



PROTESTANT REFORMED CHURCHES IN THE PHILIPPINES

# Conference 2017 on the 16<sup>th</sup> Century Reformation

At Provident Christian Church in Marikina City

October 31, 2017 at 8:00AM



## Speakers:



Rev. Daniel Kleyn  
"The Reformation: Historical Overview"



Rev. Richard Smit  
"Martin Luther: His Legacy"



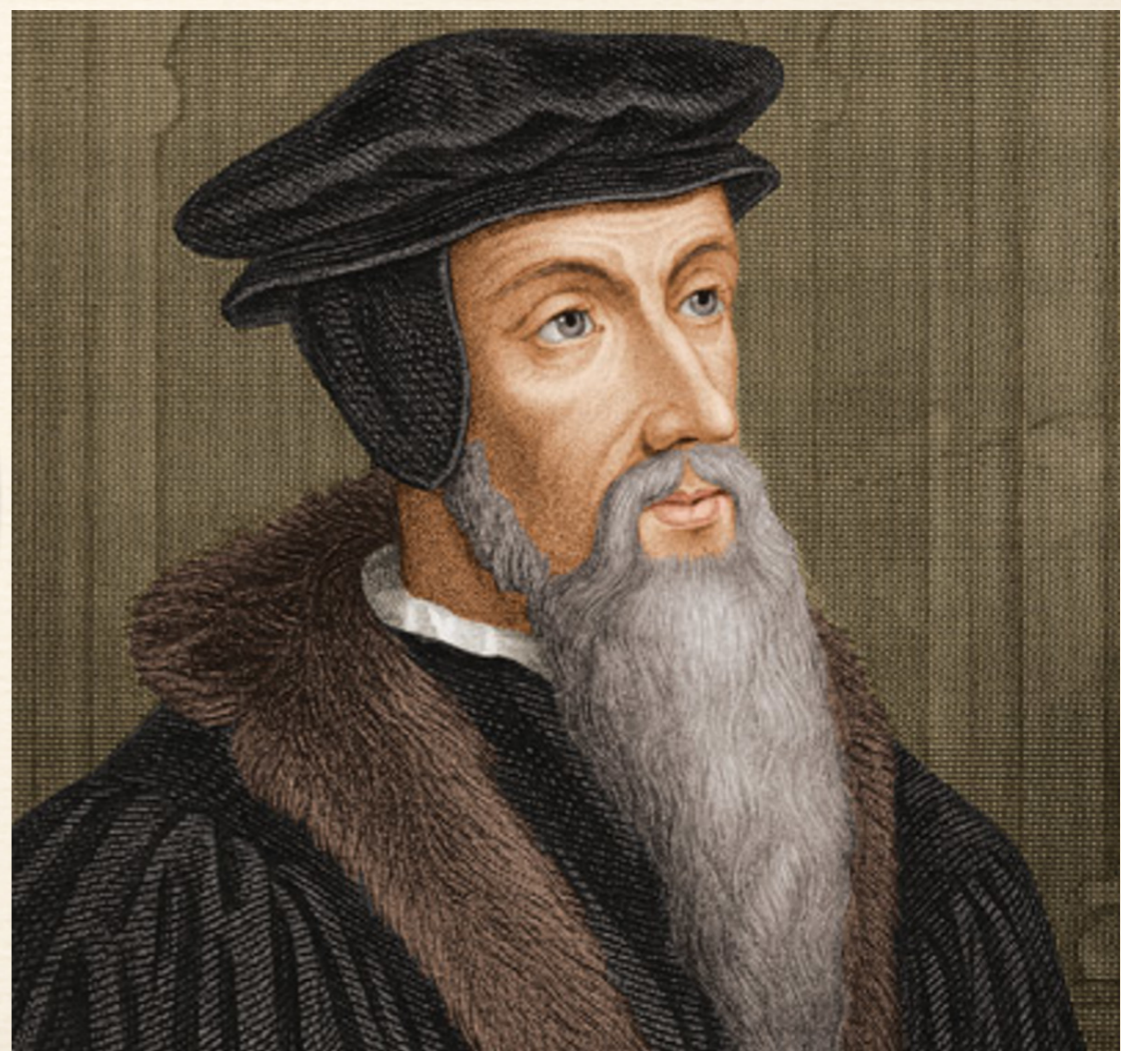
Rev. Daniel Holstege  
"John Calvin: His Doctrine of Providence"



**Matthew 16:18 – “... I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”**

**Reformation 500:  
The Anniversary**

**LUTHER: “I know that my message and what I have begun to do are not of myself, but of God.”**



Rev. Dr.  
“John Calvin”

