



The Halloween that Changed the World Getting to ZERO with Martin Luther!

Lesson 1

*What do most people celebrate on **October 31st**?*

*Who comes to mind when you hear the name **Martin Luther**?*

What Is Reformation Day?

The Halloween that changed the world! On October 31, 1517—nearly 500 years ago—a German monk by the name of Martin Luther ushered in a new day in church history and the Kingdom of God forever!

What Is the Reformation?

A Definition: A religious movement (1517–1545) that God used to bring LIGHT of the Gospel to the Dark Ages.

A Question: “What must I DO to be saved?”

A Motivation: A monk by the name of Martin Luther (1483-1546) to whom God graciously revealed HIS answer to that question.

A Monk In Search of Salvation at the End of the Dark Ages ~ 1483-1517

A Successful Law Student Encounters Death: “Where will I go when I die?”

- Born on November 10, 1483 to peasant parents in the little town of Eisleben (120 miles SW of Berlin).
- Raised in a religious home that was both strict and superstitious—very typical of the Dark Ages.
- Luther studied law in obedience to his father’s wishes and earned both his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in the shortest time possible.
- Luther almost died at the **age of 19** and **never saw a Bible until he was 20 years old!**

A Guilt-ridden Monk Searches for Salvation: “What must I do to be saved?”

What Must I Do to Be Saved?

1) Become a MONK? 1505

- Nearly struck dead by lightning during a thunderstorm and promises St. Anne he will become a monk if she saves him from death.

2) Become a PRIEST and celebrate Mass? 1507

- Ordained as a priest and celebrates his first Mass, but became so terrified of the presence of Christ in the bread and the wine that he nearly drops them and tries to run from the altar.

“If anyone could have earned heaven by the life of a monk, it was I.” ~ Martin Luther

“Though I lived as a monk without reproach, I felt that I was a sinner before God with an extremely disturbed conscience.” ~ Martin Luther

3) Do more PENANCE? 1508

- Begins teaching theology at the new University of Wittenberg, but forgiveness of sin and a clear conscience were uppermost in his mind.

“If one were to confess his sins in a timely manner, he would have [had] to carry a confessor in his pocket!” ~ Martin Luther

“Yet my conscience would never give me assurance, but I was always doubting and said, ‘You did not perform that correctly. You were not contrite enough. You left that out of your confession.’” ~ Martin Luther

“I was drunk, nay submerged in the doctrines of the pope that I could have happily killed (or cooperated with anyone who killed) whoever took but a syllable of obedience away from him.” ~ Martin Luther

4) Travel to Rome to worship **MORE** relics? **1510-11**

- Sent to Rome on business for his monastic order, he becomes an eyewitness to the hypocrisy and corruption of the Roman Catholic Church and its clergy.

5) Become a **BIBLE SCHOLAR**? **1511-12**

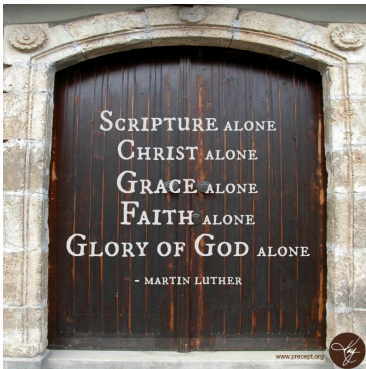
- Returns to Wittenberg, receives his Doctor of Theology, and becomes a Professor of Bible.

In Luther's Heart Three Convictions Began to Grow that Laid a Foundation for Getting to ZERO

- **SURRENDER** to the Bible is the ultimate standard for truth.
- **STUDY** the Bible in the original languages in order to know what it says.
- **START** teaching in the language of the common man.

6) Repent and Believe: Faith **alone** in Christ **alone** for salvation is the **ONLY** biblical answer! **1513-1517**

- Teaches Psalms (1513-15), Romans (1515-1517), Galatians, and Hebrews (1517-1519).
- But **Romans 1:17** is the verse in the Bible that led to Luther's conversion! (1517 or as late as 1519)
"For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "BUT THE RIGHTEOUS man SHALL LIVE BY FAITH." Romans 1:17
- From that time on Luther's theology was based on the priesthood of **BELIEVERS** and the five "sola's" of the Reformation.



Sola Scriptura ~ Scripture alone *instead of...*Scripture **plus** Traditions of Men

Solo Christo ~ Christ alone *instead of...*Christ **plus** Anyone or Anything Else

Sola Gratia ~ Grace alone *instead of...*Grace **plus** My Own Goodness before God

Sola Fide ~ Faith alone *instead of...*Faith **plus** My Own Works

Soli Deo Gloria ~ Glory to God alone *instead of...*God's Glory **plus** My Own Boasting

Halloween Is Not All Darkness and Demons...

It is also a day to remember that Getting to **ZERO** Is within His Reach, but He uses those who are truly born again and committed to sharing God's Word with all people!

The most dangerous threat in all of history is a common man with a common Bible committed to an uncommon cause—the Great Commission!

"What I began as a Doctor. I must truly confess to the end of my life. I cannot keep silent or cease to teach." ~ Martin

NEXT WEEK: A Born Again Pastor Getting to ZERO at the Dawn of a New Day ~ 1517-1521