

Chapter 1 : Life & Doctrine: Why We Should Celebrate the Reformation

Today is Reformation Day, October 31, the 500th anniversary of Luther writing out his Ninety-Five Theses and sending them to the Archbishop. And that means, of course, next year marks the 550th anniversary of the letter that ignited the Protestant Reformation, and there will be a lot of celebrating.

Who is the Antichrist? Posters are found in the whole city center. It looks like a big happening will take place. There are also other posters there, saying: In front of the town hall, a big globe is placed, where the whole world is in red color. The color of reformation and revolution. In the middle of the globe, it says: Indeed preparations are being made for something big. In 1517, the protestant reformation celebrates 500 years. Why would the Pope visit Wittenberg the start and center of reformation, where Martin Luther in put up the 95 thesis? The highest representative of German Protestantism: But the last decades are proving things have drastically changed. He is a Catholic ecumenical officer Bishop, in Magdeburg, Germany. Feige sees evidence for this to develop during the coming years. The article goes on to say: It remains to be clarified how much unity is necessary. Trees are being planted here. The goal is to have trees one for each year of reformation. Here are five trees, one in each petal. From there, seven paths are symbolically lead out to the world. In this garden we find trees from every continent, planted by churches and denominations from all over the world, creating a global ecumenical network. Currently they have around trees, from all over the world, planted by different churches. Guess which tree is number one, found in the Luther Rose formation, in the middle of the park? A responsible for Concept and Design of Luther Garden says in a project movie: A park in which people can gather under the trees, a park that grows together, just as our Christian World Religion should grow together one day. The audience of many charismatic Christian leaders seemed to embrace this message. While some Protestant Churches have stopped protesting, what does the Catholic Church say? On their website, vatican. Thus, Lutherans and Catholics identify five imperatives as they commemorate together. This commemorative year presents us with two challenges: First of all the Catholics will commemorate the 500th anniversary of the beginning of the Reformation. Secondly, it marks fifty years of Lutheran-Roman Catholic dialogue. Many protestant denominations used to believe this. If you ask Christians today who the antichrist is, there is generally no clear meaning about it. The characteristics of antichrist found in the Bible, only fit one kingdom: See Daniel 7 And Revelation However, there are still sincere believers in this system, that live up to the light they have. We are not talking about people, but about the system. As prophesied in Revelation Since Pope Francis was elected, he quickly got acknowledged internationally. In media, we find headlines such as: Another headline in media recently has been: Following, a death penalty will threaten this group. The mottos for the two next years are: Choose who you want to belong to. One group will be faithful to the beast, a false system of worship. The other group will be faithful to God and will keep all His commandments. Standing up for God will lead to great persecution. Let us watch, pray and work, as we behold Christ our Redeemer. If we forget to protest, we forget our message. God will have His people in false systems, until we do our job to call them out. Ekklesia, a greek word used in the Bible for Church, means called out. He has chosen us, His Church, to call them out. This has to be done with a Christ-centered, Biblical message, and lives transformed by the righteousness of Christ. She has clothed herself in Christlike garments; but she is unchanged. Every principle of the papacy that existed in past ages exists today. The doctrines devised in the darkest ages are still held. Let none deceive themselves. The papacy that Protestants are now so ready to honor is the same that ruled the world in the days of the Reformation, when men of God stood up, at the peril of their lives, to expose her iniquity. She possesses the same pride and arrogant assumption that lorded it over kings and princes, and claimed the prerogatives of God. Her spirit is no less cruel and despotic now than when she crushed out human liberty and slew the saints of the Most High. Do you want to be faithful to God? Is it your wish to wake up and speak up? Will you deliver it? Jesus is coming soon. Want more stories from Empower Missions? Subscribe and follow us on Facebook. For an update on what is going on December , please see this video:

Chapter 2 : The REFORMATION – What’s It All About? |

On October 31, much of the culture will be focused on candy and things that go bump in the night. Protestants, however, have something far more significant to celebrate on October It's Reformation day, which commemorates what was perhaps the greatest move of God's Spirit since the days of.

