

When Martin Luther Put God First

July 17, 2021

AUDIO

Martin Luther lost everything when he put God first. Even then, he didn't give up. What can we learn from Martin Luther today to help us put God first in our own lives?

In the 16th century, the Roman Catholic Church led people to believe that they needed the church to reach Christ and receive salvation. Persecution was certain for anyone who challenged the authority of the church and especially the Pope. The Papacy had become the apocalyptic beast described in the Bible.

During this dark period of human history, Martin Luther was a devout Roman Catholic priest. While reading scripture, he realized that each person could connect with God directly, without a human mediator. Under the authority of the Bible, Luther challenged the authority of the most powerful person on the planet at the time, Pope Leo the Tenth.

Luther taught that salvation and eternal life are not earned by good deeds but received freely through God's grace and faith in Jesus Christ as your redeemer. His theology challenged the authority and office of the Pope by teaching that the Bible is the only source of divinely revealed knowledge, and he opposed the exclusive concept of the priesthood by considering all baptized Christians to be a holy priesthood.

He was excommunicated and persecuted by the Roman Catholic Church and the Holy Roman Empire. This did not stop him from putting God first and standing firm to his principles. In his own words, Martin Luther wrote how he felt about this struggle in the famous hymn: "A Mighty Fortress."

VÍDEO

Images related to text and animation.

sc. 01

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That Word above all earthly powers, no thanks to them, abideth; The Spirit and the gifts are ours through Him Who with us sideth: Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also; The body they may kill: God's truth abideth still, His kingdom is forever.

Images related to text and animation.

sc. 03

Martin Luther put God first, even when it cost him everything. His courage inspires us to also sacrifice all for Jesus, who gave up everything to redeem us. His love compels us to put His kingdom first in our own lives. As we return our tithes and Promise, we are challenged to put God first.

Text animation.