

INTRODUCTION

1. Today is October 31, 2021
2. On this day many will celebrate Halloween
3. But we should be celebrating the protestant
reformation
4. The protestant reformation occurred on this
day in 1517

5. An Augustian Monk named Martin Luther nailed a document to the Castle church door in Wittenberg, Germany
6. This document put in motion a revolution unlike any before it
7. Early reformers called for church reform but they were excommunicated by the Catholic church and later martyred
8. But God used Martin Luther to bring about changes to the Church that still exist today

9. Martin Luther was born on November 10, 1483
10. He was born and raised in Saxony, which is now northern Germany
11. His father worked in the copper mining industry and wanted a better life for his son
12. So he sent Martin to a boarding school and then to the University of Erfurt
13. While at the University, Martin earned his bachelors and master's degree and was heading to a career in law

14. But one summer in 1505, he was caught in a violent thunderstorm
15. As the storm became more intense, Martin feared for his life
16. Suddenly a lightning bolt struck near him throwing him to the ground
17. While on the ground he cried out to Saint Anna, who was the patron saint of miners, to save him
18. If he was spared he would become a monk

19. He survived the storm and two weeks later entered the Augustinian Order at Erfurt
20. While serving at the monastery, he became more disillusioned with his life and with God
21. He couldn't see God as a loving God
22. He saw Him as a judge
23. He hated God
24. His mentor at the monerstary decided to send him to Rome

25. But while in Rome, he became even more disillusioned with all the relics, the selling of indulgences and the wealth and godless lifestyle of the priests

26. When Luther went up the Scala Sancta – the supposed steps Christ walked up to meet Pontius Pilate – on his knees, praying, and kissing each step as was prescribed, all he could say when he reached the top was “Who knows whether this is true?” The

doubts about church's teaching began to take root.

27. He returned to Erfurt more despondent than ever. Even so, he was transferred to the University in Wittenberg to become a professor

(<https://reasonabletheology.org/the-life-of-martin-luther-a-brief-biography-of-the-reformer>).

28. While working on lectures, he came to understand that God's grace was not to be

earned by meritorious works but that Christ had finished the work of salvation, which was available by faith (Feldmeth, Nathan P. Pocket Dictionary of Church History: Over 300 Terms Clearly and Concisely Defined 2008 : 91–92. Print. The IVP Pocket Reference Series).

29. While studying Romans 1:17, he later wrote, “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's Account of His Own

Conversion -

https://thirdmill.org/newfiles/mar_luther/C.H.Luther.conversion.html).

30. Following Luther's conversion, he began to teach that salvation was by grace alone through faith alone

31. It was also when he nailed his 95 Theses to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg

32. The Church responded with a papal bull, or edict, calling Luther to repent and threatened him with excommunication
33. On December 10, 1520, he burned it
34. On April 17, 1521 he was summoned to the Diet of Worm where his fate would be decided
35. While there, there was set up a large table containing all his books
36. He was asked if they were his and would he recant what he wrote

37. He said he could not recant all of them because much of what he wrote even his enemies would agree and they contained the teaching of Scripture
38. Pressed again to recant, he ask for a night to consider it and to pray
39. He was granted his request
40. After returning the next day to the council, he was pressed again to recant
41. It was here where he said, “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. Here I stand, I can do no other. God help me”

<https://reasonabletheology.org/the-life-of->

[martin-luther-a-brief-biography-of-the-reformer](#)
[mer](#)).

42. After the meeting he was granted safe passage but was kidnapped by his friends and taken to Wartburg Castle where he spent the next 10 months in hiding

43. While he was there he translated the New Testament into German from the original koine Greek

44. He did this in 3 months

45. This monk and professor pioneered the extraordinary movement to restore the purity of the gospel after centuries of corruption by the Roman Catholic Church.

(Lawson, Steven J.. The Heroic Boldness of Martin Luther (A Long Line of Godly Men Profile) . Reformation Trust Publishing. Kindle Edition).

