

Pastor's Class
January 13, 2010
The Reformation: The Gathering Storm
Rev. Dr. Arthur Bergren

Welcome/Prayer

Review:

Edict of Milan, 313: Order of Religious Tolerance was issued
Christianity Became Mainstream
Eastern and Western Christianity
800 Crowning of Charlemagne by Leo III: Power
The Crusades
Key Learnings
 Church provided Stability in times of Chaos
 Church lost its bearing when power became the focal point
 Violence in Christ's name must always be rejected

Abuses within the Western Church

Simony: Buying and Selling of Religious Offices
 Common Practice
 Despite the Condemnation of the Practice
Nepotism: Conferring of Religious Offices based on Family
 Popes appointing Cardinals based on Relationship
 Once again, it was condemned
Power Focused Papacy
 Boniface VIII: 1294-1303
 Bull – Unam Sanctam
 All Rulers Were Subject to Papacy
 Those Desiring Heaven Must Subject themselves to the Papacy
Excommunication: Ecclesiastical Censure
 Abused as a threat of condemnation for the purposes of power
St. Peter's Basilica
 Designed and Planned: 1400-1600
 Replace the old Church which marked the spot of Peter's Crucifixion
 Grandest Church in Christianity: Costly
 Indulgences: Remission of Sins Sold
Later, the Western Church, the Church of Rome, corrected itself

Drive for Reform

John Wycliffe and John Huss

John Wycliffe 1330-84

Lived in England

Lecturer at Oxford: Professor

Served the Crown: Diplomat and Speaker

Sharp Intellect

Key Teachings:

Jesus and not the pope is the head of the Church

Church is to reflect Christ who came to serve and not be served

Rejected Church Taxation

Kingdom of God: Invisible Body of Christ who is predestined to Heaven

Not the Pope and the Visible Hierarchy

Rejected Transubstantiation and Affirmed Consubstantiation

Began but did not finish an English translation of scripture

Died a natural death, but later his body was disinterred and burned

John Huss 1374-1415

Lived in Bohemia, Modern Day Czechoslovakia

Ordained a Priest, Lecturer at Charles University in Prague

His Work was a continuation of Conrad of Waldhausen

Influenced by John Wycliffe

Key Teachings

Honored and Sought to Preserve the Traditional Doctrines of the Church

Deep Concern for living the Christian Life

Defended the Academic Freedom to Explore Wycliffe's Doctrines

Unworthy Pope is not to be obeyed, still recognizing the office of the pope

Scripture is the final authority

Rejected Indulgences

Attended a Council where he was granted safe conduct

Arrested and Burned at the Stake on July 6, 1415

Martin Luther 1483-1546

Lived in Germany

Priest, Professor, Monk

Luther grew up

Building St. Peter's Basilica – Need for cash flow

Selling of Indulgences – Declaration of Forgiveness

Teaching of Works for Salvation

Fear based approach to the relationship between God and the people

Drive for Reformation

Luther was Intellectually Gifted

Received a Classical Education: Preparation for becoming a Lawyer

Luther – Spiritual Crisis in which he was terrified of God

1505 – Thunderstorm on July 2, Monastery on July 17

1507 – Ordained a Priest

Fearful of Presiding

1510/11 – Pilgrimage to Rome

Exposed to the Corruption of the Church

1515/16 – Studies Romans

Notion of Being Saved by Grace

Luther's Spiritual Crisis became Questions

Key Learnings

1. The Church is at its best when it is Christ centered and at its worst when it is human centered.
2. Luther stood on the shoulders of other reformers.
3. The Church is always in need of Reformation.

Questions

Next Time:

20 January—The Reformation: The Wild Boar in the Vineyard