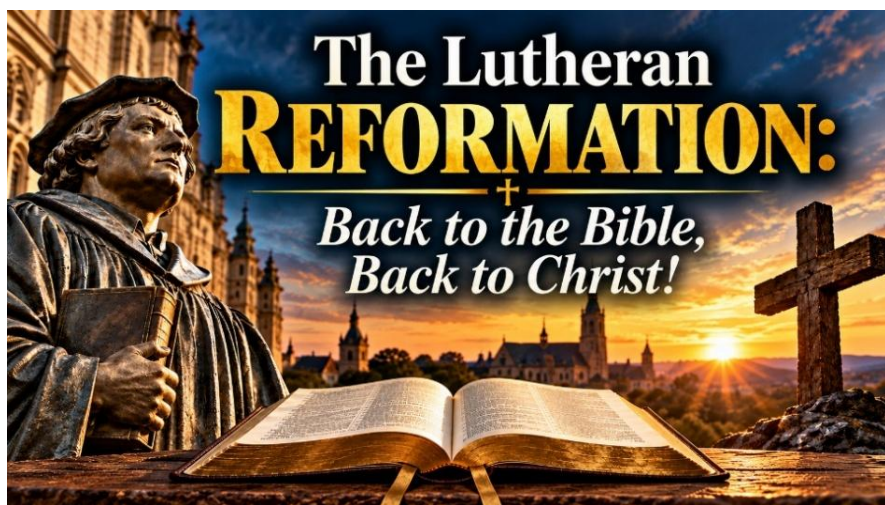


Reformation Day (Observed) – Part 1 – 2026

Saturday, 10/17 at 4:00 & Sunday, 10/18 at 9:00



What Needed to Be Reformed?

Key People, Events, and Problems!

Text: NAS 1995

Introduction: The Lutheran Reformation took place about 500 years ago. It was a call to return to ♦the authority of God's Word and ♦the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ!

- On **October 31, 1517**, an Augustinian monk named Martin Luther made public 95 statements for theological debate. Luther did not intend to establish a new church body. He wanted the Catholic Church to accurately teach God's Word.
- This became the central issue: **How are sinners made right with God – do they earn it or does God gift it?**

The Key People and Events:

1. Martin Luther (1483–1546): Led the German Reformation, emphasized justification through faith, translated the Scriptures into German, and wrote the small and large catechisms.
 2. Philip Melanchthon (1497–1560): Luther's colleague, principal author of the Augsburg Confession (1530), and a major organizer of Lutheran teaching.
 3. Frederick the Wise (1463–1525): Protected Luther, especially after the Diet of Worms in 1521 (dead or alive).
 4. Johannes Gutenberg (c. 1400–1468): His earlier development of the printing press made the rapid distribution of Reformation writings possible.
 5. Johann Tetzel (c. 1465–1519): His preaching of indulgences helped provoke Luther's 95 Theses.
- ➡ 1517 — 95 Theses
 - ➡ 1521 — Diet of Worms
 - ➡ 1529 — Large and Small Catechisms
 - ➡ 1530 — Augsburg Confession.

What Does the Bible Say?

Romans 3:21-28 “But now apart from the Law [*what we do*] the righteousness of God has been manifested [*revealed*]... ²² **...through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe...** ²³ for all have sinned and fall short [of God’s requirement], ²⁴ being **justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus;** ²⁵ whom God displayed publicly [on Good Friday] as a

propitiation [*means of forgiveness*] in His blood through faith....²⁷ Where then is boasting? It is excluded....²⁸ For we maintain that **a man is justified by faith** apart from works of the Law.”

What Needed to Be Reformed? What was believed BEFORE and AFTER the Reformation?

1. Authority:

- Before: Scripture was interpreted under the authority of church tradition and the pope.
- After: Scripture is the final authority for all Christian teaching.

2. Justification:

- Before: Christ's merits, inner renewal, and good works done by God's grace contributed to justification.
- After: We are justified by God's grace alone, through faith alone, because of Christ alone—not by our works.

3. Indulgences:

- Before: Indulgences reduced penalties remaining for forgiven sins and were sometimes connected with payments.
- After: Forgiveness is God's free gift through Christ and cannot be purchased.

4. Purgatory:

- Before: Those who died in God's grace might still need purification after death.
- After: Christ's saving work is sufficient; Scripture does not teach purgatory.

5. Good Works

- Before: Good works done by God's grace could help earn eternal life.
- After: Good works are the result of faith, not a way to earn salvation.

6. Assurance

- Before: Believers were discouraged from being certain of their salvation.
- After: Believers can be certain of salvation through God's promises in Christ as they remain in Him.

Conclusion: We continually need God's Word to ♦expose our sins and ♦direct us to the forgiveness Christ won through His life, death, and resurrection!

Next Week: Part 2 – What Did God Reveal to Luther?
Scripture – Grace – Faith – Christ – ALONE!

Let Us Pray: Dear Father in heaven, TYSM for working through Martin Luther and others to bring us back to the saving truth of Your Holy Word! Keep us, guide us, use us!

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