46. Luther ignited the flames that soon engulfed the continent of Europe and spread to the British Isles and the Colonies in America.

(Lawson, Steven J.. The Heroic Boldness of

Martin Luther (A Long Line of Godly Men Profile) . Reformation Trust Publishing. Kindle Edition).

47. What can we learn from this German monk who set the world on fire?

48. Like it says in our bulletin this morning, “When we read of heroic men who gave up all for Jesus, we are not merely to admire, but to imitate.”

49. There are two things I want to call you to imitate about Martin Luther

50. First,

LESSON

I. He was Committed to Scripture Alone

A. This is Sola Scriptura, “by Scripture Alone”

1. Paragraph 1 on the Holy Scriptures in the 1689 London Baptist Confession of Faith begins: “The Holy Scripture is the only sufficient, certain, and infallible

rule of all saving knowledge, faith, and obedience.”

2. Luther testified that the Bible is the sole authority upon which he stood. He asserted the Scripture is a higher authority than church traditions, ecclesiastical councils, or even the pope himself

(<https://www.expositormagazine.org/new-blog/2018/4/11/martin-luther-and-sola-scriptura>) because

he believed Psalm 138:2 where

the psalmist says as he is
worshiping God that “You have
magnified Your word above all
Your name.”

3. The Belgic Confession stated, "We believe that [the] holy Scriptures fully contain the will of God, and that whatsoever man ought to believe unto salvation is sufficiently taught therein...Neither may we consider any writings of men, however holy

these men may have been, of equal value with those divine Scriptures nor ought we to consider custom or the great multitude, or antiquity, or succession of times and persons, or councils, decrees or statutes, as of equal value with the truth of God... Therefore, we reject with all our hearts whatsoever does not agree with this infallible rule" (VII).

B. He Believed in the Absolute Authority
of Scripture

1. God said it and that settled it
2. Scripture was his highest priority

(Mat.4:4)
3. He treasured it above his necessary
food - Job 23:12 (NASB) "I have not
departed from the command of His
lips; I have treasured the words of
His mouth more than my necessary
food."

4. He believed in biblical inspiration (2 Tim.3:16-17)
5. He took Paul's charge to Timothy in 2 Timothy 4:2, to "preach the Word" seriously
 - a) He was "ready in season and out of season"
 - b) He "reprove[d], rebuke[d], exhort[ed] with great patience and instruction"
6. He preached it constantly -

7. Steven Lawson says, in his biography on Martin Luther, “Luther’s commitment to the pulpit can be clearly seen in his preaching activities. On most Sundays, he preached two or three times, and, by his own admission, “Often I preached four sermons on one day.” In addition, he usually preached at least two to three times during the week, sometimes more. On religious holidays, he preached twice a day.

His relentless drive in this work is seen in the staggering number of sermons he preached—seven thousand between 1510 and 1546.

That is almost two hundred sermons per year, or four per week.

Throughout his ministry, Luther preached, on average, one sermon every two days. Some twenty-three hundred of these biblical expositions survive in written form” (Lawson, Steven J.. The Heroic Boldness of

Martin Luther (A Long Line of Godly Men Profile) . Reformation Trust Publishing. Kindle Edition).

II. He was Committed to Evangelism

A. The purpose of sola scriptura was to preach sola fide and sola gratia

Sola Scripture is the first word on faith and grace

1. Jesus said in John 5:46-47 (NASB)

For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me, for he wrote

about Me. 47 But if you do not
believe his writings, how will you
believe My words?”

2. While Jesus was talking to two of His followers on the road to Damascus, Luke 24:27 (NASB) Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures.

