



On October 31, 1517, God ignited a small flame in Wittenberg, Germany. It grew into the blaze of the Protestant Reformation. What started in the hands of Martin Luther's hammer swings, soon became a battering ram that rung across the whole culture of Europe and eventually the world.

The Church of the Middle Ages had drifted far from the Gospel-driven, Spirit-empowered church of the Apostles. It had become enamored with power, control, materialism, and idolatry.

But God will always have a man with a message and a movement that would be created by that message.

The Man

Until October 31, 1517, Luther was an otherwise obscure monk.

Luther was a man in search of peace with God.

He sought it in his dedication to monastic life.

He made a desperate trip to Rome.

At the Church of St. John Lateran in Rome, he asked,

“But what if it’s not so?”

A turning point for Luther came when he began teaching through the Bible and came to Romans 1:16-17.

I am not ashamed of the Gospel, because it is the power God uses to save everyone who believes—to save the Jews first, and then to save non-Jews. The Gospel shows how God makes people right with himself—that it begins and ends with faith. As the Scripture says, “But those who are right with God will live by faith.”

The Message

Sola Scriptura – The Scriptures Alone

2 Timothy 3:16-17, All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for showing people what is wrong in their lives, for correcting faults, and for teaching how to live right. Using the Scriptures, the person who serves God will be capable, having all that is needed to do every good work. NCV

Sola Gratia – By Grace Alone

Ephesians 2:4-8, God, being rich in mercy, because of his great love with which he loved us, even though we were dead in transgressions,

made us alive together with Christ—by grace you are saved!—and he raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, to demonstrate in the coming ages the surpassing wealth of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you are saved through faith, and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God. NCV

Sola Fide – Through Faith Alone

Romans 3:23-27, All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. But they are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. God publicly displayed him at his death as the mercy seat accessible through faith. This was to demonstrate his righteousness...so that he would be just and the justifier of the one who lives because of Jesus' faithfulness. Where, then, is boasting? It is excluded! By what principle? Of works? No, but by the principle of faith! NET

The Legacy

His last words written on a piece of scrap paper, “We are all beggars.” -- Martin Luther

His wife Katherine wrote at his funeral, “For who would not be sad and afflicted at the loss of such a precious man as my dear husband was. He did great things, not just for a city or a single land, but for the whole world.”