

**Conclusion:** Part 2 focused on God’s Work to save us. Let us ✨marvel at His goodness and ✨rejoice that our sins are forgiven!

**Part 3 – How Do We Follow Jesus?**  
*Obedying, Remembering, Receiving, Repenting!*

**Introduction:** It’s great to be saved, but **now what?** Let’s return to the AC.

**Article VI — New Obedience:** What happens after we are saved?

- **Paragraph 1:** “...a person must do... good works as God has commanded... but **not** place trust in them... to earn grace [favor] before God.”
- **Ephesians 2:10** “We are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.” // cf. John 15:5; James 2:17–18; Gal. 5:22–23.
- We do not do good works to earn salvation. **We do good works because God has gifted us with salvation.**

**Article IX — Baptism:** What does God give us through Baptism?

- **Paragraphs 1–2:** “...grace is offered through [Baptism], and [we] should also baptize children...”
- **Titus 3:5** “God saves us according to His mercy through the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit.” // cf. Acts 2:38–39; Rom. 6:3–4; 1 Peter 3:21.
- Baptism is not merely something we do for God. **It is a means through which God gives the benefits of Christ’s saving work to us.**

**Article X — The Lord's Supper:** What does Jesus give us in Holy Communion?

- **Paragraph 1:** “...the true body and blood of Christ are truly present under the form of bread and wine...”
- **Matthew 26:26, 28** ... “Take, eat; **this is My body**. ...**this is My blood** of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins.” // cf. 1 Cor. 10:16; 11:23–29.
- Christ gives His true **body and blood** with the **bread and wine** for **repentant Christians** to eat and drink, with His **promise of forgiveness**.

**Article XII — Repentance:** What happens when Christians fall into sin?

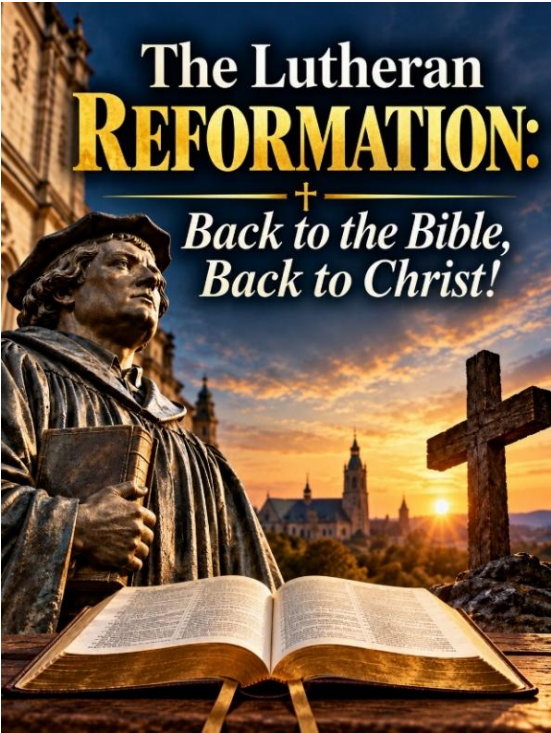
- **Paragraphs 3–6:** “...true repentance is nothing else than to have contrition and sorrow..., and yet at the same time to believe in the gospel and absolution that sin is forgiven and grace [undeserved favor] is obtained through Christ.”
- **1 John 1:9** “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” // cf. Mark 1:15; Acts 2:37–39; 2 Cor. 7:10; Luke 24:47.
- Repentance is not simply feeling sorry or trying harder. God brings us to ✨recognize our sins and ✨trust the forgiveness Jesus has won for us.
- **Christians can fall from faith, but forgiveness is available to all who repent. Acts 3:19** “...repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away...”

