

***“FAITH IN CRISIS:
LUTHER & THE SEARCH FOR CERTAINTY”***



***Presented by Drs. Robert Sinner & Dana Fearon For
Presbyterian church of Lawrenceville Institute for
Christian Living October 20 & 27***

The "Ominous" Year 1500



ARMAGEDDON ?

- *“The Four Horseman of the Apocalypse” were very real to all people. The “End of Times” was approaching!*



DEATH



PESTILENCE



HUNGER



WAR

CHE GRIDAVA COME CON VOCE DI TUONO: «VIENI». 2 ED ECCO MI APPARVE UN CAVALLO BIANCO E COLUI CHE LO CAVALCAVA AVEVA UN ARCO, GLI FU DATA UNA CORONA E PBI EGLI USCÌ VITTORIOSO PER VINCERE ANCORA.

3 QUANDO L'AGNELLO APRÌ IL SECONDO SIGILLO, UDIÌ IL SECONDO ESSERE VIVENTE CHE GRIDAVA: «VIENI». 4 ALLORA USCÌ UN ALTRO CAVALLO, ROSSO FUOCO. A COLUI CHE LO CAVALCAVA FU DATO POTERE DI Togliere la pace dalla terra perché si sozzassero a vicenda e gli fu consegnata una grande spada.

APPARVE UN CAVALLO NERO E COLUI CHE LO CAVALCAVA AVEVA UNA BILANCIA IN MANO. 5 E UDIÌ GRIDARE UNA VOCE IN MEZZO AI QUATTRO ESSERI VIVENTI: «UNA MISURA DI GRANO PER UN DANARO E TRE MISURE D'ORZO PER UN DANARO! Olio e vino non siano sprecati».



7 QUANDO L'AGNELLO APRÌ IL QUARTO SIGILLO, UDIÌ LA VOCE DEL QUARTO ESSERE VIVENTE CHE DICHA: «VIENI». 8 ED ECCO MI APPARVE UN CAVALLO VERDASTRO, COLUI CHE LO CAVALCAVA SI CHIAMA VA PESTE E GLI VENIVA DATO L'INFERNO. FU DATO LORO POTERE SOPRA LA QUARTA PARTE DELLA TERRA PER STERMINARE CON LA SPADA, CON LA FAME, CON LA PESTE E CON LE FIERE DELLA TERRA.

AND THE CHURCH ? WELL ...



Church in 14th-15th Centuries

- **The AVIGNON PAPACY** (*Babylonian Captivity*)

- ***The GREAT SCHISM***

THREE POPES?

- John Wycliffe & the Lollards
- Jon Huss & Council of Constance
- And on and on.....

He Knew of the Churches Problems

Contempt for the church leadership had become widespread

Cardinals, bishops and priests, even the pope, led immoral lives, neglecting church affairs in pursuit of pleasures

The Educated were reexamining their religious beliefs.

Major Church Abuses included:

Simony, Pluralism, Absenteeism & Usury

PAPACY AS A MODEL?

Religion on the Eve of the Reformation

- Between 1450 and 1520 a series of popes failed to meet the Church's spiritual needs. ↓
- They were more concerned with the political interests of the Papal States. ↓
- **Julius II**, the “warrior-pope,” even led armies against his enemies. ↓
- Many people were disgusted with him and the Catholic Church.

