



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

Lesson 2

Many people are not aware that **October 31, 1517** was the Halloween that changed the world!  
Too many Christians know more about Martin Luther King, Jr, than they do about the man he was named after, the original **Martin Luther** whom God used to bring the light of the gospel to the Dark Ages!

### Why Is Reformation Day Celebrated on Halloween?

Nearly 500 years ago—on October 31, 1517—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?

- **Definition of the Reformation:** A religious movement from **1517–1545** that God used to bring the light of the Gospel to the Dark Ages!
- **Question of the Reformation:** “What must I do to be saved?”
- **Motivation of the Reformation:** A monk—Martin Luther (1483-1546)—that God used to bring the Light of the Gospel to the Dark Ages!

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

- Romans 1:17 is the verse in the Bible that led to Luther’s conversion!

*“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

**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 Luther*

### A Reformer Getting to ZERO at the Dawn of a New Day ~ 1517-1521

“If even the fiercest enemies of the Gospel had been among his hearers, they would have confessed from the force of what they heard, that they had witnessed, not a man, but a spirit.” ~ A Student of Luther’s

#### 1. Luther **NAILS** it! 1517

*He hammers 95 statements for debate (= 95 theses) on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg on “All Saints Eve”, October 31!*

- Attacked the **abuses** of indulgences, not the “**proper**” practice of them...yet!
  - “**Penance**” One of the 7 sacraments of the Roman Catholic Church that dealt with confession and satisfaction and administered by priests.
  - “**Indulgences**” Documents prepared by the church to sell to individuals either for themselves or on behalf of the dead.  
As a result, the living purchaser or the dead loved one would be released from purgatory for a certain number of years.
  - “**Total indulgence**” A indulgence would release a person altogether but was seldom offered. (in other words sins were forgiven before they had been committed, confessed, and done any penance for them!)
- The sale of indulgences was used to finance church projects like the building of St. Peter’s Basilica in Rome!

## 2. Luther **PUBLISHES** it! 1520

He publishes his convictions with the aide of the new invention of the Gutenberg printing press!

If the papacy did not free churches from these sacramental abuses, then it "is identical with the kingdom of Babylon and the Antichrist itself." ~ Luther

"What is asserted without the Scriptures or proven revelation may be held as an opinion, but need not be believed." ~ Luther

Luther is **EXCOMMUNICATED** by the Pope in 1520!



## 3. Luther **STANDS** for it! 1521

He refuses to change his beliefs (recant) when summoned by the Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire to the City of Worms for an Imperial Diet: "Here I stand! I can do no other!"

"All that is deformed ought to be reformed. The Word of God alone teaches us what ought to be so, and all reform effected otherwise is vain." ~ Francis Lambert

## 4. Luther **TRANSLATES** it! 1521

In an amazing 10 months he translates the Bible into the German language for the common man!

"If God had wanted me to die thinking I was a clever fellow, He would not have gotten me into the business of translating the Bible." ~ Luther  
By the end of his life, Luther wrote 60,000 pages, yet he hoped that "all my books would disappear and the Holy Scriptures alone be read."

## 5. Luther **SINGS** it! 1527?

He writes one of the greatest hymns in all of church history, "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

## 6. Luther **MARRIES** it! 1525

He marries the former nun, Katharina von Bora

## 7. Luther **BLOWS** it! 1538, 1543

In his latter years he writes some very anti-Jewish material and never completely reforms according to the NT.

### Is the Reformation Over?

- NO, the Roman **CATHOLIC** Church still teaches what Luther was protesting back in 1517.
- NO, many **PROTESTANT** churches and denominations (Anglican, Episcopalian, Lutheran, Presbyterian) stopped short of going all the way to reform according to the NT local church.
- NO, there are still **BAPTIST** churches and other types of churches that practice believer's baptism but still need to realign themselves with Christ and His Word and His Spirit.

"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."  
Revelation 2:7, 11, 17, 29; 3:6, 13, 22



On his deathbed, Luther was asked:  
"Are you ready to die trusting in your Lord Jesus Christ and to confess the doctrine which you have taught in His name?"

He answered "Yes", before taking his final breath.

### Halloween Is Not All Darkness and Demons...

It is also a day to remember that getting to **ZERO** is within God's reach, but He uses cracked pots like Martin Luther and us to get there!

**Books for Further Reading:**

*Here I Stand: A Life of Martin Luther* by Roland H. Bainton

*The Unquenchable Flame: Discovering the Heart of the Reformation* by Michael Reeves

*25 Surprising Marriages: How Great Christians Struggled to Make Their Marriages Work* by William J. Petersen

*Katharina von Bora: A Reformation Life* by Rudolph K. Markwald

*The Anabaptist Story* by William R. Estep

**Movies/DVDs for Viewing:**

*Luther* ~ 2003 Movie with Joseph Fiennes

*Martin Luther* ~ 1953 B&W classic with Niall MacGinnis, nominated for two academy awards