

THE HISTORY OF THE PROTESTANT REFORMATION

Ulrich Zwingli

PREVIOUS WEEKS

- The Church that needed to be reformed: The Roman Catholic Church with its many saints and sacraments
- The reforms of Martin Luther, and the reclamation of the gospel of grace, on the basis of *sola Scriptura*.



ULRICH ZWINGLI



ERASMUS

- Late medieval humanist whose works are widely seen as tilling the soil for the reforms of Luther, etc. to follow
- Compiled and published a new edition of the Greek NT, which included a comparison with the Latin Vulgate (of Rome)
- Widely cited by prominent Reformers as being of significant influence





HUMANISM of ERASMUS

- Humanism may be characterized by its optimism in the faculties of man, without aid, to attain to truth.
- Modern Humanism: *Atheistic;*
materialistic
- Late-Medieval Humanism: *Theistic;*
“back to the sources”



HVLDRYCHVS ZVINGLIVS,
VVM PATRIÆ QVÆRO PER DOGMATA SANCTA SALVTEM,
INGRATO PATRIÆ CÆSVS AB ENSE CADO,



OBIT AÑO DÑI, M, DXXXI, OGDTO
ÆTATIS SVÆ, XIXIII.

BIRTH and FAMILY

- Born 1 Jan. 1484 in Toggenburg valley
- Father, also Ulrich
- Six Zwingli boys and four girls, Ulrich number three of ten



UPBRINGING and STUDIES

“My grandmother often told me a [folk]tale of how Peter and Jesus shared a bed together. Peter always went to bed earlier and left the Lord. Every morning the woman of the house came and clutched Peter by the hair and woke him up.”

“He made such progress in character and letters that in the disputations, which were then customary, he carried off all the honors from all the boys and youths in the school. On this account he incurred the greatest hatred on the part of the older boys. His proficiency in music was beyond that expected of his years, as is likely to be the case with those especially gifted by nature in any art. ... He mingled both joy with his studies, always of sunny disposition and agreeable in conversation to a remarkable degree ... he devoted himself to the theory and practice of all forms of musical instruments with no other purpose than to refresh his mind when wearied by long deep study.”



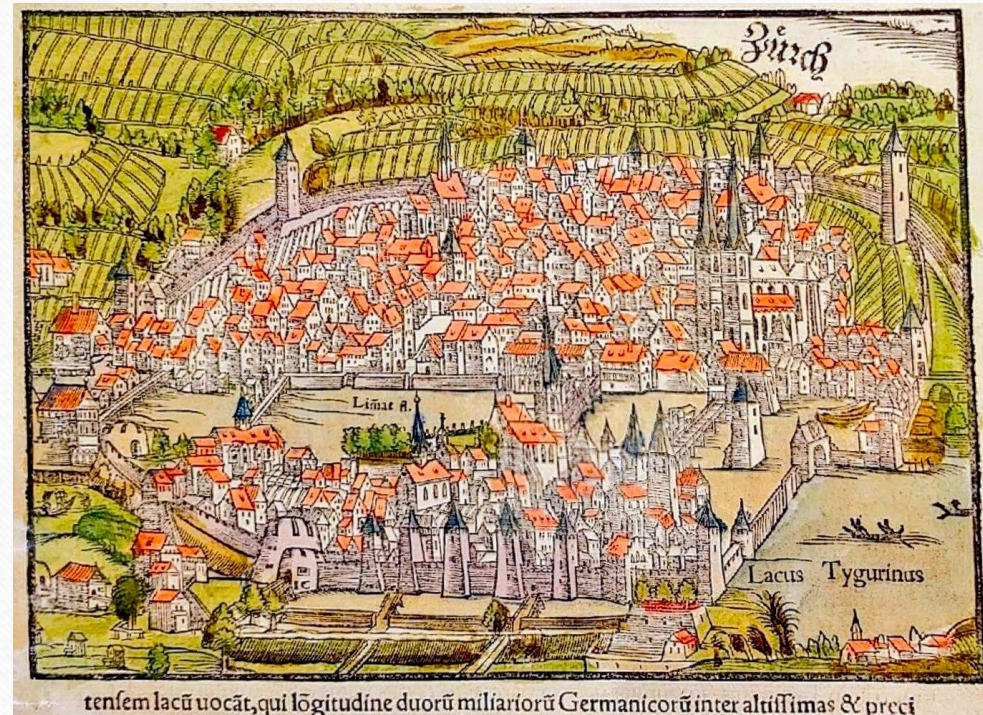
ZWINGLI the PRIEST

- *Before anyone among us had heard the name of Luther, I had begun in 1516 to preach the Gospel of Christ. When I entered the pulpit, I did not preach the words from the Gospel lesson appointed for the mass that morning, but rather from the biblical text alone.*
- Pictured: Luther and Zwingli at Marburg, 1529



ZURICH

- As the “people’s priest” and preacher in Zurich, Zwingli was a prominent individual.
- Zwingli eventually secured an influential seat within the civil magistrate.



