

Romans 1:16-17

- What is “the righteousness of God”?
- What is “faith”?
- Who is “the righteous man”?



Lesson 9: The Church Responds to the Word

Reformation

The Fall of Constantinople

- Besieged many times by Arabs, Seljuk Turks, & Ottoman Turks
- Byzantine “Empire” shrunk with each passing year
- Ottoman Emperor Muhammad II captured Constantinople in 1453



Impact on the church

- Nearly all of the earliest manuscripts of the NT were originally written in areas that later became the “Eastern Church”
- This manuscripts came under their protection
- After the fall of Constantinople those manuscripts were brought into the west

Biblical Scholasticism

- Desiderius Erasmus (1466-1536)
 - A true scholar who loved the church and desired reform
 - Rejected philosophy in favor of the NT
 - Attacked the immorality & ignorance of the clergy
 - Highly prized education (particularly literacy)
 - Greatly advanced NT studies
 - 1505 pub. “notes” on the Vulgate
 - 1516 pub. his own critical Greek NT



Winds of Reform

- The ignorance of people and priests
- The immorality of people and priests
- The idolatry of people and priests
- The indulgences sold to the people by the priests

A Single German Monk

- **Martin Luther (1483-1546)**
 - Son of a German Mine owner
 - Sent to be a lawyer
 - Made a deal with God to become a monk in order to live.
 - Kept his word & became a monk in the Augustinian order



Luther the Monk

- Luther was forever plagued by the guilt of his sin
 - Never satisfied that he was forgiven
 - Always confessing (Johannes Staupitz) for hours
 - “God is not angry with you, you are angry with God! Do you not know that God commands you to hope?”
 - Always doing penance to “earn” forgiveness/favor

Luther the Theologian

- Recognized as a promising friar and ordained as a priest in 1507
- Snatched up by the new seminary in Wittenberg in 1508
- Completed his doctorate in 1512 and became full time faculty at Wittenberg

Luther the Regenerate

- Sent to Rome in 1511
 - Witnessed all sorts of nonsense
 - Became disenchanted
- First “Breakthrough” - circa 1513
 - Romans 1:17 and the “Righteousness of God”
 - ≠ righteousness to punish sinners
 - = righteousness graciously given sinners as salvation
- Second “Breakthrough” - circa 1518-19
 - Romans 1:17 and “faith”
 - ≠ ascent to Christ’s teachings
 - = trust in HIM (his work and ability)

Luther the Questioner

- 1515 Pope Leo X was running low on funds
 - The Basilica isn't going to build itself
 - Indulgences!
- Johann Tetzel
 - Fire-breathing indulgence salesman
 - *"When a coin in the coffer rings, a soul from purgatory springs"*
- 1517 95 theses
 - 95 reasons to disregard indulgences

Luther the Rebel

- Between 1517 (95 Theses) and 1521 (Heresy Trial)
 - Man is justified by faith in Christ ALONE
 - Wrote his new found theology from the Scriptures
 - “Address to the Christian Nobility of the German Nation”
 - “The Babylonian Captivity of the Church”
 - “The Freedom of the Christian”

Luther the Heretic

- Summoned by Rome to Worms (1521)
- Asked only two questions:
 - Are these your books?
 - Will you recant them?
- Luther's Response:
 - "Unless I am refuted and convicted by testimonies of Scripture or by clear reason - since I believe neither the popes nor the councils by themselves, for it is clear that they have often erred and contradicted themselves - I am conquered by the holy Scriptures I have quoted, and my conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and will not withdraw anything, since it is neither safe nor right to do anything against one's conscience. HERE I STAND. God help me. Amen"

Luther the Reformer

- God used Martin Luther to kick start the Protestant Reformation
 - He would continue to write, preach, and teach
- From a sermon preached at Wittenberg on 10MAR1522 -
 - “I simply taught, preached, and wrote God’s Word; otherwise I did nothing. And while I slept, or drank Wittenberg beer with my friends Philip and Amsdorf, the Word so greatly weakened the papacy that no prince or emperor ever inflicted such losses upon it. I did nothing; the Word did everything.”

Conclusion

- The Protestant Reformation began with a rediscovery of God's Word
 - Rediscovering biblical hermeneutics (authorial intention)
 - Rediscovering the biblical languages
- Reformation will never occur without the Word
- The Holy Spirit of God uses the Word of God to save and sanctify the People of God