



FRANKLIN ROAD

baptist church

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NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 31, 2016

REFORMATION DAY



ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT THINGS ON THIS DATE IN HISTORY WAS MARTIN LUTHER'S POSTING OF A "RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE VIRTUE OR INDULGENCES" ON THE CASTLE CHURCH DOOR AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WITTENBERG IN GERMANY IN 1517.

LUTHER OBJECTED TO THE SALE OF INDULGENCES WHEREBY THE POPE COULD BESTOW FAVORS FROM HIS TREASURY OF MERITS. THESE INDULGENCES WERE SAID TO GIVE EVIDENCE OF ONE'S REPENTANCE AND COULD EVEN BE TRANSFERRED TO OTHERS SO AS TO DECREASE THEIR TIME IN PURGATORY. BASED UPON TITUS 3:5 LUTHER OBJECTED TO ANY WORKS-BASED FAVOR FROM GOD. "HE SAVED US, NOT ON THE BASIS OF DEEDS WHICH WE HAVE DONE IN RIGHTEOUSNESS, BUT ACCORDING TO HIS MERCY, BY THE WASHING OF REGENERATION AND RENEWING BY THE HOLY SPIRIT."

IN THE YEARS IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING LUTHER'S CASTLE DOOR POST HE CONTINUED TO DETAIL AREAS OF DISAGREEMENT WITH THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH. DURING THE LEIPZIG DEBATE IN THE SUMMER OF 1519 HE ARGUED FOR THE SUPERIORITY OF SCRIPTURE AND NOT THE CHURCHES TEACHINGS OR TRADITIONS. II TIMOTHY STATES "ALL SCRIPTURE IS INSPIRED BY GOD AND PROFITABLE FOR TEACHING, FOR REPROOF, FOR CORRECTION, FOR TRAINING IN RIGHTEOUSNESS; SO THAT THE MAN OF GOD MAY BE ADEQUATE, EQUIPPED FOR EVERY GOOD WORK."

IN 1520 LUTHER PUBLISHED "THE BABYLONIAN CAPTIVITY OF THE CHURCH" WHEREBY HE ARGUED FOR SALVATION BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH ALONE. HE RIGHTLY UNDERSTOOD AND DEFENDED EPHESIANS 2:8-9 WHERE GOD'S WORD STATES "FOR BY GRACE YOU HAVE BEEN SAVED THROUGH FAITH; AND THAT NOT OF YOURSELVES, *IT IS THE GIFT OF GOD; NOT AS A RESULT OF WORKS, SO THAT NO ONE MAY BOAST.*"

"THE FREEDOM OF THE CHRISTIAN MAN" ALSO WRITTEN BY LUTHER IN 1520, PRESENTED THE BIBLICAL DOCTRINE OF THE PRIESTHOOD OF THE BELIEVER WHEREBY MEN COME TO GOD THROUGH CHRIST AND NOT THE CHURCH, THE POPE OR A PRIEST. "FOR THERE IS ONE GOD, AND ONE MEDIATOR ALSO BETWEEN GOD AND MEN, *THE MAN CHRIST JESUS.*" (I TIMOTHY 2:5)

IN ALL OF HIS TEACHINGS, MARTIN LUTHER HELD THAT OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST REDOUNDS TO GOD'S GLORY. "HE PREDESTINED US TO ADOPTION AS SONS THROUGH JESUS CHRIST TO HIMSELF, ACCORDING TO THE KIND INTENTION OF HIS WILL, TO THE PRAISE OF THE GLORY OF HIS GRACE, WHICH HE FREELY BESTOWED ON US IN THE BELOVED." (EPHESIANS 1:5-6).

TODAY LET'S CELEBRATE THE REFORMATION AND OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD BY FAITH ALONE, IN SCRIPTURE ALONE, THROUGH CHRIST ALONE, BY GRACE ALONE, TO THE GLORY OF GOD ALONE.

LOOKING UP,
PASTOR CHUCK CIRCLE