

## The Reformation and Martin Luther (1483-1546)

### I. The Reformation and Our Legacy:

- It's Naïve to think the church started in the 20th century.
- We are a part of a legacy of faithful Christians who passed on the Gospel of Christ.
- The 1600 century with Martin Luther was the greatest back to the Bible movement since the 1st century
- Professor Steve Lawson says, the Reformers were men who God used to light the match, to start the fuse to ignite the explosion of the Reformation”
- John Wycliffe (English Pre-Reformer), John Huss (Czech Pre-Reformer), Martin Luther (German Reformer), John Calvin (Geneva Reformer) – William Tyndale (English Reformer), John Knox (Scottish Reformer), Ulrich Zwingli (Swiss Reformer) and more!
- Lawson said, “we stand downstream from these men”. Every Christian today benefits from these men and how God used them in Reformation history.
- These men stood firm and courage’s as they passed on a bloody baton to the next generations.

### A. The Men of the Reformation:

1. Martin Luther stood on the shoulders of Hus; Hus stood on the shoulders of Wycliffe
  - a. John Wycliffe, John Hus and Martin Luther
    - John Wycliffe was a Pre-Reformer of the 14<sup>th</sup> century; John Hus was a Pre-Reformer in the 15<sup>th</sup> century and Martin Luther was a Reformer in the 16<sup>th</sup> century
    - John Wycliffe’s was a Pre-Reformer who lived a Century before John Huss.
    - Wycliffe’s Biblical writings of Theology and Doctrine drew the interest John Huss a century before Martin Luther.
    - Wycliffe’s thought was to place more emphasis on the Bible, and to promote the moral reform of the clergy and Catholic Church
    - Thus, Huss began increasingly to trust the Scriptures,
    - Hus was influenced by Wycliffe and once confirmed "He desiring to hold, believe, and assert whatever is contained in the Scriptures as long as I have breath in me."
    - Huss preached key Reformation themes (like hostility to indulgences) a century before Luther drew up his 95 Theses.
    - The Reformers looked to Huss's life, in particular, his steadfast commitment in the face of the Catholic Church's cunning brutality.
    - John Hus was eventually burn at the stake by the Catholic Church for his Reformed views.
    - Hus was a committed Christian and prayed, "Lord Jesus, it is for thee that I patiently endure this cruel death. I pray thee to have mercy on my enemies."

Luther was impacted by the life of John Hus ~ Early in his monastic career, Martin Luther, rummaging through a stacks of a library books, and happened upon a volume of sermons by John Huss, the Bohemian who had been condemned as a heretic. "I was overwhelmed with astonishment," Luther later wrote. "I could not understand for what cause they had burnt so great a man, who explained the Scriptures with so much gravity and skill."

- The Pre-Reformers, Wycliffe and Huss would become heroes to Luther and many other Reformers

B. Historians say, the Protestant Reformation started 1517.

- Historians say 1517 was the start of Reformation
- They tribute Martin Luther nailing his 95 theses to the Castle door at Wittenberg Germany as the start of the Reform
- He was approximately 34 at that time. As an unsaved man, Luther wrote the 95 theses to debate the Catholic Churches practice of "indulgences" –
- Martin Luther had developed great conviction against the practice of indulgences –
- Indulgence- is the practice of paying a fee and performing a religious act to liberating your loved one from purgatory –
- Purgatory - a fictional place that the Catholic Church had made up and inflicted upon their people -
- It's when people aren't good enough and their halfway between heaven and hell –
- It is Nowhere found in the Biblical
- Luther's personal experiences with indulgences – 1510 trip to Rome – he was 27
- His religious act was to climb the Holy Stairs in Rome to release his grandfather from purgatory
- He kissed each step and cited the Lord's prayer
- At the top of the great stairway Luther question this act of climbing the holy stairs and the practice of indulgences, "is this even true!"
- Luther's conviction about indulgences grew and moves him to action 1517:

Yohan Tetzel was commissioned by the Catholic Church to visit Germany and Luther's home town.

He was a fraud and con artist who was commissioned by the Catholic Church to raise money. The money was intended to build the great structures of the Roman Catholic Church and the Pope resident.

- Tetzel came to swindle money from the poor and illiterate – These were spiritually impoverished people with little money and unable to read or write
- Luther wanted to have a public debate and wrote the 95 theses –
- He nailed them to the Castle Church doors on Oct, 31 1517
- University students copy them to distribute and then put them back on the door
- Martin Luther would have no idea the fire storm that was about to be ignited!

