



WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

WALKING WITH THE GIANTS

MARTIN LUTHER

THE MAN WHO RE-DISCOVERED
THE GOSPEL [PART 1]

Reading: Romans 1:16 - 17

Introduction

- The greatest discovery of the last 1000 years **WASN'T** made by an explorer or an archaeologist.
- It was made by a Roman Catholic priest by the name of Martin Luther.
- He re-discovered the true gospel of God's free grace.
- Retrieved from beneath the dust of centuries of man made ideas and superstitions.
- Luther discovered the only way a sinful soul can stand right before God.

1 The Religious Landscape Of Luther's day

- There was no Bible and everything was Catholic with no other religious denomination.
- Salvation had become a reward for obeying the church's laws.
- Salvation was something you '**ACHIEVED**' rather than something you freely '**RECEIVED**.'
- It had come to be achieved through viewing relics, saying masses, confessing sins to a priest, doing penance and prayers to saints.
- Purgatory was taught as a place were you went to be purified in fire to make you good enough for heaven.
- The church persecuted, tortured and put to death those who opposed what it taught.

- The church was also morally bankrupt with its clergy some of the greatest sinners.
- This led to the period known in history as *'the Dark Ages.'*

2 Luther's Early Days

- Born 10th November 1483 to Hans & Margarete Luther in Eisleben, Germany.
- Christened on *'St. Martin's Day.'*
- Family patron saint was St Anne.
- When Luther was 9 years old Columbus discovered America.
- He attended university training to be a lawyer.
- Always had a nagging thought: *'How can I be righteous before God?'*
- In July 1605 fearing he was going to die during a thunderstorm he vowed if St Anne saved him, he'd become a monk.
- Entered the Augustinian monastery first as a novice and eventually as a priest.

3 Rome And Indulgences

- Even in the monastery the peace Luther sought still eluded him.
- It was thought a pilgrimage to Rome might help him.
- In Rome he determined to visit as many shrines and view as many relics as possible to obtain *'indulgences.'*
- Indulgences were issued by the pope and they were based on the merits of the saints.
- Indulgences were claimed to speed your time through purgatory.
- The trip to Rome only disillusioned him further.
- At the *'scala sancta'* he began to question the legitimacy of indulgences.

4 Luther's Great Discovery

- When Luther began to study the book of Romans he made his discovery.
- He discovered that the righteousness that would save him was not his own.
- It was an *'alien righteousness.'*
- Christ's own righteousness imputed to him freely upon his faith in Christ's work on the cross.
- God would then declare the sinner as being *'justified'* before Him.
- The Great Discovery: *'Justification by grace through faith.'*

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