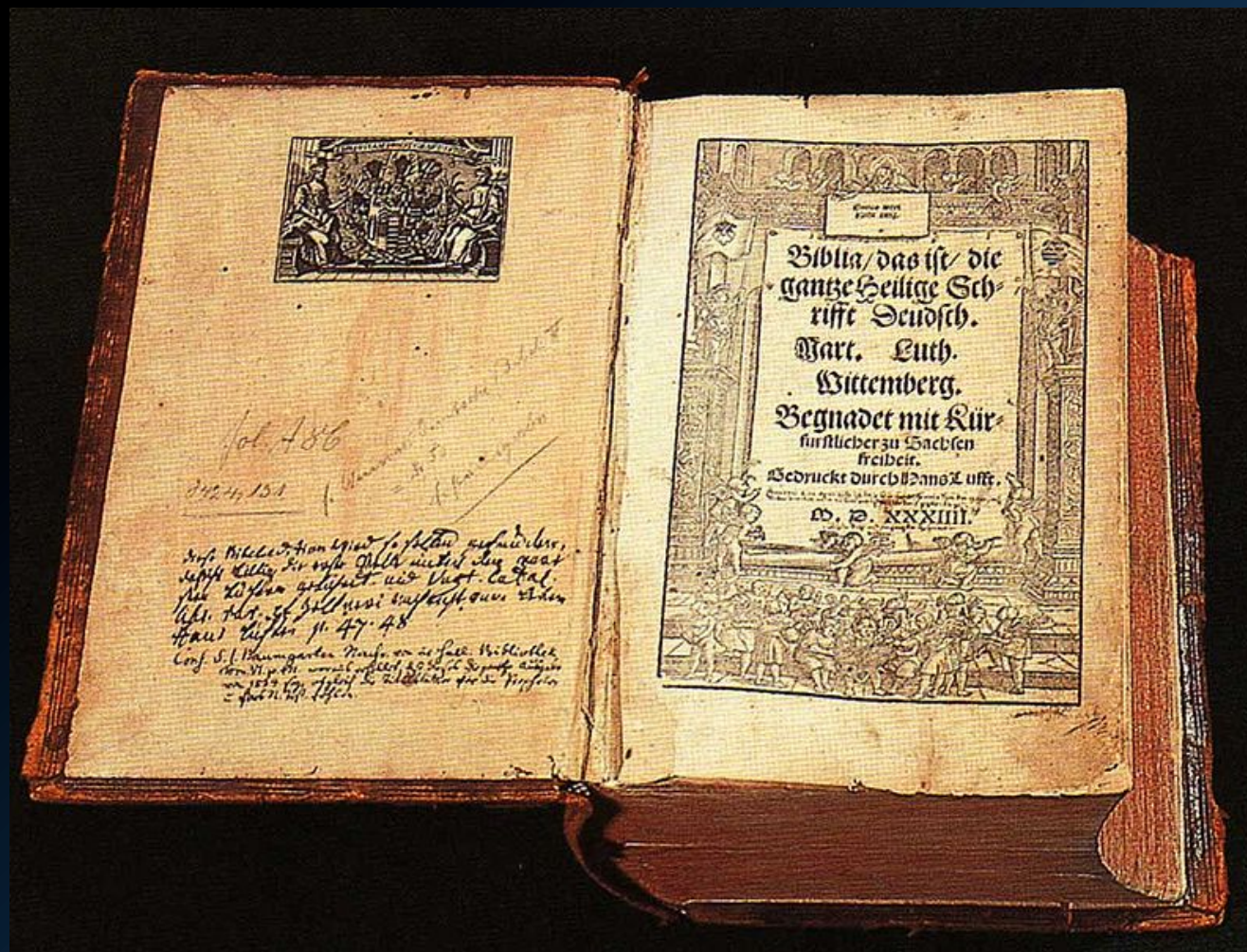


Bible Translation

In 1534, Luther completed a German translation of the entire Bible.

The OT was completed in collaboration with some of Luther's colleagues, including Philipp Melanchthon.

Luther's Bible is a significant piece of German literature; it greatly influenced William Tyndale.

[illegible]

Hebrews 4:12

For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.



