



REFORMATION SUNDAY

"Dear Children, We Are Justified By Faith!"

1 John 2:1-2 (Rom. 1:17, Gal. 1:6-10)

Sunday | October 29th, 2017 | Pastor Patrick Bowler

CONSULT THE SCRIPTURES

Romans 1:17
Galatians 1:6-10, 2:4-5, 15-16, 21
1 John 2:1-2

CONSULT THE SCHOLARS

Martin Luther's response to the council at The Diet of Worms in Germany, April 18, 1521 "Since then your serene majesty and your lordships seek a simple answer, I will give it in this manner, neither horned nor toothed: Unless I am convinced by the testimony of the Scripture or by clear reason (for I do not trust either in the pope or in the councils alone, since it is well known that they have often erred and contradicted themselves), I am bound by the Scriptures I have quoted and my conscience is captive to the word of God. I cannot and I will not retract anything, since it is neither safe nor right to go against conscience. [He then added in German] Here I stand. I can do no other. God help me! Amen."¹

DISCUSS

1. Did you ever celebrate Reformation Day growing up? If so, what do you remember?

2. What did you find most surprising about the story Pastor Patrick shared of the Reformation (both the background and the events themselves)?

3. Considering the context of the Catholic sacrament of penance and the selling of indulgences during the Middle Ages, what was it about Roman 1:17 (Read), do you think, that changed Martin Luther's life?²

4. Read the passages from Galatians identified above and discuss. What are the similarities in the Reformation to that of Paul's context, particularly with the Galatians? How might that apply to our lives today?

5. Read 1 John 2:1, 2 and discuss. The question of how a person is saved has been a big one throughout history. What is John's simple answer to that question? Would Paul agree? What other Scripture comes to mind on the subject of salvation?

6. What immediate applications can be made in light of this text?

7. Pray for God to continue to keep the church and "preserve" (Gal. 2:5) its gospel.

Notes:

¹Chris Castaldo, *Holy Ground: Walking With Jesus as a Former Catholic* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2009), p. 50.

²**Penance**—Outward expressions of repentance; it would include religious duties, prayers, confessions, etc..
Indulgences—Certificates of merit either purchased or received from the Catholic Church on behalf of oneself or deceased loved ones. It was basically the peddling of righteousness to shorten one's stay in purgatory.