3. Luke 24:31-32 (NASB) 31 Then their eyes were opened and they recognized Him; and He vanished from their sight. 32 They said to one another, “Were not our hearts burning within us while He was speaking to us on the road, while He was explaining the Scriptures to us?”
4. Jesus said to the twelve disciples after His resurrection and appearance to them, Luke 24:44-49 (NASB) 44 Now He said to them,

“These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” 45 Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, 46 and He said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ would suffer and rise again from the dead the third day, 47 and that repentance for forgiveness of sins would be

proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem.

48 You are witnesses of these things.

49 And behold, I am sending forth the promise of My Father upon you; but you are to stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”

B. Salvation is by “faith alone” and by “grace alone”

1. Romans 3:23-24 (NASB) 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the

glory of God, 24 being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus.

2. Ephesians 2:8-9 (“by grace through faith”)
3. Titus 3:3-7 (NASB) 3 For we also once were foolish ourselves, disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, spending our life in malice and envy, hateful, hating one another.

4 But when the kindness of God
our Savior and His love for
mankind appeared, 5 He saved us,
not on the basis of deeds which
we have done in righteousness,
but according to His mercy, by the
washing of regeneration and
renewing by the Holy Spirit, 6
whom He poured out upon us
richly through Jesus Christ our
Savior, 7 so that being justified by
His grace we would be made heirs

according to the hope of eternal
life.

C. The Catholic Church taught that

salvation was through the Church

1. Pope John Paul II wrote in his last will and testament, "Keep watch, because you do not know which day when the Lord will come" — These words remind me of the final call, which will come the moment that the Lord will choose. I desire to

follow Him and desire that all that is part of my earthly life shall prepare me for this moment. I do not know when it will come, but, like all else, this moment too I place into the hands of the Mother of My Master.”

2. In the 1994 Catechism of the Catholic Church, it says, “...all salvation comes from Christ the Head through the Church which is his Body: Basing itself on Scripture and Tradition, the Council teaches

that the Church, a pilgrim now on earth, is necessary for salvation...”

(p.224, #846).

3. “The Second Vatican Council’s Decree on Ecumenism explains: ‘For it is through Christ’s Catholic Church alone, which is the universal help toward salvation, that the fullness of the means of salvation can be obtained’” (p.215, #816).

4. In #969 of the Catechism, it says of Mary: “Taken up to heaven she did not lay aside this saving office but by her manifold intercession continues to bring us the gifts of eternal salvation...’ (p.252).

5. In #494 it says, “Being obedient she became the cause of salvation for herself and for the whole human race” (p.125).

6. In #292 of the Catechism it says
“The Church affirms that for
believers the sacraments of the New
Covenant are necessary for
salvation” (p.292).

7. In #1113 it says “There are seven
sacraments of the Church: Baptism,
Confirmation, Eucharist, Penance,
Anointing of the Sick, Holy Orders,
and Matrimony” (p.289).

D. Scripture teaches that you are to repent
and submit your life to Jesus Christ
alone for salvation

1. Because everyone is a sinner

(Rom.3:23)

2. As sinners we deserve God's

judgment not His forgiveness

(Rom.6:23)

3. As sinners we are dead in

trespasses and sins (Eph.2:1)

4. Therefore we need a Savior who is holy and just - Jesus Christ (John 3:16; Rom.10:9-10)

5. You must commit yourself in faith
Martin Luther said, "Faith is a work of God in us, which changes us and brings us to birth anew from God (cf. John 1). It kills the old Adam, makes us completely different people in heart, mind, senses, and

all our powers, and brings the Holy Spirit with it.

CONCLUSION

1. Are you committed to what Martin Luther gave his life for?
2. Would you die for the 5 solas?
3. The 5 solas is the Gospel (sola scriptura, sola fide, sola gratia, solus Christus, soli deo gloria)
4. Instead of remembering this day as Halloween, which is a celebration of death

and darkness, remember the Reformation
when the Word of God shone forth and gave
us what we have today

5. We are thankful for men who are bold and
courageous for Christ
6. May that be said of you. Let's pray