CHANGE #1: NO MORE LECTIONARY

13. Whenever we give heed to the word, we acquire pure and clear knowledge of the will of God and are drawn to him by his Spirit and transformed into his likeness.

14. Hence all Christians should do their utmost so that everywhere only the gospel of Christ be preached.

15. For belief in the gospel constitutes our salvation, and unbelief, our damnation; for all truth is clear in it.



CHANGE #2: NO MORE SAINTS' DAYS

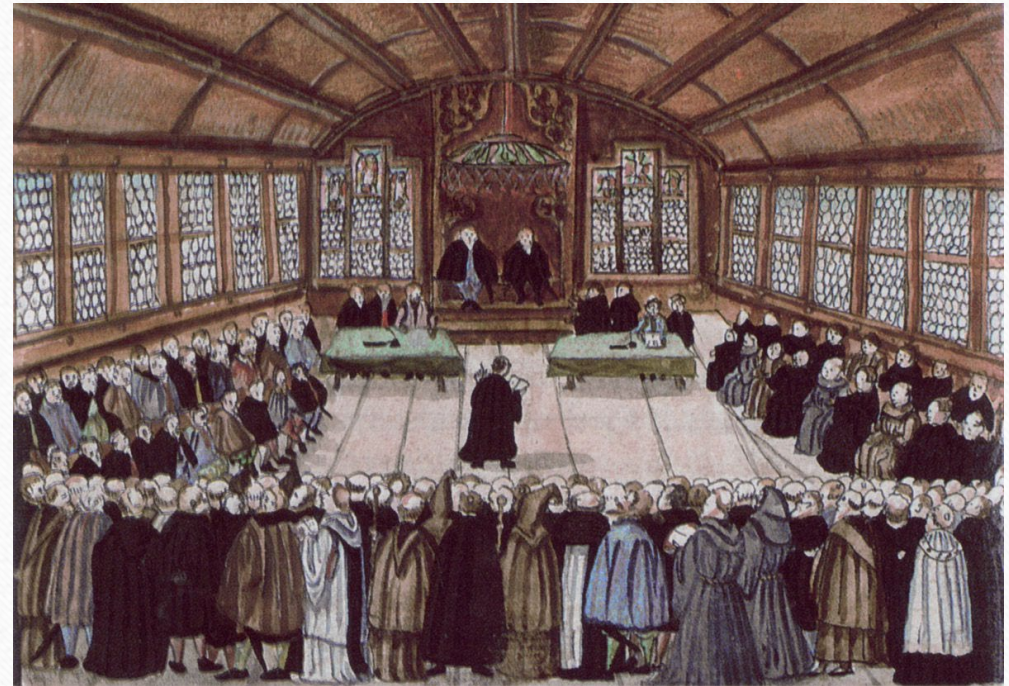
The Affair of Sausages, 1522

24. Every Christian is free of any of the works which God did not command and is allowed at all times to eat everything. From this we learn that the dispensations concerning cheese and butter are a Roman fraud.



CHANGE #3: CIVIL MAGISTRATE SUPERINTENDS CHURCH REFORM

“Zurich had no university, nor was Zwingli a monk, so it did not follow the traditional format of a disputation ... The proceedings were not in Latin but in German, so that the city councillors could understand what was going on. Suddenly, the city community, the Commonwealth, was taking on itself to decide the future of its religious life and what it believed, without any reference to the Church dignitaries present—who, in angry awareness of this startling novelty, did not deign to give the occasion respectability by speaking in defence of traditional religion. Accordingly, Zwingli’s views won by default, and because of the influential secular background he enjoyed. The Bible was declared to be the only source of doctrine which the city council was prepared to accept” (MacCulloch, *The Reformation: A History*, 145).



CHANGE #4: THE MASS ABOLISHED

Although at this time, we have not reached an agreement as to whether the true body and blood of Christ are bodily present in the bread and wine, nevertheless, each side should show Christian love to the other side insofar as conscience will permit and both sides should diligently pray to Almighty God that through the Spirit he might confirm us in the right understanding. Amen. (*Marburg, Article 15*)

“Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. ⁵⁴ Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. ⁵⁵ For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. ⁵⁶ Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him.” (John 6:53-56)



DEATH

- Ulrich Zwingli died in battle, in the Kappel Wars of 1531.
- “After the battle, when our soldiers had retreated, the enemy got the chance to look for Zwingli’s body. They found it and after condemning it, they cut it into four pieces and threw it into the fire and reduced it to ashes. Three days later, after the enemy had gone, Zwingli’s friends came to see if they could find anything that remained of him and, miraculously, his heart emerged from the ashes, whole and unmarked. These good men were astonished, recognizing the miracle but not understanding it. Attributing this event to God, they rejoiced greatly that this miracle confirmed the sincerity of his heart” (Myconius).



ULRICH ZWINGLI

