



THE REFORMATION: *After Darkness Light*

Lesson 1: The Dawn of the Reformation

Why church history matters

- a. It displays what it means to live like a disciple of Christ
- b. It humbles us
- c. It teaches us what matters most
- d. It teaches us that standing for truth means standing alone
- e. It reminds us that true reform comes through right theology

Introduction

- The catch-cry of the Reformation was *Post Tenabros Lux*, *After Darkness Light*
- The Reformation occurred when the light of the Word of God was rediscovered

Background to The Reformation

- The Reformation occurred in a remarkable time of change

Political change

Economic change

Theological change

Ecclesiastical change

Key people

- Pope Julius the Second (1503-1513)
- Pope Leo X (1513-1521)
- Prince Albert of Brandenburg (1490-1545)
- Johann Tetzel (1465-1519)

Key terms

- Bishopric: a district under a bishop's control, otherwise known as a diocese
- Archbishopric: a bigger and more prestigious bishopric
- Simony: the acquiring of bishoprics through money
- Power of the keys: it is believed in the Roman Catholic Church that the pope holds the "power of keys," to send someone to heaven
- Indulgence: An indulgence is granted to people to limit or remove the punishment experienced in purgatory. This "grace" is dispensed by the Church from the treasury of merit.
- The treasury of merit: it is the accumulation of merit earned from Christ and the saints beyond what the saints require for their own guilt. This treasury can then be dispensed by the pope to individuals.

- Three merit distinctions:
 - Condign merit
 - Congruous merit
 - Supererogatory merit

What the reformers were seeking

- The reformers were humbly and methodically seeking to reform the church from error, not start a revolution that would forever split the church in two.

Principles to apply

Principle 1: When human beings are involved in church, reformation is always necessary

Principle 2: Even well-meaning people are going to lean towards sin

Principle 3: We all must be forever being conformed by the Word of God

1 Peter 5:6-8, Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.