- According to many, this was a key event in the start of the Reformation

## II. Why was the Reformation so important?

### A. Understanding the Forming, Deforming and Reforming of Christ's Church!

#### 1. The Forming of Christ Church

- The Importance of the 1<sup>st</sup> century –
  - The History Book of the Church - The Acts of the Holy Spirit forming Christ's Church
  - Jesus is building His Church and Apostles were given the Authority to confirm and testify to these facts.

- The 1<sup>st</sup> century Truth - Jesus Christ is the head of His Church. Not the Pope!

Col. 1:17-18 – Jesus is the Head of His Church

(17) And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. (18) And he is **the head** of the body, the church. Not the Pope!

- Jesus gave Authority to Apostles - Not the Pope!

John 13:20 (Jesus, speaking to the Disciple about **the Authority**, the night before He was crucified)

(20) Truly, truly, I say to you, **whoever receives** the one I send receives me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me.”

- The Catholic Church, over time, would work to subvert the Bible and would declare the Pope as having final authority.

- The Bible has a Divine Nature and is the final Authority. Not the Pope!

Peter is reminding the Christian about the Authority and the Divine Nature of the Bible.

2Pe. 1:19-21

(19) And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, (20) knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation.

(21) For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

2Pe. 3:1-2

(1) This is now the second letter that I am writing to you, beloved. In both of them I am stirring up your sincere mind by way of reminder,

(2) that you should remember the predictions of the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior through your apostles,

- Over time the Catholic Church would work had to undermine the Authority of Scripture and uphold all authority under the Pope.

- History shows the importance of the 1<sup>st</sup> century forming of the Church

- Now let's look at the Deforming of the Church

## 2. The Deforming of Christ's Church –

- The Catholic Church's dominance from 600 AD to 1517 AD (the 7<sup>th</sup> to 1600<sup>th</sup> Century)
- For approximately 1000 years (from AD 600 to AD 1600) the Catholic Church went full throttle in distorting what the Bible taught about Christ's Church and the Gospel message
- The deforming of the Gospel message – Lawson says, “there was not one ounce of Grace offered from the Catholic Church”
- In 600 A.D. the first Pope was ordained as Peter's Successor.
- In Catholic dogma the Pope is the successor of Peter. The Pope became the supreme head of Christ's Church,
- They took Matt.16:18 out of context, where Jesus would tell Peter, "You are Peter, and on this rock, I will build my Church, and the gates of hell will not prevail against it".
- Martin Luther once responded to the Pope's headship by saying,

“We here are of the conviction that the papacy is the seat of the true and real Antichrist. . . Personally, I declare that I owe the Pope no other obedience than that to Antichrist.”

- Luther supported His comments with the Word of God

2Thess.2:4, (the context of this is, the man of lawlessness will come) who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God.

- Luther thought the pope was the Anti-Christ

1John 2:18 (John's warning the 1<sup>st</sup> century Christian) Children, it is the last hour, and as you have heard that antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have come. Therefore, we know that it is the last hour.

- The Catholic Church deforming of Biblical leadership – with positions such as the Pope's, Cardinals, Priest's, etc.

Jan Hus defied the Catholic system of leadership (1369 – 1415), he was a Bohemian (current Czech Republic) Christian and theologian, who preceded Martin Luther by a full century: “Neither is the pope the head nor are the cardinals the whole body of the holy, universal, true church. For Christ alone is the head of that church.” On July, 6<sup>th</sup> 1415 he was declared a heretic and burned at the stake by the Catholic Church

- Twisting and deforming, the Authority of Scripture - The Roman Catholic view of authority concerning the interpretation of Scripture is that no individual believer is able (or permitted) to interpret the Scriptures, but must rely entirely upon the official interpretation of the Church. This means that even priests must teach only the official Catholic interpretation on any given text of Scripture.
- Church service were spoken in Latin
- The lowborn people were not permitted to handle a Bible

- Praying to Mary and the Saints – When Luther was unsaved in 1505, he cried out and prayed to Saint Anne for help! She was the patron saint of the miners (Luther’s father owned a cooper mine)
- Worship was distorted – moving the Pulpit to the side and having the altar front and center
- The emphasis was on the Mass or communion – the idea behind substantiation – the literal body and blood of Christ – (how sacrilegious!) The need to Crucify Christ over and over. Jn 19:30, It is finished!!! (Frances Chan)
- Indulgences – purchasing forgiveness – Luther came to the conclusion that the practice of indulgences was a hoax and only Christ Alone (Sola Christus) could forgive the sin’s of people