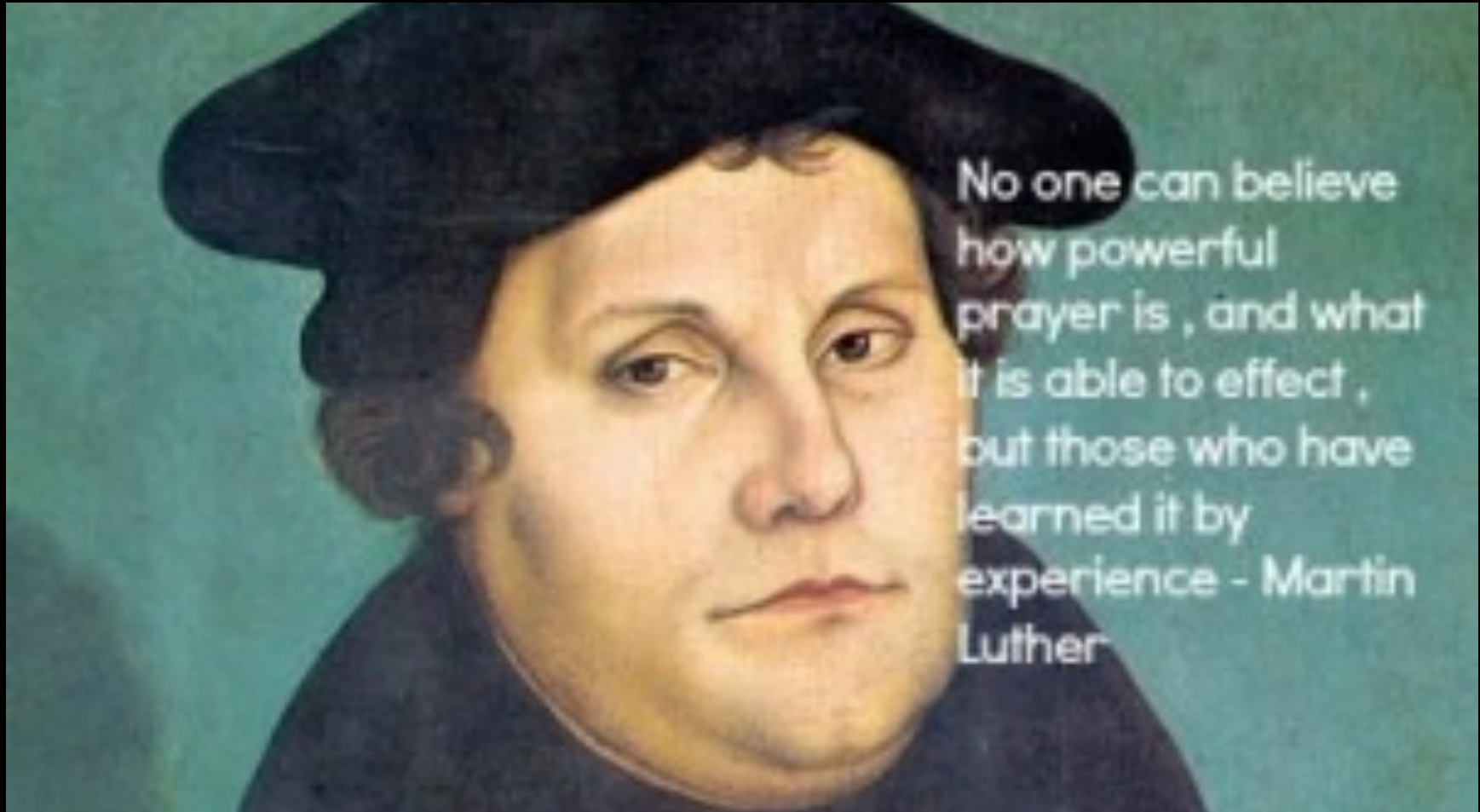
WHERE-IN LAY SALVATION?



Monk Martin Luder was unsure



He had kept every rule to the full



No one can believe
how powerful
prayer is, and what
it is able to effect,
but those who have
learned it by
experience - Martin
Luther

He studied the scripture



He went to Rome



He became distraught, for Everywhere he looked he found ...

The DEVIL



Then ...

