

October 31, 1517

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# 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 biblical passages which will be studied in this series
- The emphasis of these passages will demonstrate the importance of the Word of God
- At Inste Bible College, we are dedicating 2017 to the celebration of the study of the Word of God

# 500 Years

- **Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart. <sup>2</sup> But we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God's word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God. (2 Corinthians 4:1–2 ESV)**

# Background

- **Second Corinthians**
  - In his first letter, Paul exhorts the believers to be united with each other
  - In the second letter to the Corinthians, he wants them to unite with him against false teachings and super-apostles (2 Cor 11:13)
  - This is the most personal of all of Paul's writings
  - We see the heart of Paul and his ministry

# Background

- **Second Corinthians**
  - **Acts 18:1–18 records the founding of the Corinthian church**
    - **Paul left Athens and went to Corinth**
    - **Paul became friends with Aquila and Priscilla in Corinth**
    - **Aquila and Priscilla had left Rome due to the edict of Claudius against the Jews**
    - **Paul worked with them since they, too, were tentmakers**

# Background

- **Second Corinthians**
  - **Acts 18:1–18 records the founding of the Corinthian church**
    - Paul went to the synagogue on the Sabbath to persuade both Jews and Greeks that Jesus was the promised Messiah
    - There were Jews who opposed Paul bitterly
    - Paul then chose to focus on taking the Good News to the Gentiles
    - Crispus the ruler of the synagogue and his household believed the message

# Background

- **Second Corinthians**
  - **Acts 18:1–18 records the founding of the Corinthian church**
    - There were many other Corinthians who believed and were baptized
    - Paul had a vision in which the Lord told Paul to stay in Corinth
    - Paul stayed for 18 months
    - Sosthenes a Jewish leader was seized by the Judaizers and beaten
    - Paul left for Ephesus and then to Antioch

# Background

- **Second Corinthians**
  - The Corinthians began to question Paul’s apostolicity, particularly one person who had become a great opponent (2 Cor 2:5–8)
  - Paul defended his calling (2 Cor 10:1–18)
  - He answered the challenges of the Judaizers (11:1–29)
  - Paul emphasized that his sufferings highlight his total dependence on Christ

# Background

- **Second Corinthians**
  - Although the Apostle Paul uses the first person plural “we” in our passage, we will focus in our outline on Paul as an individual
  - We know that Paul was a great biblical scholar and studied under Gamaliel
  - In the study of this passage, we will emphasize the way Paul used significant words

# Outline

- Paul *did not lose heart*
- Paul *renounced*
- Paul *refused*
- Paul *commended*

# Paul Did Not Lose Heart

- ἔγκακέω (*egkakeō*)- to lose heart, become discouraged, to give up, lose enthusiasm and grow weary
  - The Apostle Paul was being slandered and misrepresented
  - The rumors about Paul and his ministry affected other believers
  - Paul confronted the accusers

# Paul Did Not Lose Heart

- **Mercy of God**
  - The source of ministry for Paul is God's mercy
  - Because of God's mercy, Paul's past did not disqualify him from serving God
  - Mercy sustained Paul through the many painful episodes that marked his ministry (2 Cor 1:3–11)
  - It also enabled him to overcome feelings of despair (2 Cor 7:6-7)

# Paul Did Not Lose Heart

- Ministry- διακονία (*diakonia*)
  - Service, waiting upon, role or position of serving, help, support, attend to and position of deacon in the church
  - This often refers to spiritual and practical ministry in the church
  - An illustration: the choosing of the seven deacons (Acts 6:1-6)

# Paul Renounced

- The *underhanded ways (v.2) of ...*
  - The conduct of the super-apostles
    - ἀπολέγομαι (*apolegomai*)- renounce, denounce, reject
    - αἰσχύνη (*aischynē*)- shame, a shameful deed, dishonor, disgrace, and indecent behavior
    - κρυπτός (*kryptos*)- secret, hidden, underhanded and concealed

# Paul Renounced

- The *underhanded ways (v.2) of ...*
  - Paul defends his integrity and distances himself from the “super-apostles”
    - Paul had been accused of deception
    - The apostle makes it clear that he is not like those super-apostles
    - He does not take advantage of anyone by manipulating persons to get what he wants from the Corinthian believers

# Paul Refused

- To *practice*...
  - **πανουργία (panourgia)**- treachery, cunning, duplicity, deceit, craftiness, villainy and shrewdness
  - The Lord Jesus warned the believing community about the dangers expected for following Jesus (Mt 10:16-17)

# Paul Refused

- To *tamper*
  - δολόω (*doloō*)- adulterate, falsify, distort, handling deceitfully and tampering
  - God's word
    - Paul has a very high regard for Scripture
    - Paul as a former Pharisee studied the Old Testament during most of his life
  - The super-apostles twisted the Word of God for their own personal and unethical gain

# Paul Commended

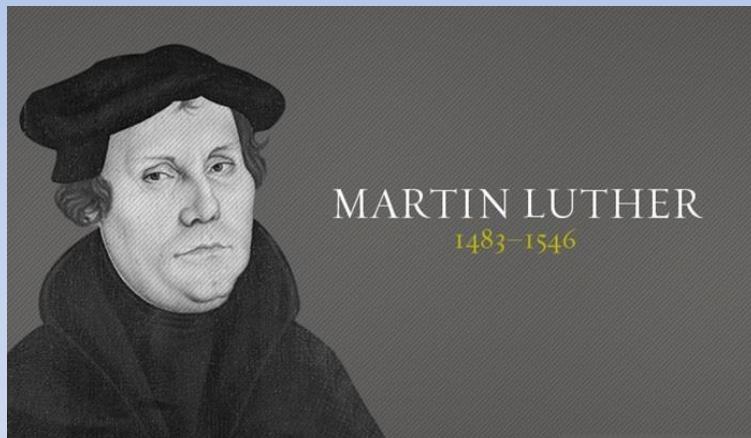
- **συνίστημι (*synistēmi*)- recommend, commend, demonstrate and come into existence**
  - This is in contrast to the super-apostles and their disgraceful and underhanded ways
  - The apostle argues against the false teachers and leaders
  - Instead he calls on God to witness in his favor
  - Paul commended himself and his team based on the truth of the Word of God

# Outline

- Paul *did not lose heart*
- Paul *renounced*
- Paul *refused*
- Paul *commended*

# Conclusion

- Paul defended his character
- Paul defended his ministry
- Paul defended the Gospel
- Yet there are also moments when one must defend oneself against the lies of opponents
- May the Lord help us to persevere
- Let's pray



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