### 3. The 1600 century Reforming of Christ’s Church

- This was the beginning of back to the Bible and Grace to you!
- The Lord, woke men up to the Inspiration and Authority of the Bible –
- Martin Luther’s 95 theses was all about a having a Scriptural debate regarding the practice of Indulgences.
- This was the match that God used to light the fuse to bring about the Reformation!
- Preaching God’s Word was being restored – the pulpit would be placed in the center of the gathering
- The Gospel Message was being revived
- Worship was being simplified – meaning no candles, smoke, statues, and other artwork
- Worship was about the Word of God and responding to Truth by singing from the heart
- Men of Faith were emerging
- The Gutenberg press was an information highway – from 1525 to when Luther died (1546) 500k copies of the NT had been distributed
- The university system would become available to the commoner – the reforms had great influence in the university systems – men would be trained
- The Bible would be available to the public – overturning the ordinances of the Catholic Church
- English reformer William Tyndale, speaking to the Catholic Church, once said “If God spare my life, ere many years I will cause a boy who drives a plough to know more of the scriptures than you do.”

### III. Martin Luther – The Earlier Years

- 1483-1546
- At birth, Martin Luther’s name was Martin Luder. He later changed it to the more academically respectable Luther.
- Luther’s Father owned a copper mine
- Martin’s father wanted him to be lawyer

- a. What was happening in culture when Luther was young
  - Christopher Columbus set sail when Luther was in grammar school. Michelangelo was completing his Sistine Chapel ceiling as Luther began teaching theology.
  - The Gutenberg press was a new invention
  - Luther once said he had not even seen a Bible until he was 20 years old.
  
- b. Education
  - In 1488 (Age 5), He began his education at a Latin school in Mansfeld in the spring. There he received a thorough training in the Latin language
  - In 1497 (age 14) Luther was sent to a nearby school that was operated by “the Brethren of the Common Life”, a lay monastery whose emphasis was on personal piety apparently exerted a lasting influence on him
  - In 1502 (age 19) Luther received a bachelor's degree in in the liberal arts.
  - Three years later 1505 (age 21) he was awarded the master’s degree.
  - 1505-06 he was intended for law school – His father wanted him to be a lawyer
  - Right before entering Law-School, he encounters a thunderstorm – Luther said, “I was besieged by the terror and agony of sudden death,”
  - He prayed to Saint Anne for help! She was the patron saint of the miners (Luther’s father owning a cooper mine)
  - He vowed to become a monk if he survived
  - His father’s response was disappointment and he said, “May it not prove an illusion and deception.”
  - In 1505, Luther abandoned the study of law and entered the monastery in Erfurt. He went to the Order of the Hermits of St. Augustine, founded in 1256.
  - Out of 7 sects of monasteries, this one was the hardest – like the Navy Seals, Army Rangers or the Green Beret – the most difficult group
  - 1507 Ordained and celebrated his 1<sup>st</sup> communion
  - Luther was obsessed with being righteous before God.
  - When the priests saw him coming for confession, they would dread it!
  - He wanted to confess everything! He didn’t sing well, he looked at a woman, etc.
  - He would spend hours in the confessional
  - He lived attempting to purge every conceivable sin from himself.
  - He lived committed to obedience for the sake of righteousness
  - He hated the doctrine of, the Righteousness of God
  - You didn’t have to tell Luther he was a sinner
  - 1512 He received his Doctorate in Theology
  - 1513 He would teach the book of Psalm for the next 2 years (the Imprecatory Psalms- God calls down judgement and anger on His enemies)
  - 1515 He went verse by verse through the book of Romans

- 1516 He lectures through the book of Galatians (He called Galatians – His Katie Von Bora, his wife’s name because he loved the message)
- 1517 He lectures through Hebrews
- 1517 Oct. 31, 1517 he nails his 95 theses to the door at Wittenberg
- 1519 Martin Luther Salvation:
- He learned to say, “Lord Jesus, You are my righteousness, I am your sin. You took on you what was mine; yet set on me what was yours. You became what you were not, that I might become what I was not”.
- Luther said, “We need to hear the Gospel every day, because we forget it every day”.

c. His trip to Rome

- Because of his extreme and stressful behavior in 1508-10 his Superiors thought a trip to Rome would be good for Luther
- He left Rome more disheartened than when he came because of the hypocrisy and perversion
- The Priests and the prostitution

One of Rome’s most treasured places: the Sanctuary of the Holy Stairs (Scala Santa).