John Calvin

# **THE REFORMATION: HISTORICAL OVERVIEW**

- I. The Pre-Reformation Condition  
Of The Church**
- II. Luther's Work Of Demolishing  
Roman Catholicism**
- III. Calvin's Work Of Consolidating  
The Church's Reform**

# I. THE PRE-REFORMATION CONDITION OF THE CHURCH

❖ **Roman Catholic Church had become a false church**

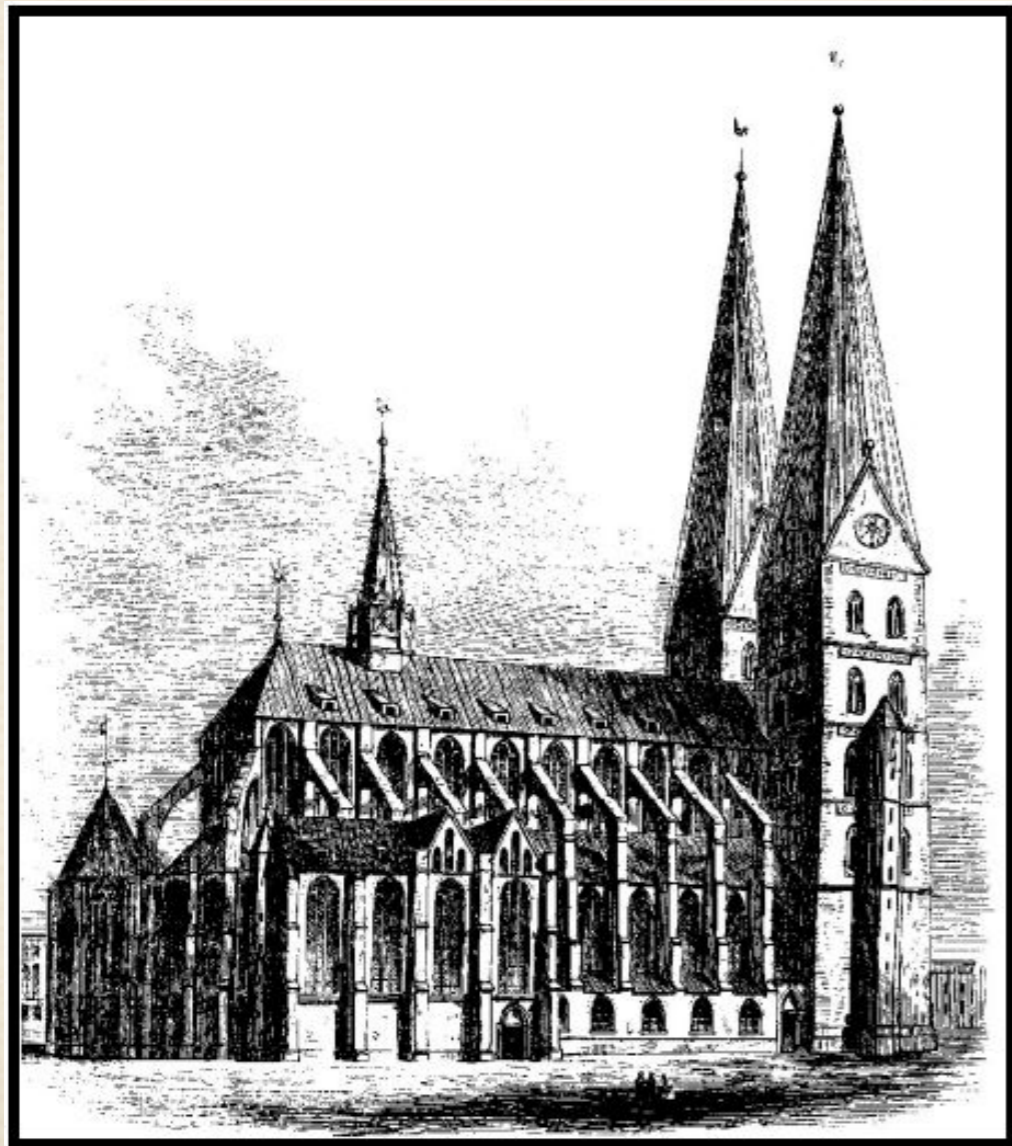
## **BELGIC CONFESSION OF FAITH, Article 29**

*As for the false Church, she ascribes more power and authority to herself and her ordinances than to the Word of God, and will not submit herself to the yoke of Christ.*