Salvation was a matter between an individual and God. This was indeed revolutionary. Rome condemned the monk as a heretic, removed him from the priesthood and banned his writings. In response, Luther publicly burned the papal bull, or edict. The sale of indulgences plummeted and his ideas started to take hold. Humans are revolutionary species that are constantly revising and challenging their institutions. In England, Henry VIII – motivated more by lust and the desire for a male heir – embarked on his own, less clear-cut, separation from the Catholic church. Rome launched a counter-reformation but by the end of the 16th century almost all of northern Europe was Protestant, albeit fractured into warring groups. As well as bloodshed, the Reformation unleashed terrible destruction of religious heritage and art. In England, more than monasteries, abbeys, nunneries and friaries were seized, libraries destroyed, manuscripts lost, treasures stripped and works of art appropriated. But the Reformation also gave rise to new forms of art, music and literature. But it also released the power of the individual, the power of the small group, against the mighty institution. He was a very brave man, but must have been a nightmare to be around. But most people who change the world are. There was a certain amount of corruption in parts of the church. I do think it was ultimately a good thing for the Catholic church – the Reformation, not the splitting of the church. It was forced to think again, to renew itself, and that is positive. But the Roman Catholic church is a bit like a colossal aircraft carrier, and it takes a long time to make even tiny modifications. Among those is the issue of women. The Lutherans have no such compunction. The Church of Sweden has had women pastors for more than half a century, the Danes for almost 70 years.

Chapter 3 : Celebrate the Reformation! | First Presbyterian of Ann Arbor

Reformation Day is a Protestant Christian religious holiday celebrated on 31 October, alongside All Hallows' Eve (Halloween) during the triduum of Allhallowtide, in remembrance of the onset of the Reformation.

Filter by Custom Post Type Luther posting his 95 theses in Painting by Ferdinand Pauwels, Why do we celebrate the Reformation? But contrary to legend, Martin Luther most likely carried no hammer when, on Oct. Using paste instead of nails, he posted a set of 95 Theses for public debate on the church door, which served at the time as a community-wide bulletin board. Earlier that fall, Luther had introduced 97 different "though related" theses to faculty members at the university, and he was met then with some lively discussion from interested scholars and, no doubt, yawns from the others. But not so with his 95 Theses of Oct. No resounding clang or thud. After all, his message has stuck with us for centuries. In fact, Christians across the globe will celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation that Luther started next year on Oct. Why does it matter for people living in the 21st century? What should we make of it? And, most importantly, what did God have to do with it? Of course, no one can sufficiently answer these questions without delving into the complexities of history, searching out the story of the Reformation for oneself. For one year, beginning with this issue, The Pathway will present in summary fashion this story. But as Baptist church historian A. Newman wrote more than a century ago, any attempt to describe the workings of God during the Reformation defies simple explanation. Here we must remember that God often works through us in spite of ourselves. Luther himself, who tended to see human efforts not only as vain but also often as a joke, recognized that God alone could advance His cause. For this reason, he once quipped that he had done nothing at all to make the Reformation succeed. The Word did it all. For they trusted Scripture to make an impact in their age. Despite numerous obstacles, they endeavored to publish it widely both in print and proclamation. Such was the core truth of the 16th-century Reformation, and such should be the crux of all our endeavors:

Chapter 4 : Happy Reformation Day On October 31,

*Celebrate the Reformation, October A practical guide for a group celebration of the great Christian revolution [Kerry Carr] on calendrierdelascience.com *FREE* shipping on qualifying offers.*