They are there today!

They were brought to Rome in the 4th Century by, Helena, the Emperor Constantine’s mother,

She made it her personal quest to retrieve as many articles that were (supposedly) touched by Jesus from the area of Judea.

She had shipped these steps back to Rome. She believed these steps were the very steps that were in front of the Governor’s Palace in Jerusalem.

She rumored that these were the very steps that Christ climbed when he appeared before Pontius Pilate.

In 1510 Luther climb those steps with the intention to release his grandfather from purgatory.

Luther was conflicted about the Holy Stairs and thought is this even true. He was also conflicted the entire 1510 trip to Rome mostly because of the hypocrisy and perversion he witnessed in the Catholic Church!

d. His Salvation

- He was overwhelming condemned by the Subject of God’s Righteousness
- 1513-15 Professor of Theology and taught through the Psalms
- 1515 Luther began to go thought the book of Romans
- 1516 He lecturing on the book of Galatians – (his Katie von Bora after his wife - Katherine von Bora) he was married to the message)
- 1519 Understands the “righteousness of God” as “passive righteousness with which God justifies us by faith”;

Luther on Romans 1:17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."

"Thus I raged with a fierce and troubled conscience. Nevertheless, I beat importunately upon Paul at that place (Rm1:17), most ardently desiring to know what St Paul wanted. 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 live 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 I was altogether born again and had entered paradise itself through open gates."

M. Reeves, *The Unquenchable Flame*, p41.

But Luther was looking now at the Greek word that was in the New Testament, not the Latin word. The word *dikaiois*, *dikaioisune*, which didn't mean to make righteous, but rather to regard as righteous, to count as righteous, to declare as righteous. And this was the moment of awakening for Luther. He said, "You mean, here Paul is not talking about the righteousness by which God Himself is righteous, but a righteousness that God gives freely by His grace to people who don't have righteousness of their own."

And so Luther said, "Woa, you mean the righteousness by which I will be saved, is not mine?" It's what he called a *justitia alienum*, an alien righteousness; a righteousness that belongs properly to somebody else. It's a righteousness that is *extra nos*, outside of us. Namely, the righteousness of Christ. And Luther said, "When I discovered that, I was born again of the Holy Ghost. And the doors of paradise swung open, and I walked through."

Luther on 2Cor.5:21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Luther referred to this as "The Great Exchange"

"That is the mystery which is rich in divine grace to sinners: wherein by a wonderful exchange our sins are no longer ours but Christ's and the righteousness of Christ not Christ's but ours. He has emptied Himself of His righteousness that He might clothe us with it, and fill us with it. And He has taken our evils upon Himself that He might deliver us from them... in the same manner as He grieved and suffered in our sins, and was confounded, in the same manner we rejoice and glory in His righteousness."

e. The Battle for the Bible

- 1521 – being confronted at the Council of Worms – He was asked two questions. 1, are these your books? 2, will you recant?
- He asked to be able to take the night in order to make a thoughtful response
- Martin Luther's response to the assembly was, I can't recant!



- “Unless I am convicted by Scripture and plain reason (I do not accept the authority of popes and councils because they have contradicted each other), my conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and will not recant anything, for to go against conscience is neither right nor safe. So help me God. Amen.”

## I. Here I Stand

(This is an outline from Steve Lawson’s 2017 Ligonier Ministry lecture – “Standing for The Truth”)

The Roman Catholic Church teaches that the pope is infallible when he speaks from his position of authority on a particular issue or doctrine (speaking ex cathedra).

### A. Where did Martin Luther stand?

- On Scripture alone – Sola Scriptura

Luther stood against the Ecclesiastical system of his time. The Roman Catholic Church

He stood against 1k years of tradition

He stood against theologians, scholars, debaters, lawyers, councils, Church authorities,

He stood for the Truth against the world

He stood Sola Scriptura – “Scripture Alone”

In April of 1521 when Luther was summoned by Charles V to the “Diet of Worms” he thought he was going for a debate.

Little did he know it was his heresy trial.

When Martin Luther stood before the Ecclesiastical Council of the Roman Catholic Church, he was asked 2 questions.

