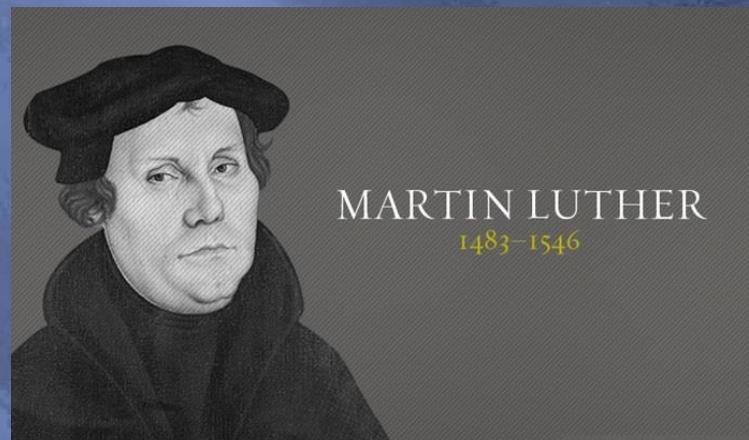


500
Years



October 31, 1517

October 31, 2017

Introduction

- On October 31, 1517, an Augustine monk named Martin Luther posted his 95 Theses at the main door of the Wittenberg Castle Church
- The world has not been the same since
- We will not be discussing the historic or political influences of the Reformation

Introduction

- We have selected 12 different biblical passages which will be studied
- The emphasis of these passages will demonstrate the importance of the Word of God
- At Inste Global Bible College, we are dedicating 2017 to the celebration of the study of the Word of God

Biblical Text

- ▣ 12 For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

Introduction

- ❑ The purpose of Hebrews is to demonstrate the superiority of Jesus
- ❑ Jesus is God's final revelation (Heb 1:1-3)
- ❑ Jesus is superior to all preceding revelations

Introduction

- ❑ Better
- ❑ 1:4- than angels
- ❑ 6:9- things
- ❑ 7:7- Melchizedek and Abraham
- ❑ 7:19- hope
- ❑ 7:22- covenant
- ❑ 8:6- ministry and mediator
- ❑ Better
- ❑ 9:23- sacrifice
- ❑ 10:34- possession
- ❑ 11:16- country
- ❑ 11:35- resurrection
- ❑ 11:40- provision
- ❑ 12:24- blood

Outline

- ❑ The Word of God is living
- ❑ The Word of God is active
- ❑ The Word of God is sharp
- ❑ The Word of God is piercing
- ❑ The Word of God is discerning

Word of God

- ❑ The term “word of God” has different meanings throughout Scripture
- ❑ It can mean the statements of God through the prophets (Heb 1:1)
- ❑ It can also mean the “written word” in Scripture
- ❑ It may take the form of commands or promises
- ❑ The term can also refer to Jesus Christ as the incarnate Word of God

Word of God

- ❑ Rather than the incarnate or prophetic word, in our text this phrase has to do with the interaction of the believer with God's written word (the Bible)

Word of God

- ❑ $\lambda\circ\gamma\circ\varsigma$ (*logos*)- word, message, saying, speech, account, reason, teaching, talk and treatise
- ❑ $\theta\circ\epsilon\circ\varsigma$ (*theos*)- God, god, goddess
- ❑ God is the author, the originator of the Word
- ❑ In our text, it is God's message or communication (written or spoken)

Word of God

- ❑ Living (ζάω-zaō)- to live, to be alive, to offer life and to quicken
- ❑ The idea is that the word of God is full of life
- ❑ It is not dead
- ❑ It communicates life

Word of God

- The Thessalonians
 - Another NT example (1 Th 2:1-16)
 - 13 And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers. (1 Th 2:13)
 - The Thessalonians received the Word with enthusiasm

Word of God

- The Thessalonians
 - Another NT example (1 Th 2:1-16)
 - They understood that the Word was not from men but from God
 - The Word gives life to the believers
 - They also suffered just like the recipients of the Epistle to the Hebrews

Word of God

- ❑ Active (ἐνεργής - *energēs*) -able to bring about, effective and able to make things happen
 - The Lord Himself is the guarantor of the accomplishment of His Word
 - God's Word is active not stagnant
 - It has purpose