Get ready to celebrate NOW!! As a tribute to Saint Martin Luther, all true Christians should pray that the Papacy will vanish and shrink by At that time, most Latin Church members believed that the surest road to heaven was to enter a monastery or nunnery and spend your life doing penance Saint Martin Luther " In , Saint Martin threw oceans of ink at the devil when he published his magnum opus entitled On the Babylonian Captivity of the Church. Luther wrote that the Christian Congregation was taken captive by Rome symbolized by Babylon for the previous years. Cover of the book On the Babylonian Captivity of the Church. The book caused consternation at Rome. At that time his main concern was producing a male heir to the throne because he knew that women ruling over men was a reversal of the divine order of the universe. King Henry could not offer his sword to defend the Papacy so he decided to offer his pen The Hebrew idiom "to look upon nakedness" or "uncover nakedness" means to make love to or have sex with a person. No one is to approach any close relative to have sexual relations. Pope Alexander VI " Pope from to In , Pope Alexander granted King Henry a "license to sin" or dispensation to committ incest. A sample of a Papal dispensation or "license to sin. King from to Henry was the last person to write any book about any sacrament because he himself was living in sin!! Desperately in need of a male heir, he finally dumped Catherine and married Saint Anne Boleyn!! Catherine of Aragon " Queen from to Henry might have held the pen but the book was the work of Sir Thomas More. Henry had absolutely no literary talent whatsoever. As the supposed author, Henry was given the pompous title: That flattering title is still borne by British sovereigns. Henry came to bitterly regret ever lending his name to that tome. His request for a divorce was denied by Rome only because Spanish soldiers occupied Rome and held the Pope captive. Not only did Henry fail to get a divorce from Rome but Luther made him look like an ass when he wrote a refutation of the book. Luther believed that the book was the work of Henry. Here is a small sample of his polemic: But not to seem to treat with contempt the name of so great a King, and to answer a fool according to his folly, I will show his foolishness in a short treatise as far as my other occupations permit. Luther, Contra Henricum, p. Luther later regretted some of the harsh language when Henry ceased being a fool and starting listening to the advice of the English Esther"Saint Anne Boleyn Regretfully, the Papal Stuart dynasty started using that pompous title again around For I know not to give flattering titles; in so doing my Maker would soon take me away Job Evolution works in reverse in the British Empire. All hell mobilized to prevent the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem!! If there is one person in Scripture who epitomized and foreshadowed the ministry of Saint Martin Luther it was the Prophet Nehemiah: But it came to pass, that when Sanballat, and Tobiah, and the Arabians, and the Ammonites, and the Ashdodites, heard that the walls of Jerusalem were made up, and that the breaches began to be stopped, then they were very angry Nehemiah 4: From the end of the Babylonian Captivity of the Jews in BC, it took about 50 years for Israel to be reestablished as a nation, with only 2 tribes, Judah and Benjamin, returning from Babylon. Luther was a fearless Reformer, a master teacher, a prolific author, and a superb expounder of the Word. He was the perfect man that Providence chose to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem after the year Babylonian Captivity. Pope Leo X " Pope from to After the publication of On the Babylonian Captivity of the Church, being a Pope was a very, very hazardous occupation, as the Cup of Borgia was always filled to the brim. During his plus years as a fearless Reformer, Saint Martin had to contend with 4 Popes. Pope Adrian VI " It was safer to be a son of the Sultan of Turkey than a Pope when Saint Martin begin to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem and close up the breaches thereof. Pope Clement VII " Pope Paul III Canaanite Josel of Rosheim was even more determined than the emperor to stop the rebirth of Israel. Unholy Roman emperor from to Emperor Charles V was determined to crush the Reformation at any cost. Canaanite Josel of Rosheim financed the military campaigns of the unholy Roman emperor through usury. The Canaanite "Rabbi" also financed the huge Muslim army that attempted to invade Germany in Emperor Charles V was a bitter rival of the Terrible Turks but that did not stop him from attempting to send a vast Turkish army to conquer Germany.

Vienna was the key to the conquest of Germany, and Muslim possession of that city would open the way to the subjugation of both Austria and Germany. Sultan Suleiman I "the Magnificent" reigned from 1520 to 1566. The spring and summer of 1529 saw the worst torrential downpours in the history of Europe. The incessant rain delayed the Muslim army, and the roads became impassable, so the massive siege cannon had to be abandoned. Ottoman depiction of the siege of Vienna. The entire campaign was a washout and the Turks returned to Constantinople a defeated host. Israel was reborn in the New World wilderness in 1620. With the great success of the Reformation in Germany, a young English priest named William Tyndale decided to follow the example of Saint Martin Luther and liberate his country from Rome.

Chapter 5 : Why do we celebrate the Reformation?

In fact, Christians across the globe will celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation that Luther started next year on Oct. 31, but, perhaps for many Christians, the question remains, "Why?"

