

Reformation 500: 1517–2017
The Gospel Returns Dignity to Work

Psalm 147
Page 525 in Chair Bible
The Lord's Day Morning
October 8, 2017

In the month of October, we celebrate the grace and providence of God in the 500th anniversary of a history-changing event that took place on October 31, 1517. On that date, an Augustinian monk named Martin Luther nailed 95 theses to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany. He was publicly announcing the need for public debate regarding the practices of his own church. He, along with other key leaders, protested these practices and called for reform. The movement they started became known as the Protestant Reformation.

As we saw last October, the Reformers did not *discover* new truths. Rather, they returned to Scripture to *recover* great truths that had been eclipsed by man-made traditions and teachings. Five central truths emerged: According to the authority of scripture *alone*, we are saved by grace *alone*, through faith *alone*, in Christ *alone*, to the glory of God *alone*. The implications of these five truths (the *solas*) were enormous. This month we will focus on four relevant issues for the church today: work, justice, music, and ministry.

Martin Luther on Justification (Being Declared Righteous By God)

Before 1513 Faith + Works → Justification
After 1513 Faith Alone → Justification + Works

Martin Luther on Work

Before 1513

Spiritual (Sacred) Work The higher callings of pope, priest, missionary, seminary professor, etc.
Temporal (Secular) Work The lower callings of farmer, prince, merchant, carpenter, soldier, baker, etc.

After 1520

Vocation All good work is a spiritual, sacred, and high calling from God. Therefore, we do good work for the glory of God and the good of our neighbors. Farmers, pastors, carpenters, missionaries, bakers, seminary professors, teachers, etc.

Martin Luther on Psalm 147

1. Our working God gives all _____ to us.
2. Our working God gives these _____ to us through our _____.
3. Our working God gets all the glory for our _____ and _____.