

Martin Luther

The Swan That Could Not Be Silenced

FDN Reformation Celebration 10/15/2017



Martin Luther

The Vicar General Tries to Help Luther

- *He encouraged Luther to read St. Augustine.*
- *He sent Luther to the University of Wittenberg to study theology.*
- *He sent Luther to Rome.*
 - *In 1510, Staupitz decided to send Luther on a pilgrimage to Rome. The Augustinian Order and the monasteries in Erfurt needed to renew their credentials. Staupitz thought this a fine occasion for Luther to be cured of his Anfechtungen. At it turns out, Staupitz miscalculated.*
- *He sent Luther back to Wittenberg.*

Martin Luther

The Futility of Further Study

- I did not love, yes, I hated the righteous God who punishes sinners, and secretly, if not blasphemously, certainly murmuring greatly, I was angry with God, and said, "As if, indeed, it is not enough, that miserable sinners, eternally lost through original sin, are crushed by every kind of calamity by the law of the Decalogue, without having God add pain to pain by the gospel and also by the gospel threatening us with his righteousness and wrath!" Thus I raged with a fierce and troubled conscience.*

Martin Luther

The Professor Becomes a Reformer

1. *The biblical books Luther studied for his lectures.*
2. *The publication of the Greek New Testament.*

³⁷ Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do?"

*³⁸ Peter said to them, "**Repent**, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.*

3. *The church's commitment to sell indulgences.*

Martin Luther

The Ninety-Five Theses

Out of love for the truth and from desire to elucidate it, the Reverend Father Martin Luther, Master of Arts and Sacred Theology, and ordinary lecturer therein at Wittenberg, intends to defend the following statements and to dispute on them in that place. Therefore he asks that those who cannot be present and dispute with him orally shall do so in their absence by letter. In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.

1. Our Lord and Master Jesus Christ, in saying, "Repent ye, etc.," intended that the whole life of his believers on earth should be a constant penance.

2. And the word "penance" neither can, nor may, be understood as referring to the Sacrament of Penance, that is, to confession and atonement as exercised under the priest's ministry.

Martin Luther

The Twenty-Eight Theses (Heidelberg)

Distrusting completely our own wisdom, according to that counsel of the Holy Spirit, "Do not rely on your own insight" [Prov. 3.5], we humbly present to the judgment of all those who wish to be here these theological paradoxes, so that it may become clear whether they have been deduced well or poorly from St. Paul, the especially chosen vessel and instrument of Christ, and also from St. Augustine, his most trustworthy interpreter.

Martin Luther

Salvation in Christ by Faith

At last, by the mercy of God, meditating day and night, I gave heed to the context of the words, namely, "In it the righteousness of God is revealed, as it is written, 'He who through faith is righteous shall live.'" There I began to understand that the righteousness of God is that by which the righteous lives by a gift of God, namely by faith. And this is the meaning: the righteousness of God is revealed by the gospel, namely, the passive righteousness with which merciful God justifies us by faith, as it is written, "He who through faith is righteous shall live." Here I felt that I was altogether born again and had entered paradise itself through open gates

Martin Luther

Roman Catholic Opposition

- *The Examination in Augsburg*
- *The Stand in Worms*
 - *Unless I am convinced by the testimony of the Holy Scriptures or by evident reason-for I can believe neither pope nor councils alone, as it is clear that they have erred repeatedly and contradicted themselves-I consider myself convicted by the testimony of Holy Scripture, which is my basis; my conscience is captive to the Word of God. Thus I cannot and will not recant, because acting against one's conscience is neither safe nor sound. God help me. Amen.*

Martin Luther

Ministry Accomplishments

- *Translated the Bible into German*
- *Luther authored hymns, published hymnals and led a revival of congregational singing in Germany*
- *Wrote a Shorter and Longer Catechism (Apostle's Creed, Ten Commandments, Lord's Prayer)*
- *Preached 3,000 sermons*
- *Wrote commentaries on Genesis, Psalms, Romans, Galatian and Romans*
- *Recovered the Doctrine of Vocation*

Conclusion

“You are now going to burn a goose, but in a century you will have a swan which you can neither roast nor boil.”

~Jan Hus