

B. Martin Luther (1483-1546)

1. Young Luther

All I did was to teach, preach and write God's Word; otherwise I did nothing. While I slept or drank beer with my friends... the Word weakened the papacy such as no prince or emperor had ever done before. I did nothing and the Word did everything.

--Martin Luther

2. Breakthrough (1514-1519) The Righteousness of God

I began to understand that the righteousness of God is the righteousness in which a just man lives by the gift of God, in other words by faith, and that what Paul means is this: the righteousness of God, revealed in the Gospel, is passive, in other words that by which the merciful God justifies us through faith, as it is written, 'The righteous shall live by faith.' At this I felt myself straightway born afresh and to have entered through the open gates into paradise itself.

--Martin Luther

3. Indulgence Controversy—a power game?

The 95 Theses—what did Luther object to?

Don't you hear the voices of your wailing dead parents and others, who say, 'Have mercy on me, because we are in severe punishment and pain. From this you could redeem us with a small alms and yet you do not want to do so.

--John Tetzel

4. The Diet of Worms—April 1521

Unless I am convinced by the testimony of the scriptures, or by clear reason (for I do not trust in either the pope or in councils alone, since it is well known that they have often erred and contradicted themselves), I am bound by the scriptures I have quoted and my conscience is captive to the word of God. I cannot and will not retract anything, since it is neither safe nor right to go against conscience.

--Martin Luther at Worms

Luther at Worms

5. Luther's Legacy—the Good the Bad and the Ugly

a. The Bible

b. Marriage

c. Hostility

d. The Jews

e. Sole Fide—Justification by faith alone

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God | Martin Luther

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;
Our helper He, amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing:
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe;
His craft and power are great, and, armed with cruel hate,
On earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing;
Were not the right Man on our side, the Man of God's own choosing:
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is He;
Lord Sabaoth, His Name, from age to age the same,
And He must win the battle.

And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,
We will not fear, for God hath willed His truth to triumph through us:
The Prince of Darkness grim, we tremble not for him;
His rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure,
One little word shall fell him.

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.

Our Recent Heritage

A. Evangelicalism

1. Historical Roots

2. Values—what are the four values of evangelicalism?

a.

b.

c.

d.

B. Fundamentalism

1. Historical Roots

2. Aspects/Values

3. Weaknesses

C. New Evangelicals—what are the strengths and weaknesses of evangelicalism today?

D. Pentecostalism—what are the strengths and weaknesses of Pentecostalism?

Things to Consider

1) Imagine being one person standing up to an empire...what would it take for you to do something like that? What good has come from Luther's decision and what bad?

2) Sole fide changed the world in the 16th century. Is this message also radical today? How has it affected your life?

3) The Reformation, evangelicalism and Pentecostalism brought dignity to women and the poor. How do you think our church appeals to those on the bottom of society? Are such people welcomed at Heritage as they were by our heritage? What would need to change for our church to bring greater dignity to those at the bottom?

4) How are the strengths of evangelicalism and Pentecostalism also weaknesses? How do we hold onto our strengths and mitigate our weaknesses?

