

Six Words that Changed the World
Romans 1:16-17, Habakkuk 2:1-5
Reformation Sunday 500, October 29, 2017

1. All people _____ of God's expectations
Romans 3:23 ***for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,***
Isaiah 64:6 ***All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away.***

2. Religion _____ anyone.
Isaiah 1:10-15 ***Hear the word of the Lord, you rulers of Sodom; listen to the instruction of our God, you people of Gomorrah! 11 "The multitude of your sacrifices—what are they to me?" says the Lord. "I have more than enough of burnt offerings, of rams and the fat of fattened animals; I have no pleasure in the blood of bulls and lambs and goats. 14 Your New Moon feasts and your appointed festivals I hate with all my being. They have become a burden to me; I am weary of bearing them. 15 When you spread out your hands in prayer, I hide my eyes from you; even when you offer many prayers, I am not listening.***

3. The _____ is key to the Christian life.
II Timothy 3:16 ***All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17 so that the servant of God[a] may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.***

4. We are saved by _____, not _____.
Romans 1:17 ***For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."***
Romans 4:3 ***What does Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness."***

5. Even religious leaders need to be _____.
John 3:3 ***Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again."***

6. All Christians are _____.
I Peter 2:9 ***But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.***

Revelation 1:5b-6 ***To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, 6 and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father—to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.***

7. It takes _____ and _____ to follow Christ.
Joshua 24:15 ***But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."***

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It was a dark and stormy night – a young law student was on his way back to law school. (1505)

“Help me, St. Anne! I will become a monk.”

He was riddled with guilt.

Self-flagellation, fasting, sleeping in the snow.

Couldn't confess enough. 4 x a day, sometime 6 hrs.

■ *Do you ever feel burdened by your sins?*

If not, maybe you should!

1. All people fall short of God's expectations

Romans 3:23 ***for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,***

Isaiah 64:6 ***All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away.***

He went to Rome – Anticipation and guilt.

Scala Sancta steps

Communion

Corruption and opulence.

Leo X

2. Religion can't save anyone.

Isaiah 1:10-15 ***Hear the word of the Lord, you rulers of Sodom; listen to the instruction of our God, you people of Gomorrah! 11 “The multitude of your sacrifices— what are they to me?” says the Lord. “I have more than enough of burnt offerings, of rams and the fat of fattened animals; I have no pleasure in the blood of***

bulls and lambs and goats. ... 14 Your New Moon feasts and your appointed festivals I hate with all my being. They have become a burden to me; I am weary of bearing them. 15 When you spread out your hands in prayer, I hide my eyes from you; even when you offer many prayers, I am not listening.

Started teaching Bible at Wittenberg.

3. The Bible is key to the Christian life.
II Timothy 3:16 **All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17 so that the servant of God^[a] may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.**

Taught Romans

“These are Luther’s own words: I greatly longed to understand Paul’s Epistle to the Romans and nothing stood in the way but that one expression, “the justice of God,” because I took it to mean that justice whereby God is just and deals justly in punishing the unjust.

My situation was that, although an impeccable monk, I stood before God as a sinner troubled in conscience, and I had no confidence that my merit would assuage him.

Therefore I did not love a just and angry God, but rather hated and murmured against him. Yet I clung to the dear Paul and had a great yearning to know what he meant.

Night and day I pondered until I saw the connection between the justice of God and the statement that “the just shall live by his faith.” Then I grasped that the justice of God is that righteousness by which, through grace and sheer mercy, God justifies us through faith.

Thereupon I felt myself to be reborn and to have gone through open doors into paradise. The whole of Scripture took on a new meaning, and whereas before the “justice of God” had filled me with hate, now it became to me inexpressibly sweet in greater love. This passage of Paul became to me a gate to heaven. . . .

If you have a true faith that Christ is your Saviour, then at once you have a gracious God, for faith leads you in and opens up God’s heart and will, that you should see pure grace and overflowing love. This it is to behold God in faith that you should look upon his fatherly, friendly heart, in which there is no anger nor ungraciousness. He who sees God as angry does not see him rightly but looks only on a curtain, as if a dark cloud had been drawn across his face.”

Luther (<https://www.goodreads.com/work/quotes/838460-here-i-stand-a-life-of-martin-luther>)

Discovered Romans 1:17

4. We are saved by faith, not works.

Romans 1:17 ***For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.”***

These six words changed his life and changed the world.

Said he felt born again

- It is because Luther understood the gravity of sin that he was able to grasp the glorious nature of grace.

5. Even religious leaders need to be born again.

John 3:3 ***Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.”***

- I love Pat’s story about going to church after being born again.

*But the Church in Luther's day was still corrupt.
Indulgences. Tetzal
Nailed 95 thesis. 500 years ago Tuesday.*

6. All Christians are Priests.

I Peter 2:9 ***But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.***

Revelation 1:5b-6 ***To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, 6 and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father—to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.***

- We don't need a human intermediary.
- Direct, personal relationship with God through Christ.
- The priest doesn't "take care of us" in a patronizing way.
- We care for each other.

Diet of Worms

"Unless I am convicted by scripture and plain reason - I do not accept the authority of the popes and councils, for they have contradicted each other - my conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and I will not recant anything for to go against conscience is neither right nor safe. God help me. Amen." It is legend that Luther said the words "Here I stand. I cannot do otherwise. God help me, Amen!"
<http://www.luther.de/en/ws.html>

7. It takes courage and commitment to follow Christ.
Joshua 24:15 ***But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in***

whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”

Kidnapped.

Wartburg Castle

Translated New Testament

“I fought the Devil with ink.”

- God changes the world through people who are committed to him.
- Do you know that you are a sinner, saved by grace through faith?
- Do you understand that means you are a priest?
- Then be bold. Be courageous and committed. Put it all on the line for Christ.
- “The righteous shall live by faith.”
Not by works. Not by comfort. Not by playing it safe. By FAITH.
- Those six words changed Martin Luther’s life.
- They changed the history.
- Have they changed your life?
Then live for Him.
- God has given us 7 words:
- “We love because He first loved us.” (I John 4:19)
- Then let’s go change the world.