- Conclusion:** Six teachings, one Savior:
1. Justification: God forgives us through faith in Christ.
  2. The Ministry: God creates faith through Baptism and His Word.
  3. New Obedience: God produces good works through living faith.
  4. Baptism: God offers His saving grace through Baptism.
  5. The Lord's Supper: Christ gives His true body and blood for our benefit.
  6. Repentance: God calls sinners back to Himself through contrition and faith.
- ➔ **The Lutheran Reformation** was about proclaiming the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ clearly and accurately.
- ➔ **Nearly 500 years after the Augsburg Confession**, we still need that same message: Christ ✨has died for our sins, ✨has risen from the dead, and ✨gives us forgiveness, life, and salvation through His Word and Sacraments.
- ➔ **The Reformation was about getting back to God's Word—AND God's Word brings us to Jesus Christ and salvation!**

Scripture Quotations: NASB, 1995 version.  
The Book of Concord quotations are from the Kolb, Wengert edition, 2000.

**Connect With Us**

**Website:** www.BLC7500.com  
**YouTube and Podcast:** “Benefit from the Bible”  
**Facebook:** “Bethlehem Parma”  
**Saturdays:** Class 3:00; Service 4:00  
**Sundays:** Service 9:00; Classes 10:30  
7500 State Road, Parma, OH 44134 / 440-845-2230  
(Written: 10-26)



**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!

**Part 1 – What Needed to Be Reformed?**  
*Key People, Events, and Problems!*

**Introduction:** 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.

**Key Events:** 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]...<sup>22</sup> ...through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe... <sup>23</sup> for all have sinned and fall short [of God’s requirement],<sup>24</sup> being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; <sup>25</sup> whom God displayed publicly [on Good Friday] as a propitiation [means of forgiveness] in His blood through faith....<sup>27</sup> Where then is boasting? It is excluded....<sup>28</sup> 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!

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

**Introduction:** Even though we all tend to lean toward common sense, *it is critical to fully embrace God’s Word over our logic!*

**What Does the Bible Say?**

**Ephesians 2:1-10** “...you were **dead in your trespasses and sins...** <sup>3</sup> ...and were by nature **children of wrath...** <sup>4</sup> **But God...** <sup>5</sup> ...made us **alive together with Christ...** <sup>8</sup> **For by grace you have been saved through faith; ...it is the gift of God...** <sup>10</sup> For we are His workmanship, **created in Christ Jesus for good works...**”

**What Are Foundational Salvation Beliefs?**

1. **Scripture Alone:** **2 Timothy 3:16** — “All Scripture is inspired by God...” // Our beliefs must be tested by God’s Word.
2. **Grace Alone:** **Ephesians 2:8** — “...by grace you have been saved through faith... it is the gift of God...” // We cannot purchase, deserve, or earn God's forgiveness.
3. **Faith Alone:** **Romans 3:28** — “...a man is justified by faith apart from works of the Law.” // Saving faith receives Christ and the benefits of His saving work.
4. **Christ Alone:** **Acts 4:12** — “...there is no other name under heaven... by which we must be saved.” // Our confidence before God is in Jesus, our Savior.

**What was the Augsburg Confession (AC)?**

- **Written by Melanchthon, with Luther,** to explain how God ♦saves sinners, ♦gives them faith, ♦forgives their sins, and ♦enables them to follow Jesus.
- **Presented to Charles V,** the Holy Roman Emperor, on June 25, 1530.
- **The AC intended to demonstrate that Lutheran teaching was ♦biblical,** ♦faithful to historic Christianity, and ♦not an invention of a new religion.

**SIX REFORMATION-RELATED ARTICLES**

**Article IV — Justification:** How are sinners made right with God?

- **Paragraph 1:** “...we receive forgiveness of sin and become righteous before God out of grace for Christ’s sake through faith...”
- **Romans 3:28** “...a man is justified by faith apart from works of the Law.” // cf. Rom. 4:5; 5:1; Eph. 2:8–9.
- God does not forgive us because we are good enough. **He forgives us because Christ has paid for our sins.**

**Article V — The Ministry:** How does God bring us to faith?

- **Paragraph 1–2:** “Through [baptism and the gospel] ...He gives the Holy Spirit who produces faith, where and when he wills...”
- **Romans 10:17** “...faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.” // cf. John 20:21–23; Matt. 28:19–20; Titus 3:5.
- Faith is not something we manufacture. **God creates and strengthens faith through His Word and Sacraments.**