



Martin Luther: The Life of the Man and the Legacy of the Reformer

Charles River Editors

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*Includes pictures of historic artwork depicting Luther and important people, places, and events in his life. *Explains Luther's theological beliefs and his break with the Catholic Church.

*Includes passages from Luther's writings and sermons.

*Includes a Bibliography for further reading.

"All who call on God in true faith, earnestly from the heart, will certainly be heard, and will receive what they have asked and desired." - Martin Luther

As one of the most influential and recognizable religious figures in history, Martin Luther (1483-1546) continues to impact the world over 550 years after his death. Luther was a German priest and theologian whose writings and teachings sparked the Protestant Reformation in the early 16th century, creating one of the greatest schisms in the history of the Catholic Church and touching off religious turmoil and bloodshed that would engulf Europe for the next 2 centuries.

Born shortly after the invention of the printing press, Luther became one of Europe's best selling authors, along with others like Erasmus, and his theology was mass produced across Europe. He strongly disputed the claim that freedom from God's punishment of sin could be purchased with money, known as indulgences, and he confronted indulgence salesman Johann Tetzel with his Ninety-Five Theses in 1517, one of the most important religious writings of all time. His refusal to retract all of his writings at the demand of Pope Leo X in 1520 and the Holy Roman Emperor Charles V at the Diet of Worms in 1521 resulted in his excommunication by the Pope and condemnation as an outlaw by the emperor.

Luther, of course, did not back down. Although the story about him nailing 95 Theses to a church door is almost surely apocryphal, Luther continued that salvation is not earned by good deeds but received only as a free gift of God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ as redeemer from sin. His theology also continued to directly challenge the Pope's authority by teaching that the Bible is the only source of divinely revealed knowledge.

Like anybody whose life was so influential, Luther's legacy has been the subject of many myths and legends, all of which have come to obscure the man himself, even while they maximize the importance of his accomplishments. Martin Luther: The Life of the Man and the Legacy of the Reformer provides an objective and comprehensive overview of Luther's life while thoroughly contextualizing both the figure of the Man and the legacy of the Reformer. Along with excerpts of his writings, a bibliography, and pictures depicting Luther and important people, places, and events, you will learn about Martin Luther like you never have before, in no time at all.

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