But it is a powerful reminder that we should go back to the fountains. God brings about revival and renewal to his church as we go back to the fountains: These were intended to spark a debate on the topic of indulgences. Pope Leo X needed cash to finish St. Peter's Basilica. The German prince could sell indulgences in Mainz if he turned over half of his profits to the pope. The man put in charge of the sale of indulgences in Germany was the Dominican Tetzel. All of this sickened Martin Luther who was a monk and university professor. Out of righteous indignation, Luther posted 95 theses. It was a direct criticism of the idea that a dead soul might be saved from purgatory on payment of money to the church. Here are 3 of his 95 theses: This is the meaning of Reformation day. Printers soon spread copies of the 95 theses like wildfire throughout Germany, both in their original Latin text and in a German translation. Rediscovery of the Gospel: In 1518, Luther, almost 22 years old, was walking along the rutted road. All of a sudden, a thunder lightning struck a tree nearby and the traveler to the ground. I will become a monk! However, his terror followed him. God seemed to him a severe judge. In 1519, Luther received his PhD in theology. Still, one question haunted Martin Luther: How can anyone please a righteous God? He studied Psalms. The great discovery came when Luther lectured on the Romans. His agonizing question was how the justice of God and the gospel belong together in Romans 1: Then, the answer came: The righteousness of God does not refer to the punishment of sinners. God is not only righteous, but he also can give righteousness to sinners. So, the righteousness of God is a free gift of God to sinners. Finally, Luther found peace. In the preface to Latin works, he testified about his breakthrough and he said: His life was transformed by the gospel, as Romans 1: But this is a fact, and we all need good news about the righteousness of God. The Reformation clearly teaches that salvation is by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone, according to Scripture alone sola gratia, sola fide, solus Christus, sola scriptura. Grace Alone Sola Gratia! Salvation is not just by grace, but by grace alone apart from our works. It is not by grace plus our works. The righteousness of God is not earned by our effort but given by God. Jesus Christ is the righteousness of God given to us. It is entirely the gift of God Eph 2: This concept of grace is the key to unlocking the Bible; as Luther called it: But the grace of God not only liberates us from slavery to sin, it also disrupts and turns our achievement-driven life upside down. Faith Alone Sola Fide! Justification is through faith alone apart from our works. Justification through faith alone became the central teaching of the Reformation. Faith is not merely intellectual agreement with an abstract set of doctrines. Rather, faith is essentially trust; it is putting our trust in God who made his promises and is faithful to them. Faith unites the believer to Christ. So, in faith, we respond wholeheartedly to God and his grace. A sinner is declared righteous through faith. Therefore, the righteous will live by faith, from first to last. It is not our work. Rather, it is an instrument by which we simply receive the righteousness of God. In justification, God gives, and we receive through faith. The grace of God saves us through faith apart from good works. Does this minimize the role of good works in the Christian life? Does the Reformation destroy the ground for morality? Good works are not the source of justification, but its the results. Luther uses the analogy of tree: Likewise, a justified person can do good works. Luther sees good works as the natural result of having been justified. In this way, the Reformation set Christian morality in its proper context. Christ Alone Solus Christus! Salvation is found in Christ alone apart from human works. Christ alone is the Mediator and Savior 1Tim 2: Christ died as the perfect sacrifice once of all! Christ is enough for redemption. What we need is Jesus Christ alone. Christ is the righteousness of God given to us. All who are united to Jesus are declared to be right with God. Scripture Alone Sola Scriptura! The reformers were guided by the authority of Scripture, the Word of God. They insisted that the authority of popes and councils is subordinate to that of Scripture. Luther responded by burning the notice in public. Luther expected to die at the Diet of Worms. A century earlier Jan Hus had been promised safe conduct, but was burned at the stake, on similar charges. I cannot, and I will not recant anything, for to go against conscience is neither right nor safe. On this I take my stand. I can do no other. On

