

REFORMATION SUNDAY

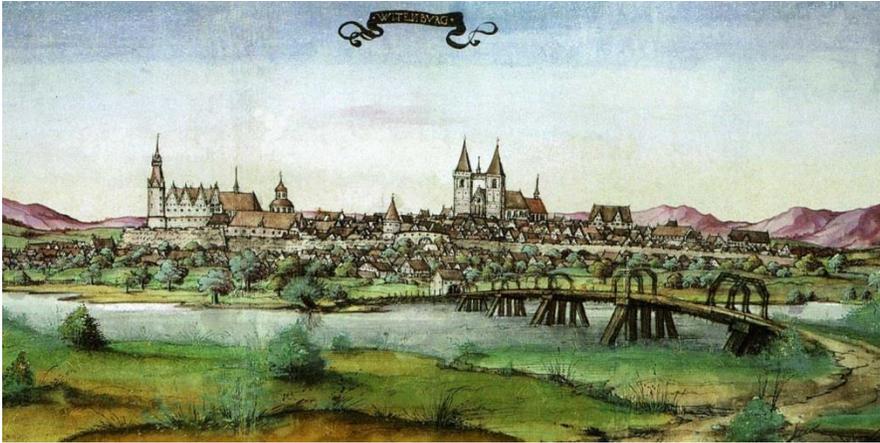
October 30th 2016

“... since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God....” (1 Peter 1:23)

I. How It All Began

A. A German monk named Martin Luther

B. 95 Theses for debate nailed to the Wittenberg Castle church door - October 31st 1517



C. The “Motto of the Reformation”

How is a Person Saved?

- *Sola Gratia* - By grace alone
- *Sola Fide* - Through faith alone
- *Sola Scriptura* - As taught by Scripture alone

D. What some mistakenly have made it –

Somewhere about the year AD 100, God the Holy Spirit left the scene. On his departure he left us a book, which, if we let well-trained experts work on it, can provide highly useful and important information about being a Christian.

II. What Was/Is the Reformation?

A. All about my garage door

B. The events of the Reformation

1. The screws start to get loose: John Wycliffe (England) c. 1370
 - The Black Death
 - The Pope on somebody else’s rope (The Avignon Papacy)
2. Things wobbling wildly: Fra. Girolamo Savonarola (Florence) c. 1495
 - Corruption and worldliness of clergy

3. Coming off the rails: Dr. Martin Luther (Germany) c. 1517
 - Selling of *indulgences* to build St. Peter's
"Every time a copper in the treasury clinks, a soul from purgatory springs ..."
4. Restoring the original design: Dr. Thomas Cranmer (England) c. 1525
 - Back to the original Manuscripts
 - Teaching the Word of God in the original manuscripts
5. Making the Word accessible for Everyman: William Tyndale c. 1530

III. What Did the Reformation Accomplish?

A. Clarified: How are people saved?

- Justification - God makes a legal declaration that we have the righteousness of Christ
- Sanctification - Growth in grace not merit
- Glorification - A glorious transformation freely given, but not earned

B. Clarified: What is the nature of the Church?

- The Priesthood of all believers
- A gathering of the elect, freely & graciously chosen by God
- Its visible institution is varied in various places and cultures around the globe

C. Clarified: What is the authority of the Church?

- It fundamental resides in the person of the Holy Spirit rather than in an institution
- It exists only in-so-far-as it is faithful to the teaching of the Apostles

IV. What did the Reformation *not* do?

One, Holy, Catholic, & Apostolic Church

A. ONE - Neither separated us from the Church; nor did it start the Church over again

B. HOLY - Did not make "new" demands on the Church

- The Church belongs to God; therefore it must be:
 (1) pure and (2) distinct - *in* the world, but not *of* the world

C. CATHOLIC - Did not invalidate 1500 years of the work of the Holy Spirit; nor did it make every individual his/her own interpreter of Scripture

APOSTOLIC - Did not fundamentally change what the Church is:

- Authority belongs to the Lord Jesus and the Apostles
- We learn and grow in the HS; but we can never contradict or deny what the Apostles taught

V. How's Your Garage Door this Morning?

Semper Reformanda!