



## AFTER DARKNESS, LIGHT

### Hebrews 4:12

**For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.**

## INTRODUCING THE REFORMATION

- From a human perspective, several factors set the stage for the 16th-century Reformation.
  - The invention of the Printing Press
  - The decline of the Papacy
  - The rise of Humanism
- But from the Reformers' perspective, there was one primary catalyst behind their movement:
  - The power of \_\_\_\_\_
- As the Bible was studied in its original language, and preached in the language of the people, Spirit-empowered revival became inevitable.
- The Reformers insisted that Christ alone is the Head of the Church.
- Given the supremacy of Christ, His Word alone should be the final authority for the church.
- Geneva Confession of 1536: "We affirm that we desire to follow Scripture alone as the rule of faith and religion."

## MARTIN LUTHER

- 1505 – Entry into the monastery in Erfurt
- Spent the next decade trying to appease God’s wrath through his own self-righteous efforts
- Came to understand the gospel through his study of Scripture.
- Church authorities commissioned a monk named \_\_\_\_\_ to sell indulgences throughout Saxony.
- 1517 – Luther drafted his 95 Theses (in Wittenberg). These were arguments against indulgences.
- 1520/21 – Pope Leo X issued a decree (called a papal bull) that threatened to excommunicate Luther. Luther refused to relinquish his views and was excommunicated in January 1521.
- 1521 – The Diet of Worms. Luther refused to recant and was declared a “notorious heretic.”
- 1521–22 – Luther spent most of the next year in the Wartburg Castle where he translated the New Testament into German.
- 1527 – Luther wrote the classic hymn “A Mighty Fortress.”

## THE HEART OF THE GOSPEL

- In keeping with their commitment to the \_\_\_\_\_ of Scripture, Luther and his fellow Reformers looked to God’s Word to define the heart of the gospel.
- Luther and his fellow Reformers focused on the doctrine of justification by faith alone.
- “Justification” refers to sinners being declared righteous by God because they have been clothed in the imputed righteousness of Christ.
- The fact that sinners are justified by faith in Christ, and not on account of their own good works, is clearly taught in Scripture.
- The Reformers looked to God’s Word to define the biblical gospel. They then preached that gospel with conviction and courage.

Luke 18:10–14; 23:43  
John 3:16, 36; 11:25–27  
Acts 13:38–39; 15:9–11  
Acts 16:30–31  
Romans 3:28; 4:3; 5:1–3; 11:6  
2 Corinthians 5:21

Galatians 1:6–9; 2:21  
Colossians 2:13–14  
Ephesians 2:4–10  
Philippians 3:7–11  
1 Timothy 1:15–17  
Titus 3:4–7

### **THE 5 SOLAS OF THE REFORMATION**

- Sola Scriptura – Scripture teaches we are saved ...
- Sola Gratia – by grace alone
- Sola Fide – through faith alone
- Solus Christus – on account of Christ alone
- Soli Deo Gloria – so the glory goes to God alone

### **JOHN CALVIN**

- The leading figure of the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Reformation.
- 1535/36 – First edition of The Institutes
- 1536–38 – Begins ministry in Geneva
- 1538–41 – Time in Strasburg
- 1541 – Return to Geneva
- 1555 – Welcomes English refugees
- 1559 – Final edition of The Institutes

### **REMEMBERING THE REFORMERS**

- Philip Melancthon (1497–1560)

A close associate of Luther in Wittenberg. He was the principal author of the Augsburg Confession, which was presented to Emperor Charles V at the Diet of \_\_\_\_\_ in 1530. The Augsburg Confession is one of the most important documents in Lutheran history.

- Ulrich Zwingli (1484–1531)

Protestant Reformer in Zurich, who is considered the father of the Reformed branch of the Reformation. He convinced the Zurich city council to allow him to make sweeping ecclesiastical reforms, including the abolishment of the mass. A contemporary of Luther, the two agreed on many doctrinal issues but differed sharply on their understanding of the Lord's Table.

- William Tyndale (1494–1536)

English Bible translator who fled to Europe because translating was illegal in England at the time. He translated the New Testament from Greek and the Pentateuch from Hebrew. In 1536, he was arrested and executed by command of Henry VIII, the King of England. His translation efforts laid the groundwork for subsequent English Bible translations.

- Thomas Cranmer (1489–1556)

Protestant Archbishop of \_\_\_\_\_ who helped spark the Reformation in England during the reigns of Henry VIII and Edward VI. Cranmer was executed for his faith by Mary I (known as “Bloody Mary”).

- John Knox (c. 1513–1572)

Scottish Reformer who was exiled to England, and then to Europe (Frankfurt and Geneva) before returning to Scotland to lead Reformation efforts there. He came into conflict with the Roman Catholic ruler Mary Queen of Scots. In the end, Knox brought Reformed theology to Scotland, thereby founding Presbyterianism.

- Their convictions were grounded in a careful study of the Word of God.
- Their calling was to preach and teach that truth.
- Their courage came from holding fast to their convictions and obeying their God-given call.