refusing to recant, he was declared a heretic and formally excommunicated from the Roman Catholic Church. Martin Luther would have suffered the same fate as Jan Hus, but Frederick the Wise, the ruler of Saxony secretly sent soldiers to safeguard him. As Martin traveled, they kidnapped him and took him to the abandoned Wartburg Castle. He did this because common people could not read Latin, but the gospel is to be read and heard everywhere. The reformers did a great job in helping us to read the Bible. To reform the church and revive it as the church of Christ, we must go back to the Bible, that is, the Word of God. Holy Scripture is God-breathed, and it is the ultimate and trustworthy authority for our faith and practice. Scripture and Tradition So, does the church have authority over Scripture? The Word of God creates the church, not vice versa. The Bible, as the Word of God, must be regarded as superior to all other authorities including the church Fathers and councils. While emphasizing the authority of Scripture, the Reformation agrees with the Church Fathers that we should read Scripture within the historic faith of the church. At the same time, we should understand tradition in light of Scripture. This is a single-source approach to tradition adopted by the mainstream Reformation cf. This is a critical truth in this confused time. Hanging on to the authority of the Bible is essential for us today because it is the Word of God, living and active. Now, let me ask this question: Why do we celebrate the Reformation today? Luther made clear that the hero is not he, but God who gives us life by his Word: The teaching is not mine. Nor was I crucified for anyone – How did I, poor stinking bag of maggots that I am, come to the point where people call the children of Christ by my evil name? After the reformer John Calvin died in May of , he was buried in an unmarked grave with only initials J.

Chapter 6 : Celebrate the Reformation Jubilee with a quality Christian tour to Germany

Celebrate the date of the beginning of the movement of the Church from "Works" to "Grace" as an alternative to Halloween: October 31, years ago!

History[edit] Door of the Schlosskirche castle church in Wittenberg to which Luther is said to have nailed his Ninety-five Theses on 31 October , sparking the Reformation. He enclosed in his letter a copy of his "Disputation of Martin Luther on the Power and Efficacy of Indulgences", which came to be known as the Ninety-five Theses. Peter with the money of poor believers rather than with his own money? Christians, he said, must not slacken in following Christ on account of such false assurances. According to Philipp Melanchthon , writing in , Luther "wrote theses on indulgences and posted them on the church of All Saints on 31 October ", an event now seen as sparking the Reformation. Students thronged to Wittenberg to hear Luther speak. He published a short commentary on Galatians and his Work on the Psalms. The parish order for the New Church in Regensburg states that the Reformation of the city is to be observed the first Sunday after 15 October, every year. This document may be from , however the dating is uncertain. The hundredth anniversary of the Reformation, celebrated throughout the Protestant areas of Germany, was observed from 31 October to 1 November , but a standard annual observance began much later, sometime after the two hundredth anniversary commemoration in . Significance[edit] It is celebrated among various Protestants, especially by Lutheran and Reformed churches. Due to ecumenical movements , some other Christian groups tend to acknowledge or co-participate in church services celebrating the Reformation Day. That includes the Roman Catholic Church , as well as various Protestant denominations that are neither Lutheran nor Reformed, i. The World Methodist Council formally recognized the Declaration in Martin Luther to an unidentified friend on 1 November Three hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the Reformation, observed by the American Lutheran Church on 31 October . Inscription on medals made for the occasion in by the Lutheran Normal School at Addison, Illinois , United States Luther set a stone in motion that was unstoppable and changed the world forever. In , the celebration of faith concentrated on Lutheran orthodoxy , while in , the event was more focused on the liberation from the papal rule. Luther became the German hero and the ideal role model for the bourgeoisie; he was depicted time and again in festive parades and popular prints. In the Federal Republic of Germany there were only local celebrations, organised by the churches of the respective states. A central church event in Wittenberg on 31 October , was held in order to keep up at least a pretence of an all-German Evangelical Church. Exact dates for the holiday varied until after the two hundredth celebration in when 31 October became the official date of celebration in Germany and later expanded internationally. The University of Wittenberg asked for permission to celebrate the memory of its former lecturer Martin Luther. The duke agreed and made the commemoration obligatory for all of Electoral Saxony. The worship services and sermons were, however, all prewritten and prescribed in detail and provided as a recommendation to other Protestant regional rulers as well. They did not want any trouble with the Catholics. After celebrations in and , it became more and more popular across Europe. The theme of "German Luther" was rather silenced, marked by Germanophobia throughout the Anglo-Saxon world. In Germany, the anniversary was celebrated with nationalist elements. The Catholic-Lutheran commemoration of years of the Reformation is structured around the themes of thanksgiving, repentance and commitment to common witness. The aim is to express the gifts of the Reformation and ask forgiveness for division perpetuated by Christians from the two traditions.

