



11.7.2021 Pastor-Teacher | Chris Regas

Martin Luther: A Monk Seeking Light in the Darkness!

Lesson 2

A Story that Shows the Significance of the Five Solas and Summarizes the Reformation Age.

The story of Martin Luther does not give the solas their significance but it does put them in a historical context and shows how the Reformation bridged the gap between biblical learning and radical living through one man's life and ministry.

A Monk with a Mallet Unknowingly Unleashes the Reformation.

The Definition: A pivotal movement (1517–1545) that God used to bring His people **BACK** to the Bible in order to **SHINE** the Light of the Gospel in the Dark Ages.

1. PROTESTANT Reformers Roman Catholics that protested by seeking to reform the Roman Catholic Church but ended up creating their own "state churches."

Lutherans – Followers of Luther that spread from Germany.

Reformed / Presbyterians - Followers of Calvin and others that spread from Switzerland, France, Scotland, etc.

Anglicans - Political "reform" by the King Henry VIII in England. Episcopalians are Anglicans that settled in America.

2. Reformers Reformers and free churches of only professing believer's like in the NT. They kept reforming the Reformation!

Anabaptists (1500's) – Reformers and independents who often exalted the subjective "light" of God's Spirit over the objective light of God's Word.

Baptists (1600's) – Reformers and independents who were grounded in Reformation theology of the 5 Solas and returned to the NT form of believer's baptism and free churches that were self-governing (separation of church and state).

The Question: "What must I DO to be saved and who has the AUTHORITY to tell me?"

The Motivation: The monk Martin Luther (1483-1546) to whom God graciously revealed HIS ANSWER to that question.

A Monk Seeking the Light of Salvation at the End of the Dark Ages – 1483-1517

1. A Student Lawyer Encounters DEATH. "Where Will God 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—typical of the Middle Ages.
- Luther studied law to honor his father's wishes—earning 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!

2. A Serious Monk Seeks Light in the DARKNESS. "What Must I do to Be Saved?"

What Must I Do to Be Saved?

- Become a MONK? 1505
 - Nearly struck dead by lightening during a thunderstorm and promises St. Anne he will become a monk if she saves him from death. Two weeks later he keeps his promise and enters the Augustinian Monastery in Erfurt.
- 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.

"I was a good monk...if ever a monk got to heaven by his monkery 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

• Leaves Erfurt to study theology at the new University of Wittenberg and earns a Bachelor of Arts in Bible, but forgiveness of sin and a clear conscience were uppermost in his mind at this time.

"If one were to confess his sins in a timely manner, he would have 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. Your 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. Trek to Rome and worship MORE relics? 1510-11

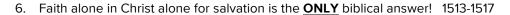
• Sent to Rome on business for his monastic order, he becomes an eyewitness to the hypocrisy and corruption of the Roman Catholic Church and its clergy.

5. Become a BIBLE SCHOLAR? 1511-12

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

Three Growing Convictions Lay a Foundation for "Sola Scriptura" = Scripture Alone

- 1) **SURRENDER** to the Bible as the ultimate standard for truth.
- 2) STUDY the Bible in the original languages to know what it says.
- 3) **START** teaching in the language of the common man to spread the truth.



- 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 I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. 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 1:16-17

From that time on Luther began to see, savor, study, and share the five "SOLAS" of Reformation theology.



- Sola Scriptura Scripture alone instead of Scripture plus the traditions of men or church.
- Sola Fide Faith alone instead of Faith plus my own effort and good works.
- Solus Christus- Christ alone instead of Christ plus anyone or anything else.
- Sola Gratia Grace alone instead of grace plus my own goodness or ability before God.
- Soli Deo Gloria -Glory to God alone instead of God's glory plus my own boasting.

How Does God Bring Light to People in Dark Places?

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 or woman with a common Bible committed to an uncommon purpose—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



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