One, are these your books? and 2 will you recant? – renounce your foolishness!

Luther asked for a day to be able to give a proper response to the Council

This is Martin Luther’s famous response:

“Unless I am convicted by Scripture and plain reason (I do not accept the authority of popes and councils because they have contradicted each other), my conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and will not recant anything, for to go against conscience is neither right nor safe. So help me God. Amen.”

### 1. Divine Inspiration of Scripture

- God breathed, not into a book, but exhaled His very Words to be read and understood

2Tim.3:16-17

V16 **All Scripture is breathed out by God** and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,

- It's not God inspiriting something by breathing on it or into it! It means that God has exhaled His very Word

V17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

- It was the Divine Inspiration of Scripture that made Martin Luther the man he was.

It was the discovery of the Word of God that delivered him from the deep spiritual unrest that had gripped his soul.

Luther was brought up under the Catholic church and looked at everything the church could offer him for his own salvation.

Martin Luther said,

'I may say that if ever a monk got to heaven by his monkery, it was I'. This, however, did not cure the 'anguish of a spirit alienated from God'.

- He came to understand that he owed everything to the Bible.

He stood on the Divine Inspiration of Scripture – Theopneustos – Divinely Breathed

Luther understood God to be the Divine Source and Author of the Bible

The Holy Spirit has inspired every Word, every sentence, every paragraph, every chapter, every book, every verb, every noun, every number, every name, every detail is completely Divinely Inspired by God Almighty –

- Martin Luther believed in the Divine Inspiration of Scripture!

## 2. The Inerrancy God's Word

- The Scriptures contain no errors. It is True and not a mistake. It is Truth and not a fallacy or misconception. It is the Inerrant Word of God and not a delusion or an inaccuracy.

The Bible is uncontaminated and pure because God can not lie. Titus 1:2 God can not lie, He never lies

Luther believed that the Bible is free from error because of the Character and Nature of God Almighty, He never lies

- Ps.12:6 The words of the LORD are pure words, like silver refined in a furnace on the ground, purified seven times.

Martin Luther believed the Bible is the uncontaminated Truth of God.

He believed it is the only infallible (dependable) Truth.

- Psa 119:160 The sum of your word is truth, and every one of your righteous rules endures forever.

The Truth is what is real.

Martin Luther and the World were looking for what is True and accurate regarding issues of Salvation, Holy living before God, Heaven and Hell, etc.

- Luther stood on the Inerrant Word of God

## 3. The Authority of God's Word

- Luther, believed that the Bible was his only Authority.

He Believed you must yield to the Authority of Scripture and not the Pope

The Scripture must Rule, must be the Master, and must be the Head of every believer

- Ps.19:7 the Law of the Lord of the Lord is perfect reviving the soul
- Ps.19:8 the Commandment of the Lord is pure enlightening the eyes

The Scripture is the Divine Authority and must reign over every believer, every Church and over every Denomination

- He believed that we submit only to the text, It does not submit to us.

In the Leipzig debate of 1519 with John Eck, the issue was about indulgences but Luther went deeper and made papal authority the fundamental issue.

- He declared:

“A simple layman armed with Scripture is to be believed above a pope or a council without it. As for the pope’s decree on indulgences I say neither the Church nor the pope can establish articles of faith. These must come from Scripture. For the sake of Scripture, we should reject pope and councils”.

In 1950, Roland Bainton, “Here I Stand”, p90.

- Martin Luther Stood on the Authority of Scripture

#### 4. The Clarity or Perspicuity of Scripture

- The Bible can be clearly understood. It is lucid, meaning clear
- Jesus confronted the religious leaders Matt. 12:5, 19:4, 22:31 Have you not read!

Meaning it’s right there for you to read!

- Ps.19:8 the Commandment of the Lord is pure enlightening the eye – extremely clear water not murky

The Bible was withheld from the people. They were said to be too stupid. They were not allowed to interpret the Bible on their own.

The people were told by the Catholic Church, “if we want your opinion, we’ll give it to you”!

The Church and worship services were spoken in Latin and the common person could not understand.

Scripture was not made clear for the people.

- In 1521 Martin Luther translated the Greek NT into the German language – The common language of the people ...

People could now see that the Bible does not mention Purgatory, Treasures of Merritt, the Pope, Last Rights, Salvations through works, infant baptism, celibacy of the priesthood, etc.

The people of the 1600 were outraged that they had been lied to over all those years.

Some even tore down churches!