Chapter 7 : Reformation is nothing to celebrate, says Cardinal Müller | calendrierdelascience.com

On October 31, , the Christian world will celebrate the th jubilee of Martin Luther's nailing of his famous "Ninety-five Theses" to the door of All Saints Church in Wittenberg, Germany.

Who was Martin Luther? But others who may already have some knowledge about the Reformation may be asking question: The move by Pope Francis last year to attend a joint commemoration of the Protestant Reformation with Lutheran leaders, suggests to the world that the Reformation is water under the bridge and that maybe all the arguing and division back in the 16th century among Christians was nothing but bluster. But truth be told, the Reformation was more than a bunch of stodgy Christians fighting about irrelevant theological details. If these marks were undesirable, that would be one thing, but the marks of this movement are ones absolutely worth celebrating. What are some of the reasons we will celebrate what Luther and other Reformers did some years ago? Reasons to Celebrate 1 The Five Solas. In the Christian church Luther put the Bible back at the center, saying that it was our only final authority contra the Catholic Church at the time, which said it was the final authority, even over holy scripture. With the bible back at the center, this brought other long forgotten, or at best, neglected, Christian beliefs like grace, back into focus as well. The Christian no longer needed the church to make one right before God, all she needed was faith in Christ. The emphasis on democracy in America was a direct result of the emphasis on individual, private interpretation; that a person should be free to obey the dictates of the conscience, formed by their understanding of Scripture, and not by the powers that be. Just prior to the Reformation came what is known at the Renaissance. During the Renaissance a renewed interest in original sources proliferated throughout Europe. The development of the movable type printing press in the mid s made this possible. The idea in both cases was that sound knowledge depends on the earliest and most fundamental sources. This allowed Luther and many others to more easily go back to the original sources of the bible and begin to see for themselves some of the deviations of Catholic teaching. The eventually led Luther to publish his own bible in German, so that the people could access the holy scriptures for themselves as well. Though there is some disagreement about whether or not he actually said those famous words, 7 one thing he did say was with regard to the conscience was this: This was one of the foundational pillars that would lead to the freedoms outlined in the Bill of Rights in America some years later mentioned above. The Reformation drew a great deal of attention to the problem of having the state and the church in bed together. The 30 Years War was a direct result of inappropriate relationship between church and state. The birth of America and the popularization of the concept of democracy would likely not have happened were it not for the revelations that were born out of the Reformation. Today Americans take it for granted that the church and the state should not function as one; that the state should protect religion and not prevent it or promote any particular faith. They were originally posted on the door of the church in Latin, but then were quickly taken down by students, translated into German, and distributed throughout Germany Luther did not intend any of this to happen, though. The political turmoil and conflicts that stewed for decades following the Reformation were bloody and are still a black-eye upon Christian history.

Chapter 8 : Reformation Day in / - When, Where, Why, How is Celebrated?

Reformation Day Oct. 31 While Oct. 31 has become associated with the ghosts and goblins of Halloween, it is an important day in the history of the calendrierdelascience.com was on Oct. 31, that a priest named Martin Luther nailed to the church door in Wittenberg, Germany, a list of questions and propositions for theological debate known as the 95 theses.