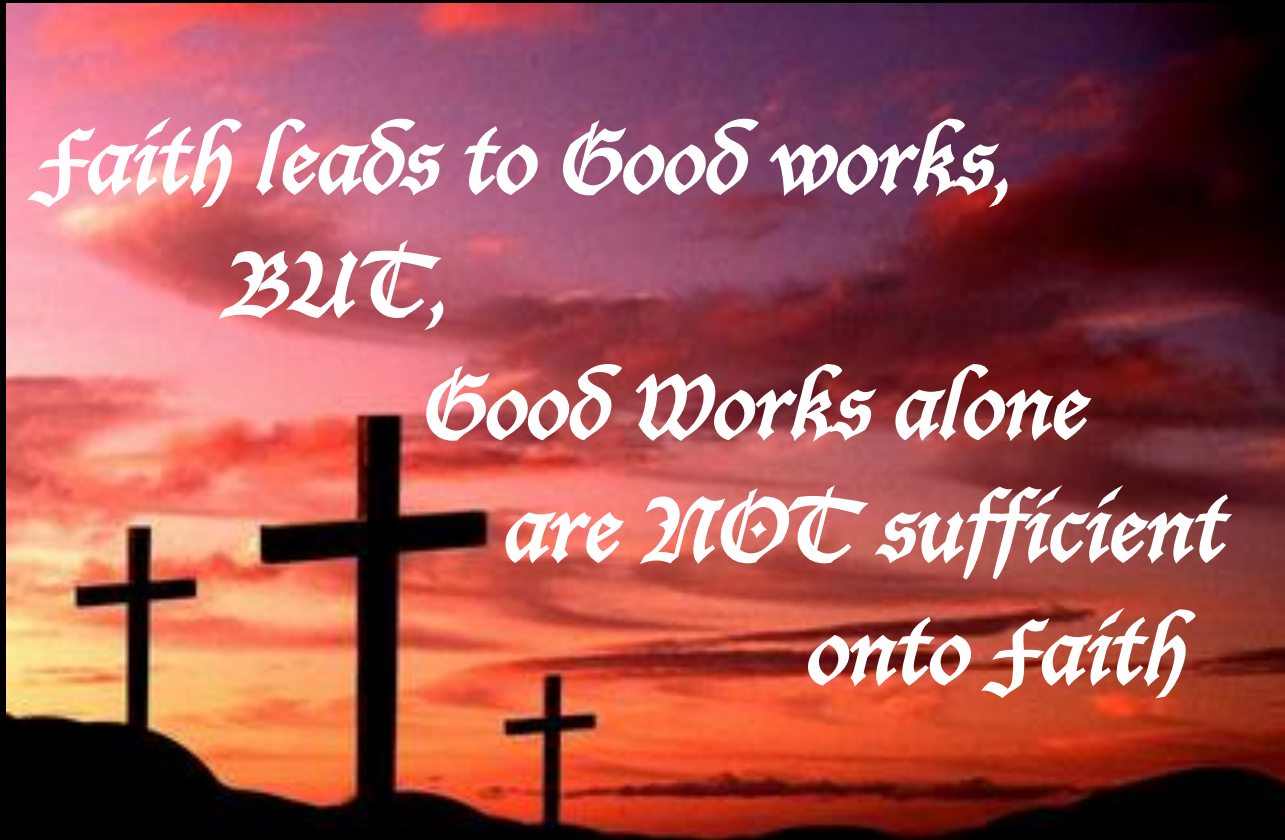
He found hope in the Pauline Epistles

- **Especially in Romans (Romans 1:17)**
- **as well as in the Old Testament Book**
- **of Habakkuk:**
- *For in it the righteousness of God is revealed through faith for faith; as it is written, "The one who is righteous will live by faith."*

Faith Alone is needed

*Faith leads to Good works,
BUT,*

*Good Works alone
are NOT sufficient
onto Faith*



BUT JOHN TETZEL ARRIVED

QUICUNQUE ORAT PRO REGE FRANCIAE
HABET DECEM DIES DE INDULGENTIA
A PAPA INNOCENTIO IV.
S. THOMAS IN SUPPLEMENTO QUÆSTIO XXV.
ARTICULO III. AD SECUNDUM
ET IN IV. SENTENTIARUM DISTINCTIONE XX. QUÆSTIO.
ARTICULO III. QUÆSTIONUM III. AD SECUNDUM

Buy Time off from Purgatory!



At this point Luther was confronted with the problem of Indulgences



Triggers of the Reformation in Germany ...

Religious

- Martin Luther's personal doubts
- Indulgence selling in 1517

Social

- Declining social status of some elements of German society - Imperial Knights and peasants in the face of stronger princes and towns

Cultural

- Rapid transmission of Luther's works
- University environment in which Luther worked

Political

- Multi-national Empire distracted Charles V's attention
- Support/protection that Luther received from Elector Frederick the Wise
- Imperial distractions with France and Italy