



THE REFORMATION: *After Darkness Light*

Lesson 2: The discovery that set Luther aflame

Introduction

Luther's childhood and entry into the Monastery (1483-1505)

- 1483 – Luther is born
- 1501 – Luther enters Erfurt University to become a lawyer
- 1505 – Luther in a thunderstorm that changes his destiny
- 1505 – Luther enters the Black Cloister Monastery to become a monk

Luther's Monastic Career and Rome Crisis (1505-1511)

- Luther's ordination
- Luther finds no rest in confession
- Luther's first mass
- Luther's visit to Rome (1510)

Luther's move to Wittenberg (1512-1516)

- Luther moves to the Augustinian Cloister in Wittenberg to become a Biblical scholar and professor
- Fredrick the Wise, otherwise known as Fredrick Elector of Saxony, dreamed of creating a religious center in Wittenberg where pilgrims and students would come

- This dream would be achieved by setting up two things:
 - An Intellectual Center to rival any in Germany
 - The finest reliquary outside of Rome

Luther's Tower Experience (1515)

- Everything changed for Luther when he began to lecture from the Book of Romans and came across Romans 1:16-17
- *Romans 1:16-17, For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith".*
- As Luther studied this he started to understand that there was a righteousness that God, in His grace, makes available for those who would receive it passively by faith and not attain it actively by works
- He realized that only when someone received this righteousness by faith could they be made right before a holy God
- This discovery occurred as he was studying the Greek text as opposed to the Latin vulgate, a translation by Jerome in AD400

- Latin: God makes unrighteous people righteous through the sacraments of the church
- Greek: God declares unrighteous people righteous on the basis of a righteousness outside of oneself
- When Luther made his discovery he said, “I was born again of the Holy Ghost. And the doors of paradise swung open, and I walked through.”

Conclusion

- Luther’s enlightened understanding of the gospel, which had previously been hidden under a mass of man-made rules and regulations, now dawned upon his soul and he could not let it go
- Here he stood, for the first time, clothed in the righteousness of Christ without the need to lift a finger to meet a righteousness he could not attain to
- Therefore, when Luther, as we will see next week, encounters ecclesiastical abuse of power and corruption and theological error, he will not compromise
- This flame that now burned brightly in his heart would ignite a fire that would engulf the Catholic Church and split it in two