



Lutheran History and Basics

Timeline of Martin Luther's Life

Year	Event
1483	Born Son of Hans Luther (Peasant turned Copper-Miner)
1505	Master of Arts (Law)
1505	In a thunderstorm (Stotternheim July 2) Martin Luther is struck by lightning and promises to become a monk if he survives. Enters Augustinian Monastery. His father is very mad about him throwing away his law career.
1507	Ordained as a Priest
1510	Delegate to Rome for Augustinian Monastery. Disgusted by the degenerate experiences there.
1512	Doctorate in Theology University Of Wittenberg
1513-9	Tower Experience: A new understanding of the Gospel. The Righteousness before God
1517	The 95-Theses on the Door at Wittenberg Castle condemning Indulgences issues by the Pope.
	Pope Bans Luther. Luther declares that the pope has no powers in relationship of a human to God. The pope demands that Luther appear in Rome to respond to heresy charges. Arrangements made to resolve issue in Germany before the Prince of the state he lived in. But no results.
1519	Debate in Leipzig between both parties. Limits of the papacy discussed
1520	The Pope excommunicates and bans all of Luther's writings and condemns all of the the writings to be burned. Luther holds his own book burning for Catholic books and also burns the decree of the ban. Writes a record number of publications.
1521	Summon in court of Worms before the Emperor. Luther's response to charges: <i>I cannot recant unless convicted by Scripture and reason.</i> The pope or church councils are irrelevant. After Court kidnapped and brought to Wartburg Castle. Luther lived underground with a different name. Begins to translates Scripture into German.
	Luther returns to Wittenberg after wild scripture interpretations come up.
1525	Luther marries Katharina von Bora(former catholic nun). Peasants revolt against their rulers arguing using Luther's writings. But Luther supports the rulers because revolt would mean anarchy.
1531	The Lutheran States of Germany form the Schmalkaldican Organization
1534	Completion of Bible Translation into German
1546	Luther dies on a trip to reconcile a violent dispute. Schnalkaldican war lost.
1555	Augsburg Religious Peace treaty. Each state can decide the religious affiliation on their own.

Luther's Teaching

Printing Presses. Hans Gutenberg around 1450 developed a new form of publishing. Luther used the ability to print large quantities of what he wrote to his advantage and was a well-known and prolific writer. The Reformation would have been impossible without his use of new technological innovations.

Principle: *Scripture alone, Faith alone, Grace alone* (Sola Scriptura, Sola Fide, Sola gratia)

Scripture alone is the basis of our faith. Faith alone counts for God. And God's grace alone is our salvation.

Scripture can only be understood as a result of practicing what we believe in. Only from religious experience can the content of scripture be grasped. Essential to understanding Scripture is to accept the promises of the Gospel by faith. Without the Gospel-faith Scripture cannot be understood correctly. Faith on the other hand is bound to the scripture as a Norm. Scripture is to be understood in the spirit of Christ and not in a legalistic way.

Scripture can be understood by itself by everyone just reading it. Clergy interpretations are not necessary for a right understanding of scripture as the catholic church claimed!

Righteousness of God is a righteousness given by God in grace. (Romans 1:17). It is not earned by works or any other human endeavor but depends on our faith in Christ.

Conversion and relationship to God are experienced as *God's judgment*. A recognition of sin and the plea for grace is the key to a proper way of living the faith.

The Gospel is based on the Law. The law convicts of Sin and reveals sin and leads people to seek the help of Christ. The Gospel leads to Christ and to forgiveness. One cannot exist without the other. The law accuses whereas the Gospel leads to seeking forgiveness and awakens faith in the heart so that one can love God and the neighbor. Forgiveness is granted for the sake of the mercy of Christ.

Invisible vs. Visible Church. The invisible church is the body of believers in faith. Yet no one can know who has true faith and who does not. The visible church is the external fellowship the congregation which usually contains a mixture. It is impossible to draw a line between those who believe and hypocrites

More: Two Kingdom's, Communion: Transsubstantiation vs. Consubstantiation

For more info see

<http://www.iclnet.org/pub/resources/text/wittenberg/wittenberg-home.html>

<http://www.luther.de>