

SERMON NOTES

Title: The Just Shall Live by Faith

Text: Romans 1:17

Topic: The Reformation and Luther

Teacher: Dr. Barry D. Lovett

Time: 10/29/23

File Under: Doctrinal



“(Martin Luther) was a great man not in the sense of a man who set out to become great, but great in the sense that a mountain is great.” – Thomas Carlyle

Luther asserted that God’s grace cannot be **bought**, salvation is a **gift**.

How did the Reformation begin?... With a **walk** in the with a friend.

Lightning struck and killed Luther’s friend. Luther agreed to **enter a monastery** if God would spare his life.

Luther set out to make himself **acceptable** in God’s sight:

- He prayed one time for six straight weeks without eating and practically without sleeping
- He beat himself with a whip until he was found unconscious the next morning in a pool of blood.
- He would routinely stay outside all night in the dead of winter, naked in the snow in the blistering cold winters of Northern Germany
- He would starve himself until he would literally faint.

Luther believed one must **earn** the love and favor of God.

While teaching Romans 1:17 Martin Luther had an **epiphany**, *“The just shall live by faith.”*

At about that same time, Martin is sent to **Rome** as an emissary of the monastery.

When he arrived in Rome, his fellow priests told him, *“if there is a hell, then Rome was most certainly built upon on it.”*

While ascending the *Scala Sancta* seeking to earn a special indulgence, Luther experienced a **radical transformation**.

Luther began to proclaim this new message and **many responded**, but not all welcomed it, and some were even willing to **kill** to stop it.

Luther was called before the authorities to give an answer for his **heretical** teachings. They demanded he **“recant”** his teachings.

Luther responded, *“In many of these books I teach truths such as the Lord’s Prayer, which are held in common by all Christians. I cannot recant these...My conscience is bound by the Word of God. Unless I am convicted and refuted by Holy Scripture, I cannot and I will not recant anything!”*

“Here I stand, so help me God!”

“When it broke in upon my soul, I was filled with such peace and certainty of eternal life that my entire life was transformed.” –Martin Luther