Zwingli:

“For God's sake, do not put yourself at odds with the Word of God. For truly it will persist as surely as the Rhine follows its course. One can perhaps dam it up for awhile, but it is impossible to stop it.”

Common Misconceptions

1. When did the Reformation begin?
2. What primary issue sparked the Reformation?
3. What famous writing fueled the Reformation?
4. Did the Reformers' understanding of the gospel represent something new?

A Reformation Quiz

1. Faith alone makes someone just and fulfills the law; faith it is that brings the Holy Spirit through the merits of Christ.

REFORMATION

(Martin Luther, *Preface to Romans*)

A Reformation Quiz

2. It is determined by God that whoever believes in Christ shall be saved and have forgiveness of sins, not through works but through faith alone, without merit.

PRE-REFORMATION

(Ambrosiaster, 4th century, *Comm. on 1 Cor. 1.4*)

A Reformation Quiz

3. Faith is reckoned as righteousness to the believer, independently of any righteous actions (Rom 4:5–6). What righteousness is this? The righteousness of faith, preceded by no good works, but with good works as its consequence.

PRE-REFORMATION

(Augustine, 5th century, *Exp. on the Psalms*, 31.7)

An Reformation Quiz

4. God's plan of salvation excludes all our works. "Not of works, lest any man should boast." It comes to us upon the footing of grace, pure grace alone.

POST-REFORMATION

(Charles Spurgeon, 19th cent., *Just. by Faith*)

A Reformation Quiz

5. No one can embrace the grace of the gospel without removing himself from the errors of his past life into the right way, and applying his whole effort to the practice of repentance. Can true repentance stand apart from faith? Not at all. But even though they cannot be separated, they ought to be distinguished.

REFORMATION

(John Calvin, 16th century, *Institutes* 3.1.5)

A Reformation Quiz

6. To have brought humanity, more senseless than stones, to the dignity of angels simply through bare words, and faith alone, without any hard work, is indeed a rich and glorious mystery. It is just as if one were to take a dog, consumed with hunger and disease, foul and loathsome to see, unable to move and lying passed out, and make him all at once into a human being and to display him upon the royal throne.

PRE-REFORMATION

(John Chrysostom, 4th cent., *Hom. Col. 1:26–28*)

A Reformation Quiz

7. This man [the publican in Luke 18] went away justified without performing any works of penance, without doing any sacrament or ritual, without any meritorious works whatsoever. His justification was complete without any of those things, because it was solely on the basis of faith.

POST-REFORMATION

(John MacArthur, 21st cent., *Jesus' Perspective on Sola Fide*)

John Calvin

Another false accusation [from our Catholic opponents] is their charging us with opposition to the fathers, I mean the writers of the earlier and purer ages, as if those writers were supporters of their impiety; whereas if the contest were to be determined by this authority, the victory in most parts of the controversy, to speak in the most modest terms, would be on our side.

The Biblical Basis

(Rom 3:28) A man is justified by faith apart from the works of the law.

(Rom 11:6) If it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works, otherwise grace is no longer grace.

(Eph 2:8–9) By grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

The Biblical Basis

(Phil 3:8–9) We do not rest on “a righteousness of [our] own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith.”

(Titus 3:5–6) He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy.



Luther's Rose

Common Misconceptions

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3. What famous writing fueled the Reformation?
4. Did the Reformers' understanding of the gospel represent something new?
5. Is the Reformation over?

Is the Reformation Over?

The issues that were at stake in the 16th century still matter today.

- The headship of Jesus Christ in the church
- The authority and sufficiency of Scripture
- The purity of the gospel message
- The priority of biblical preaching

Is the Reformation Over?

The New Testament calls believers to guard sound doctrine and reject false teaching.

The central doctrines of the Reformation are doctrines that every generation of believers must contend for.

We contend for these doctrines, not because they come from the Reformation, but from the Bible.

Galatians 1:8–9

But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed! As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is preaching to you a gospel contrary to what you received, he is to be accursed!

Jude 3-4

Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints. For certain persons have crept in unnoticed, those who were long beforehand marked out for this condemnation, ungodly persons who turn the grace of our God into licentiousness and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.

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