

# *Truth or Tradition?* Pt. 3 2 Tim. 2:14-16

## *Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC, Sunday, Oct. 15<sup>th</sup>*

The Scriptures are full of examples of how Satan has sought to frustrate God's Plan through "Contaminating" God's Word with man-made traditions or perspective. (*Gen. 3:1; Ex. 32; Mt. 15:6; Acts 15:1, Gal. 5:7-9; Col. 2:8-10*) Many of these "traditions" affect the heart of the Gospel and the Great Commission of the Church. (Mt 28:18,19) (Salvation, Baptism, Discipleship) For example, every one of the 89 references in God's Word to Baptism use the word "baptizo" (to immerse after salvation) yet most "churches" continue to sprinkle, even unconverted babies.

While God has miraculously preserved the truth of His word (*Ps. 119:89; Is. 55:11*), "religious traditions" evolve over time and are transmitted by verbal or written "catechisms". These "sacred traditions" so obscured God's simple truths that they led to the "Dark Ages". (2 Cor. 4:4-6) As more people became exposed to the light and truth of God's Word, man-made traditions began to lose their hold on hearts and minds. 500 years ago, one man's exposure to God's truth began a "reformation revolution".

## **Martin Luther (1483-1546)**

### **1. Early life and conversion.**

#### **A. Studied law at the University of Erfort.**

- 1) A near death experience shook him and he joined the Augustinian monastery in Erfurt.

### **2. Priesthood at Wittenberg (Ordained a Catholic priest in 1507)**

- 1) 1508: Became a teacher at Wittenberg University .
- 2) 1510: Makes pilgrimage to Rome and becomes grieved by the corruption and traditions.
- 3) 1511: Becomes the Professor (Doctor) of Theology at Wittenberg.

His study of the scriptures led to his salvation and set the stage for his "Reforms". (2 Tim. 2:15)

### **3. Reaction to Indulgences.**

#### **A. 1513: The Wealthy Leo X became Pope.**

- 1) At the age of 13, His father prevailed on his relative Innocent VIII to name him cardinal.
- 2) Leo wanted to embellish the papal palace at St. Peters' Basilica. (Michael Angelo, Raphael)
- 3) 1516 He authorized the monk "Johan Tetzel" to raise money to pay for his "palatial upgrades" through the sale of indulgences.

#### **B. 1517 Luther wrote 95 reasons why such "sacred traditions" were wrong.**

- 1) Thesis 82: *"Why does not the pope liberate everyone from purgatory for the sake of love...?"*
- 2) Thesis 86 asks: *"Why does the pope, whose wealth today is great...not use his own money?"*

<http://www.allaboutreligion.org/martin-luthers-95-theses.htm>

#### **C. Guttenberg's press enabled Luther's writings to circulate across Europe.**

- 1) The Pope arranged several "meetings" with leading theologians to challenge Luther's teachings.
- 2) Luther also wrote that Salvation is through Faith and not dependent on the intercession of the Priests or sacraments.
- 3) He wrote about the individual priesthood of all believers.
- 4) He wrote an appeal to the "Christian nobility of Germany"

#### **4. The Pope strikes back. In June, 1520, Pope Leo X:**

##### **A. Excommunicated Luther**

- 1) Condemned his teachings, ordered his writings burned, forbade him to preach, demanded he publicly recant, and ordered the seizure and imprisonment of him as his followers.
- 2) Any town or district that sheltered them would also be placed under the interdict.

##### **B. Dec. 1520, Luther publicly burned the Pope's Bull.**

- 1) Pope Leo demanded Germany's young Emperor, Charles V, (who was 21!) to bring Luther to either obedience or to the stake! (Burn him alive)

##### **C. April, 1521: Charles called the leaders and Luther to the Diet of Worms.**

- 1) Luther claimed his teachings were based on Solo (only) Scripture, Faith, Christ, Grace  
And therefore he refused to recant!
- 2) Charles claimed he'd "stake his life" on "rooting out heresy" and ordered Luther's arrest.
- 3) Frederick (Elector of Saxony) protected him by arresting and imprisoning him at his castle.  
It's here that Luther began translating the Bible into German!

#### **5. As the scriptures permeated Germany, people embraced the reforms.**

##### **A. In 1530 the Lutheran faith was laid down in the "Augsburg Confession".**

- 1) The majority of the German nobility and people voted to accept the new "religion", making "Lutheranism" the official "Religion" of Germany.
- 2) After breaking the chains of "Catholic Control" the Augsburg confession states:  
"Of Baptism they [our churches] teach that: it is necessary to salvation, and that through Baptism is offered the grace of God; and that children are to be baptized, who, being offered to God through Baptism, are received into God's grace. They condemn the Anabaptists, who reject the baptism of children, and say that children are saved without Baptism."

##### **B. While Luther's study of scripture led to the development of the "Lutheran" state church,**

**Other priests followed suit.** Huldrych Zwingli (1519) and John Calvin (1536) in Switzerland and John Knox (1546) Scotland formed the "Presbyterian" Church.

- 1) While each of these priests and movements were harassed by the Catholic church, they ultimately survived because they all chose to embrace a "State Church" model, So that the "State's Armies" could protect them from the Catholic "armies." (and ensure "compliance")
- 2) **Infant baptism was a necessary "tradition" to ensure this marriage between State & Church".**

### **Conclusion:**

**Both of these "reformation movements" continued the "sacred traditions" of infant Baptismal regeneration and "State Churches" and labeled those that practiced Biblical principles as "heretics"!**

➤ **Lutheran shorter Catechism: Section IV. The Sacrament of Holy Baptism:**  
**What does Baptism give or profit?** *It works forgiveness of sins, delivers from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this, as the words and promises of God declare.*

<http://bookofconcord.org/smallcatechism.php>

➤ **Westminster Shorter Catechism: Question 94: What is Baptism?**

*Baptism is a sacrament, wherein the washing with water in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, doth signify and seal our ingrafting into Christ, and partaking of the benefits of the covenant of grace, and our engagement to be the Lord's.*

<http://westminstershortercatechism.net/>

➤ **Persecution of non-conformists:**

*"The Anabaptists were subject to great persecution from the Lutherans, Calvinists and Catholics. Their major theological differences consisted of the rejection of infant baptism and their separation from state and society, an action considered a capital offense.*

*These theological differences had great consequences, including the execution of thousands, as heresy was punishable by death."*

<https://thoughtsofalivingchristian.wordpress.com/2010/11/21/the-persecution-of-anabaptism-16th-century-catholic-lutheran-and-calvinist-perspectives-2/>

**John 16:1-3** *"the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service."*

## **Application: History Repeats Itself!**

Eventually the World Wide "State" (Led by the "Beast" of Rev. 13 and described as the "Babylon" in Rev. 14,16,18) Will work with the apostate "Church" (Led by the false "Prophet" of Rev. 13 and Described as a "Great Harlot" "drunk with the blood of the saints" in Rev. 17)

To enforce "compliance!" Rev. 13:11-17 because:

*"If you tell a lie big enough and keep repeating it, people will eventually come to believe it.*

*The lie can be maintained only for such time as the State can shield the people from the consequences of it. It thus becomes vitally important for the State to use all of its powers to repress dissent, for the truth is the mortal enemy of the lie, and thus by extension, the truth is the greatest enemy of the State."* Joseph Goebbels (Hitler's minister of propaganda)

**God calls us to:** *"be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world; Holding forth the word of life" Phil. 2:15-16*

**And to**

*"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." (2 Tim. 2:15*