What Will You Celebrate Oct. How about Reformation Day? Igou Hodges October 20, While Oct. It was on Oct. This act, which would challenge the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church, would lead to the greatest transformation of Western society since the apostles. His action provoked a debate that culminated in what we call the Protestant Reformation. Igou Hodges answers a few questions about this event that, because of its impact, is important not just in church history, but world history. What was the Reformation about? Although the Reformation, beginning in the s, came during a period of political, economic, and social unrest and not long after the cultural achievements of the Renaissance, it was primarily a religious revival which sought Christian renewal. In an era of decline in the church with criticisms emerging of the secularize papacy, widespread clerical ignorance and abuse, and the cry of Christian humanists for renewal in the Church, Martin Luther was the primary catalyst whom God used to ignite the Reformation. In his own search for peace with God, Luther found it not in good works, not in the sale of indulgence, nor even in the sacraments of the church. Though his posting of his Ninety-Five Theses was intended for debate among theologians, it caused a great stir which showed the fundamental differences between the biblical faith and the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church of the day. In the place of works-based salvation, Luther saw in the book of Romans that salvation was by faith in Christ alone; in the place of papal authority, Luther saw the authority of Scripture which was open for study by all believers. Where the church and the priests were functioning as mediators between God and the people, Luther insisted on Jesus Christ as the Great High Priest for all who will come to Him in faith. Who were some of the key Reformers and what did they achieve? Martin Luther was the first key figure of the Reformation. In addition to standing up boldly against the Roman Catholic hierarchy of his day and being the patriarch of Protestantism, he translated the entire Bible into the German language, reformed the music of the new churches, and wrote around volumes, including his commentary on Galatians which is a classic in Western literature. More books have been written about him than any other figure in history except Jesus. The second key figure was Ulrich Zwingli , the Swiss preacher who led political, theological, and ecclesiological reforms from Zurich, including the rejection of many Roman Catholic practices. Sadly his career was ended suddenly when he was killed in a war in The third key figure was John Calvin the French genius who led the Reformed movement from Geneva after his ouster from his native country. He was very influential in political, ecclesiological, theological, and educational reforms, as well as his regular sermons, voluminous letters, and pamphlets. Under his leadership, ministers were trained for most other European countries including England, Scotland, France, and Holland , and even missionary endeavors were attempted. How does the Reformation live on today in the evangelical church?

Chapter 9 : Reformation Day - Wikipedia

Reformation Day (October 31) commemorates Luther's posting of his 95 Theses on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany on October 31, This act triggered the Reformation, as they were immediately translated and distributed across Germany in a matter of weeks.

Unfortunately, for many evangelicals today the Reformation is some vague event in the past that holds little or no significance. Yet Reformation Day commemorates not only the day Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses to the castle church door in Wittenberg, but the recovery of Biblical truth that had been obscured for centuries by the Roman Catholic Church. Not the least of these truths was the very gospel of Jesus Christ. Yes, at the heart of the Reformation was a recovery of the gospel. What are we protesting? Unfortunately, the term Protestant is losing its meaning today. While there are many in the visible church who would fit nominally into the category of Protestantism, most have no idea what they are protesting. The main reason for this is because they are ignorant of church history as well as the theology driving the Reformation. Let me ask a simple question: No, of course not! He was once a man who used to live on a planet orbiting a star named Kolob. This is not orthodox Christianity. They may use our terminology but they are not Christian, in fact, they are cults. Well, what about the Roman Catholic Church? Reformed Christians, or what I like to call, true Protestants, argue that Rome is not a cult, but it adds many traditions to the Christian faith and distorts the purity of the gospel. All of which, by the way, the Roman Church still affirms. Imagine a church that had become so corrupt that it actually burned, strangled, and drowned Christians for speaking out against the authority of the Pope, or for committing the crime of translating the Bible into a language that laypeople could understand. This was the case in the 16th century. The church was corrupt, both morally and doctrinally; it had lost its way, and the Reformers were bold enough to call for renewal. Let me give a graphic example by way of contrast. At the Council of Trent, the Roman Catholic Church anathematized anyone who believed in justification by faith alone. They also repudiated the doctrine of imputation; the Biblical teaching that our sins were imputed to Christ on the cross and His righteousness is imputed to us by faith. Again, just to be clear, Rome stated that anyone who believes salvation is by faith alone should be cursed. And they have never recanted this ruling. The only way sinners can be justified before a holy God is not by any merits of their own, but by the perfect righteousness of Christ alone. So the Roman Catholic Church has anathematized the gospel of Jesus! Their false gospel attempts to add to the perfect work of Christ. And as Paul told the Galatians, if righteousness comes through works, then Christ died for no purpose, Gal. We cannot have unity with a church that teaches a different gospel, Gal. The Pope is not the final authority, the Bible is. Grace is not a substance infused at baptism that must be cooperated with; it is the merciful disposition of a loving God who effectually recuses sinners. Faith is not something we can make shipwreck of if we commit a mortal sin; faith is the gift of God whereby we are counted as righteous, forever. The righteousness of Christ cannot be added to by the merits of the saints, it is absolutely perfect. How can God be fully glorified if we add anything, no matter how small, to His saving work? That little word alone makes all the difference. These truths insure that God receives all the glory.