

Reformation Day. October 31st, 1517.

The 16th Century Reformation re-discovered and re-established the Biblical truth concerning Salvation.

These also held these truths

John Wycliffe c1320-1384.

William Tyndale c1494-1536.

Myles Coverdale 1488-1569.

Followed by Martin Luther, John Calvin and others.

The Main Errors of the Roman Catholic Church.

- 1. The Church, (the Pope and Cardinals), determine what we are to believe
– not scripture alone.**
- 2. The Church Saves you.
Sin must be confessed to a Priest.
He will decide if you can be forgiven.**
- 3. Purgatory – an invented place where souls go when they die and from where they can be released into Heaven on payment of money to the church or by performing good works in religious acts (indulgences).
Prayer can be made for souls of the dead.**
- 4. Christ dies again
when they celebrate Holy Communion.**
- 5. Mary is placed between us and God.**

Luther was taught to believe these errors.

BUT he could not find peace with God.

He was convicted that he was a sinner and needed forgiveness for his sin.

He read the Bible – OT Hebrew and NT Greek.

He read Romans 1v17.

The just shall live by faith.

Night and day he prayerfully pondered the words: -

“The just shall live by faith”. Romans 1v17

He found these same words and thoughts in: -

Galatians 2v20, and 3v11

Hebrews 10v38

And even in the OT in Habakkuk 2v4

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He also read about **Faith** being, the **Gift of God.**

“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.”
Ephesians 2v8,9.

**Aged 30, he knew that he needed Christ’s forgiveness and to receive His righteousness
in order to be at peace with God.**

**It was only the substitutionary death of Jesus Christ, The Son of God, on the cross of Calvary,
which could pay the debt for his sin.**

No payment of money or performing religious acts can save. It is by Christ alone – Sola Christus.

So, Luther became a Christian and he wrote, from his study of scripture, the 5 Solae of The Reformation.

These were not new thoughts, nor his own invention.

They have always been Biblical Truth but had been lost to the sight of the vast majority since early Church days.

This period is called **The Dark Ages** - from about AD450 until the John Wycliffe, Dawn of The Reformation - about AD1350.

Can you imagine the great relief and peace which flooded over Luther’s troubled soul when these truths sank into his understanding and when he repented in faith?

Is this your experience?

These five statements, taken from Scripture, sum up what lies at the heart of Protestant and Reformed Baptist belief (as held by us at EDT):

- 1. By Grace alone (Sola Gratia)**
- 2. Through Faith alone (Sola Fide)**
- 3. In Christ alone (Sola Christus)**
- 4. According to Scripture alone (Sola Scriptura)**
- 5. For God’s Glory alone (Sola Deo Gloria)**

Now that he believed the truth which God had revealed to him in the Bible he wrote his 95 Thesis (95 points) and nailed it on the door of Wittenburg Church to protest against the man-made errors of the Roman Catholic Church.

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This list spoke against those beliefs of the Roman Catholic Church which are not in the Bible.

To Summarise: -

Protestant – Protesting against error.

Reformation – Returning to Christ-centered belief.

5 Sola's – Grace, Faith, Christ, Scripture, God's Glory.

The truths that had been held by the early Church and lost by the majority through the Dark Ages.



Martin Luther 1483 – 1546

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Please watch these short videos, which are on the EDT Web Site, presented by our Pastor.

Dawn Breaks over Europe (1)

<https://eastdulwichtabernacle.org/exploring-christianity/inspiring-christian-biographies/dawn-breaks-over-europe-1>

Martin Luther - part 1 of 2

Dawn Breaks over Europe (2)

<https://eastdulwichtabernacle.org/exploring-christianity/inspiring-christian-biographies/dawn-breaks-over-europe-2>

Martin Luther - part 2 of 2

Both are from the series [Inspiring Christian Biographies](#) on the EDT web site.