Word of God

❑ Active

- 11 so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it. (Isaiah 55:11)
 - Believers can be assured of God's commitment to what He has promised in His word

Word of God

- ❑ Sharper (*τομός-tomos*)- having the ability to penetrate deeply, sharper, cutting keenly and incisively
 - We may have private areas we keep secret but also unconscious areas deep within our being that affect our behavior
 - Yet, God's Word can penetrate to the depth of our souls
 - There is nothing too deep that the Word of God cannot reach

Word of God

- ❑ Pierces (*διϊκνέομαι-diikneomai*)-
pierce, penetrate and go all the way
through
 - What the author is saying is that God's
Word can reach to the innermost
recesses of our being just like the
marrow is the innermost part of the
bones
 - Of course this is through the power and
anointing of the Holy Spirit

Word of God

- ❑ Discerning (κριτικός- *kritikos*) able to judge, to critique
 - This has to do with motivations and intentions
 - The word critique comes from *kritikos*
 - We know God sees and knows all
 - His Word discerns our innermost thoughts and judges us

Word of God

- Discerning
 - The Word of God evaluates our motives
 - The Word judges a person's behavior
 - The Word leads a person to repentance.

Word of God

- Discerning
 - Intentions of the heart
 - Discerning is holistic and transformational
 - All is influenced by the Word of God
 - Knowing, doing and being
 - However, most importantly is being
 - Ministry flows from being (who we are before God)

Word of God

- ❑ Discerning
 - Knowing
 - It is not just an intellectual exercise although the intellect is involved
 - Knowledge has to be practiced and applied to different life situations
 - Christians are to be ready to defend their faith at all times

Word of God

- ❑ Discerning
- Knowing
 - All believers are to be students of the Bible
 - We are out to eliminate biblical illiteracy
 - A biblical example is Ezra (Ez 7:10)
 - He studied the Law of God diligently
 - He put what he studied into practice
 - He taught others (made disciples)

Word of God

- ❑ Discerning
- Knowing
 - Studying God's Word in order to explain it properly to others requires commitment
 - Studying God's Word requires discipline
 - Studying God's Word requires making it a priority
 - Studying God's Word brings satisfaction and bears fruit (Psalm 119)

Word of God

- ❑ Knowing
 - Can you explain your faith in a rational manner to your friends?
 - To co-workers?
 - To a Buddhist?
 - To a Muslim?
 - To a Secularist?
 - We need to have a biblical worldview in order to witness to those around us

Word of God

□ Doing

- Who is your neighbor?
- We all have contacts who probably would not set foot in a church facility
- However as knowers and doers of the Word, we can answer their questions
- Biblical example Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch- Acts 8:26-40
- There are many persons like the Ethiopian eunuch who have questions

Word of God

- Being
 - Transformation is the key not just information
 - God works from the inside out
 - He first works in us and then through us
 - Moses was in the desert for 40 years
 - A season of solitude (away from it all- Egypt)
 - A time of reflection and evaluation
 - A period of God working in Moses' life

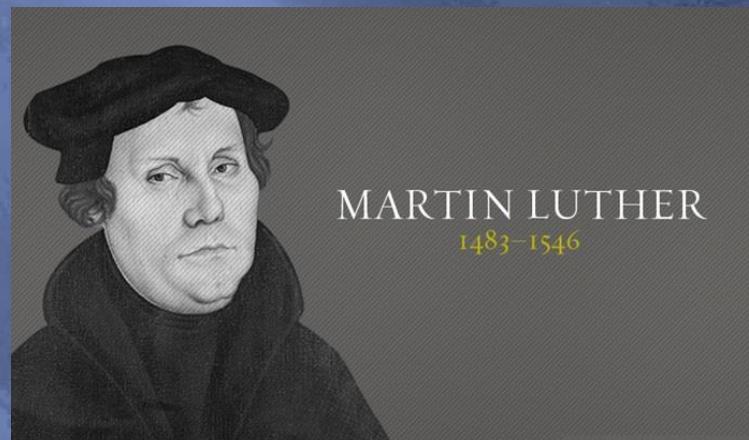
Outline

- ❑ The Word of God is living
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Conclusion

- ❑ 13 And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account. (Hebrews 4:13 ESV)
- ❑ We ALL will be judged
- ❑ There is no hiding from the Lord
- ❑ God's Word can transform.

500
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