*Neither does she administer the sacraments as appointed by Christ in his Word, but adds to and takes from them, as she thinks proper; she relieth more upon men than upon Christ; and persecutes those who live holily according to the Word of God, and rebuke her for her errors, covetousness, and idolatry.*

# I. THE PRE-REFORMATION CONDITION OF THE CHURCH

- ❖ **Reformation needed because of “sacerdotalism.”**



*The sacrament of penance required three acts on the part of the Christian. First, he must make an act of contrition. There must be genuine – if not perfect – sorrow for sin. Second, he must confess his sin orally to a priest. Third, he must perform some satisfaction or work to show his sorrow and indicate some payment for sin.*

# I. THE PRE-REFORMATION CONDITION OF THE CHURCH

## ❖ **INDULGENCES – sold by Johann Tetzel**



“As soon as the coin in the coffer rings,  
Another soul from purgatory springs.”

# **THE REFORMATION: HISTORICAL OVERVIEW**

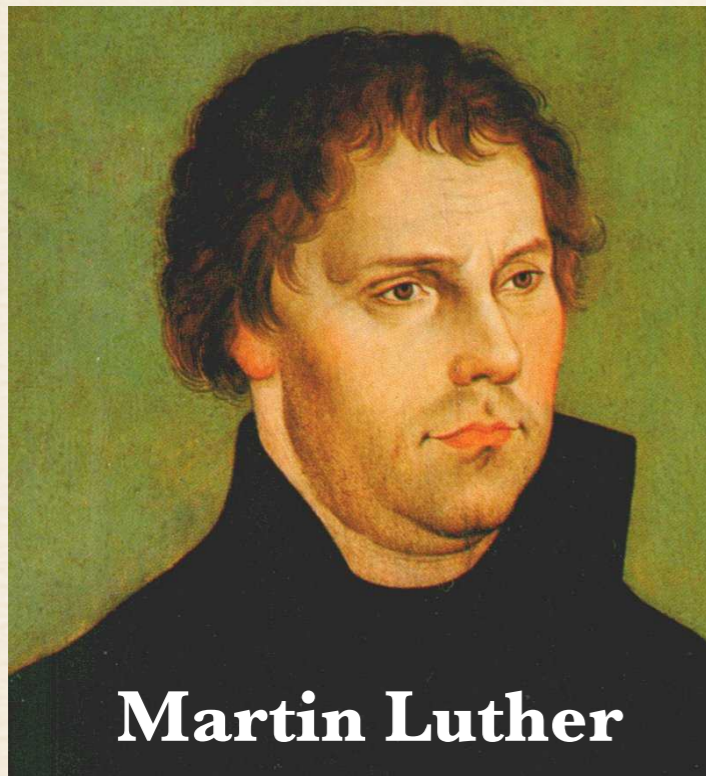
**I. The Pre-Reformation Condition  
Of The Church**

**II. Luther's Work Of Demolishing  
Roman Catholicism**

**III.**

## II. LUTHER'S WORK OF DEMOLISHING ROMAN CATHOLICISM

### ❖ Luther (1483-1546): Early Life & Spiritual Struggles



**LUTHER:** *“The name of Christ frightened me, and when I looked on Him and the cross, He seemed to me like a flash of lightning. When people mentioned His name, I would rather have heard the devil mentioned. For I believed that I would have to do good works until they made Christ love and forgive me.”*



## II. LUTHER'S WORK OF DEMOLISHING ROMAN CATHOLICISM

### ❖ **“The righteousness of God” (Romans 1:17)**

**LUTHER:** *“The term caused me much trouble. It blocked the way for me. I hated the expression “righteousness of God,” since I had been instructed by the usage and custom of all teachers to understand it according to scholastic philosophy as the “formal or active righteousness” in which God proves Himself righteous by punishing sinners and the unjust.”*

**LUTHER:** *“These words, “the just” and “righteousness,” were lightning and thunder in my conscience under the papacy, and merely hearing them mentioned terrified me.”*

## II. LUTHER'S WORK OF DEMOLISHING ROMAN CATHOLICISM

### ❖ **Reformation in Luther's soul**

**LUTHER:** *“Then I felt as if I had been completely reborn and had entered Paradise itself through widely opened doors. Instantly all Scripture looked different to me.”*

*“My conscience and spirit were lifted up, and I was made certain that it is the righteousness of God which justifies and saves us.”*