Fathers and mothers could now read the Word of God to their children.

The people of God were reforming because of the Clarity of Scripture!

- Martin Luther believed in the Perspicuity or Clarity of Scripture!

#### 5. The Sufficiency of Scripture

- The Bible is complete, whole, and lacking in nothing

Ps. 19:7, the Law is perfect – Entirely True, Completely Perfect. Wholly Good and Trustworthy

Luther once wrote, “Nothing helps more powerfully against the devil, the world, the flesh, and all evil thoughts than occupying oneself with God’s Word, having conversations about it, and contemplating it.”

“Comfort yourself with the Word of God, the pre-eminent consolation (relief).”

Luther believed apart from the Sufficient Word of God no one could be Saved or Sanctified

- Is. 55:8, 11

V8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD.

V11 so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

- 2Tim. 3:16-17 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 **that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.**

The Scriptures are sufficient to save and arm the believer for the battles that lie ahead – Other books serve to bring a perspective on the Scriptures.

Martin Luther would not die for what the Church fathers had to say but what did Jesus say! What did Matthew, Mark, Luke and John and the Apostles say!

- Luther believed in the Sufficiency of the Bible!

## 6. The Indestructible book

- The Bible is the Abiding, the Durable, the Everlasting, the Imperishable, the Eternal and Indestructible Book!

Jer. 23:29 Is not my word like fire, declares the LORD, and like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?

Martin Luther said about ~ Heb. 4:12-13

"The Bible is alive, it speaks to me; it has feet, it runs after me; it has hands, it lays hold of me."

V12 For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

V13 And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

He also said: ‘I’d rather that all my books would disappear and the Holy Scriptures alone would be read’.

(S.J. Nichols, Martin Luther: A Guided Tour of His Life and Thought (Phillipsburg: P&R, 2002), p64.)

- Luther believed that the Bible was the Everlasting Word of God!

B. Why did he stand?

- Martin Luther understood to abandon the Word of God would be abandon these 4 realities

1. Would be to abandon God, Himself –

Martin Luther believed, if you abandon God's Word you have abandoned God Himself  
It is not safe to abandon God and His Word

- Jug.10:13 Yet you have forsaken me and served other gods; therefore, I will save you (deliver or keep you safe) no more.

2. Would be to abandon Jesus Christ, Himself –

- Col.3:16 let the Word of Christ richly dwell in you.

Martin Luther came to understand, if you abandon the Word, you have abandoned Christ Himself

3. Would be to abandon the Truth

- 2Tim.2:15 Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.

Martin Luther understood to abandon the Bible Word would be to abandon the Truth about the Mind of God, it would be to abandon the Truth about the Character of God, the Way of God, the Glory of God.

It would be to abandon God's Truth and enter a world of deception and lies.

4. Would be to abandon the Gospel

Martin Luther new, the Gospel is not an invention of man

The Gospel is an imperishable seed that the Holy Spirit uses to implant into the heart of man and save him

1Pe.1:23 since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God;

Conclusion:

- Martin Luther stood on the Word of God:
- For Luther it was Sola Scriptura

We must stand on the Word of God alone.

We must expect the preaching we sit under to be the Word of God

We must expect the Worship to be based on Scripture alone

- When Martin Luther was asked about the Reformation, here was his response:

“I simply taught, preached, and wrote God's Word; otherwise, I did nothing.

And while I slept, or drank with my friends the Word so greatly weakened the papacy that no prince or emperor ever inflicted such losses upon it.

I did nothing; the Word did everything.

Had I desired to foment trouble, I could have brought great bloodshed upon Germany; indeed, I could have started such a game that even the emperor would not have been safe.

But what would it have been? Mere fool's play.

I did nothing; I let the Word do its work.

What do you suppose is Satan's thought when one tries to do the thing by kicking up a row (commotion)? He sits back in hell and thinks: Oh, what a fine game the poor fools are up to now! But when we spread the Word alone and let it alone do the work, that distresses him.

For it is almighty, and takes captive the hearts, and when the hearts are captured, the work will fall of itself'.

- Martin Luther claimed, He did nothing and the Word of God did everything!

— The Second Sermon, March 10, 1522, Monday after Invocavit. [Luther, M. (1999, c1959). Vol. 51: Luther's works, vol. 51: Sermons I. (J. J. Pelikan, H. C. Oswald & H. T. Lehmann, Ed.). Luther's Works (51:III-78). Philadelphia: Fortress