

Reformation Day (Observed) – 2024

Saturday, 10/26 at 4:00 & Sunday, 10/27 at 9:00



Reformation Day

Truth Faith Freedom

Text: Martin Luther; The Reformation; John 8:31-36 NAS 1995

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: Today, as we observe the Reformation, we will learn more about ♦Martin Luther, ♦the Reformation, and ♦the great importance of:

- Knowing God's **TRUTH!**
- Having **FAITH** in Jesus!
- Rejoicing in our **FREEDOM** from sin and death!

1. **Martin Luther:** Some facts and highlights:

- a. **1483:** Born in Eisleben, Germany (DE) (11/10).
- b. **1505:** Became an Augustinian Monk (Erfurt, DE).
- c. **1507:** Became a priest and celebrated his first Mass.
- d. **1510-1511:** Went to Rome, the Holy City, and was shocked by the immorality.
- e. **1512:** Received his DTh degree (Wittenberg, DE).
- f. **1514:** Understood God's salvation: **Romans 1:17** "...the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith..."
- g. **1517:** Nailed his 95 Theses to the door of the Wittenburg Church, to spark a theological debate.

- h. **1520**: Given 60 days to recant or be excommunicated, (6/24).
 - i. **1521**: Diet of Worms (4/17): *Here I stand, God help me!*
 - j. **1521**: Outlawed and exiled to Wartburg Castle.
 - k. **1522**: Returned to Wittenberg.
 - l. **1525**: Married Katharina von Bora, a former nun.
 - m. **1529**: Completed his large and small catechisms.
 - n. **1534**: Published the complete Bible in German.
 - o. **1546**: Died in Eisleben, DE (2/18).
 - p. **1555**: The Peace of Augsburg: It legally established the co-existence of Lutheranism and Catholicism in the Roman Empire. *Lutherans are the first Protestants!*
2. **The Reformation**: For our purposes, the Reformation refers to events that took place about 500 years ago to correct the false teachings of the Roman Catholic Church.
- a. The Major Concern: How is a person justified, that is, *made acceptable to God and heaven-bound*?
 - i. RCC: **By Jesus' works plus our works.** “[The theological virtues of faith, hope, and charity] are infused by God into the souls of the faithful to make them capable of acting as his children and of meriting eternal life” (Catholic Catechism, 446).
 - ii. Bible: **By Jesus' works alone.** **Galatians 2:16** “...knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the Law but through faith in Christ Jesus, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the Law; since by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified.”

b. The Basis of Belief:

i. RCC – Bible, Tradition, Reason:

1. “Both Scripture and Tradition must be accepted and honored with equal sentiments of devotion and reverence” (CC, 26).
2. “Both faith and reason are sources of authority upon which beliefs can rest.”¹
3. The Bible part is good, *but tradition and reason are dangerous*, for example: She is a good person, so God will surely welcome her into heaven. **False!**

- ii. ML – Bible Alone: **Proverbs 30:5** “Every word of God is tested [and proven to be true]...” **Psalm 119:160** “The sum [top, head, chief aspect] of Your word is truth...”

c. The Major Problem:

- i. **Galatians 3:10** “...as many as are of the works of the Law are under a curse; for it is written, ‘CURSED IS EVERYONE WHO DOES NOT ABIDE BY ALL THINGS WRITTEN IN THE BOOK OF THE LAW, TO PERFORM THEM.’” // If you believe your good works will save you, *then you must **fully keep every Law of God***. Since that is impossible, *all who trust in their good works to make themselves acceptable to God have cursed themselves.*
- ii. **Galatians 5:4** “You have been severed from Christ, you who are seeking to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace.” // If you believe that any good thing you do, like being circumcised, will save

¹ <https://catholicidentity.bne.catholic.edu.au/scripture/SitePages/Faith-and-reason.aspx?csf=1&e=0XTysl>

you **or** help to save you, *then you are separated from Jesus as your Savior!*

3. **John 8:31-36 Highlights:** Truth – Faith – Freedom:

- a. **Truth:** Jesus prayed: “Your word is **truth**” (John 17:17). He also said: ³¹ “**If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine...**” // Therefore, let us
▶ know what the Bible is – **truth** **and** ▶ continue in it!
- b. **Faith:** When we continue in God’s word, the Holy Spirit keeps us in the **faith**, that is, ▶ *trusting in Jesus* and ▶ *living for Jesus!*
- c. **Freedom:** Jesus said, ³⁴ “**...everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin.**” // As a slave obeys his master, *so non-believers obey sin*. However, Jesus also said: ³⁶ “**...if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.**” // What did Jesus mean by **free**?
 - i. **Freedom from Sin:** Sin separates from God now and forever. But now, **free** from sin, *we are reconciled to God and heaven-bound!*
 - ii. **Freedom from Death:** As believers, we are now alive physically and spiritually.
 1. When our bodies die, *we will continue to live spiritually with God!*
 2. When Jesus returns, *we will be fully alive (body, soul, and spirit) forevermore!*

Let Us Pray: Dear HS, TY for working through Martin Luther and other reformers to reveal the saving truth! Keep us in God’s word and give us courage to live and speak the truth!

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