

THE HOLINESS OF GOD BY R C SPROUL
CHAPTER 5: THE INSANITY OF LUTHER

References (Black book, White book, Kindle)

I. Luther's Behavior (91, 73, 740)

A. "Martin Luther's spirit was troubled by a deep knowledge of the character of God."

1. "Love God? Sometimes I hate Him"
2. "Sometimes Christ seems to me nothing more than angry judge who comes to me with a sword in his hand."

B. Phobias

1. After nearly being struck by lightning, he vowed to become a monk
2. "The fear of violent death as an expression of divine judgment and punishment haunted Luther."

C. Satanic attacks

1. "Luther was sure that he was a personal target of the prince of hell."
2. It shouldn't surprise us that satanic energy was focused strongly on Luther because of all he accomplished for the church

D. First mass

II. Luther's Belligerence (97, 79, 798)

A. Diet of Worms

1. Luther had no desire for his 95 Theses to become an international dispute but with the help of the printing press, they did
2. Censured by the Pope, his books were burned, and he appealed for a hearing to the emperor
3. When the Imperial Diet opened, Luther faltered and asked for time to think it over
4. "That night, in the solitude of his room, Luther wrote what I believe to be one of the most moving prayers ever written. His prayer reveals the soul of a humble man prostrate before his God, desperately seeking the courage to stand alone before hostile men."
5. The next day, he returned and said, "Here I stand, I cannot do otherwise. God help me."
6. His lonely stand divided Christendom asunder

B. Monastery life

1. "Luther was not satisfied with a brief recitation of his sins. He wanted to make sure that no sin in his life was left unconfessed. He entered the confessional and stayed for hours every day."
2. "He was so morbid in his guilt, so disturbed in his emotions, that he could no longer function as a normal human being."

III. Luther's Brilliance (105, 86, 865)

A. His legal mind

1. "He had a superior understanding of the law. Once he applied his astute legal mind to the law of God, he saw things that many people miss."

B. The Great Commandment

1. "He saw a balance between great obligations and great sins."
2. Luther knew that "if God graded on a curve, He would have to compromise His own holiness."
3. "Luther was haunted by the question, How can an unjust person survive in the presence of a just God?"

C. The rich young ruler

1. The polar opposite of Luther
2. True goodness

IV. Luther's Believing (114, 93, 945)

A. "The just shall live by faith"

1. "Luther knew the demands of a pure and holy God, and it was driving him crazy."
2. Two separators: (1) He knew who God was and (2) He understood the demands of God's law
3. The Luther had an experience that changed Christendom and history
4. "Then I grasped that the justice of God is that righteousness by which through grace and sheer mercy God justifies us through faith. Thereupon I felt myself to be reborn and to have gone through open doors into paradise. The whole of Scripture took on a new meaning, and whereas before the "justice of God" had filled me with hate, now it became to me inexpressibly sweet in greater love."
5. This is the idea that is central to the gospel and helped Luther stand against pope, council, prince, and emperor.