

*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 500<sup>th</sup> 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

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

After 1520

<b>Vocation</b> 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.
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### **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 \_\_\_\_\_.