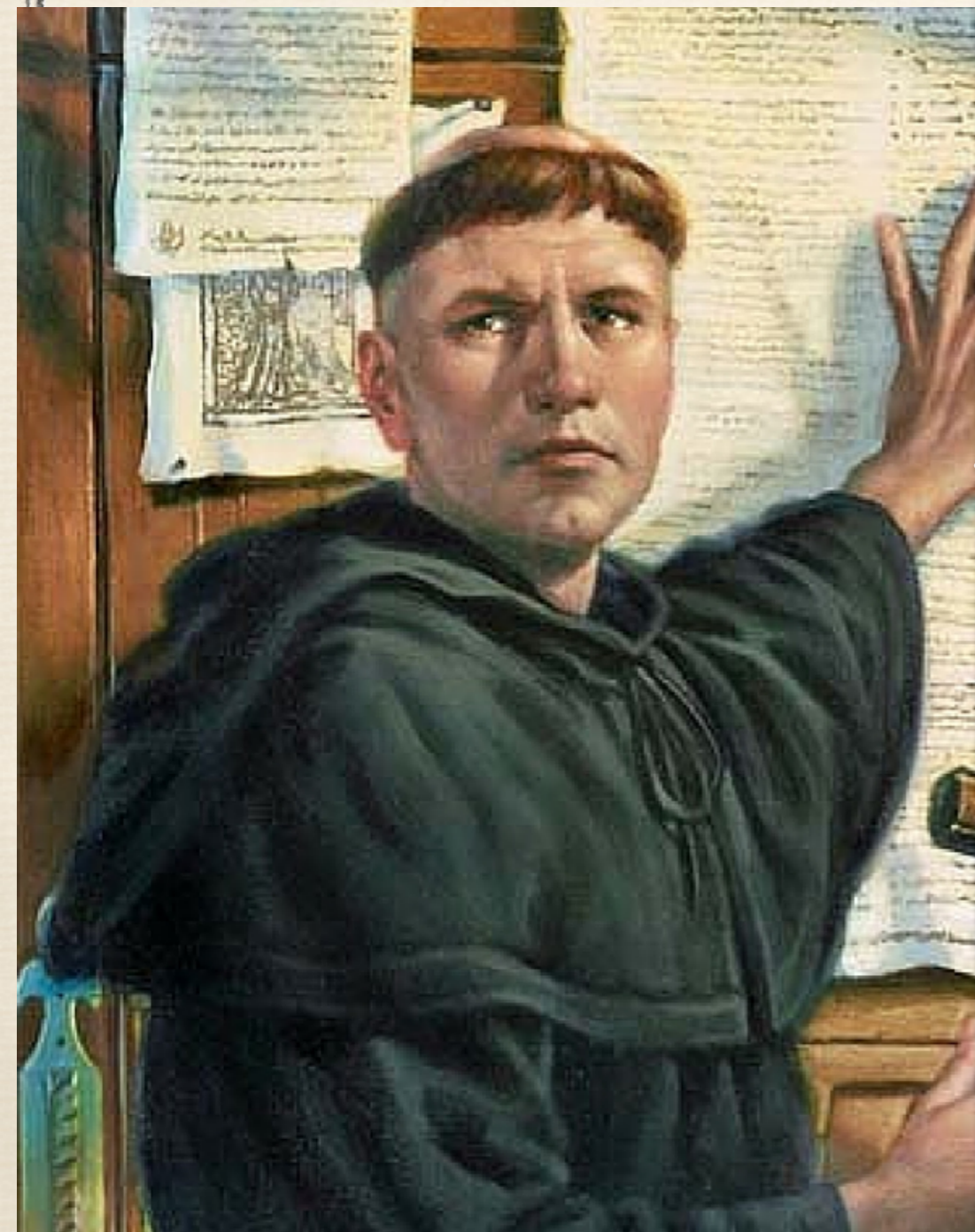
**ENGELSMA:** *The Reformation was not about nice Popes and bad Popes, not about meat or fish on certain days, not about any of those superficial things that Rome lately has bestirred herself with. It was about salvation by God's grace in Jesus Christ alone! It was about Scripture, the only authority in the church and over the church!*

# LUTHER'S 95 THESES

- ❖ #5 – *The Pope ... cannot remit any penalties other than those which he has imposed.*
- ❖ #21 – *Those preachers of indulgences are in error who say that by the pope's indulgences a man is freed from every penalty, and saved.*
- ❖ #32 – *They will be condemned eternally, together with their teachers, who believe themselves sure of their salvation because they have letters of pardon.*
- ❖ #36 – *Every truly repentant Christian has full remission of penalty and guilt, even without letters of pardon.*
- ❖ #62 – *The true treasure of the Church is the holy Gospel of the glory and the grace of God.*

## II. LUTHER'S WORK OF DEMOLISHING ROMAN CATHOLICISM

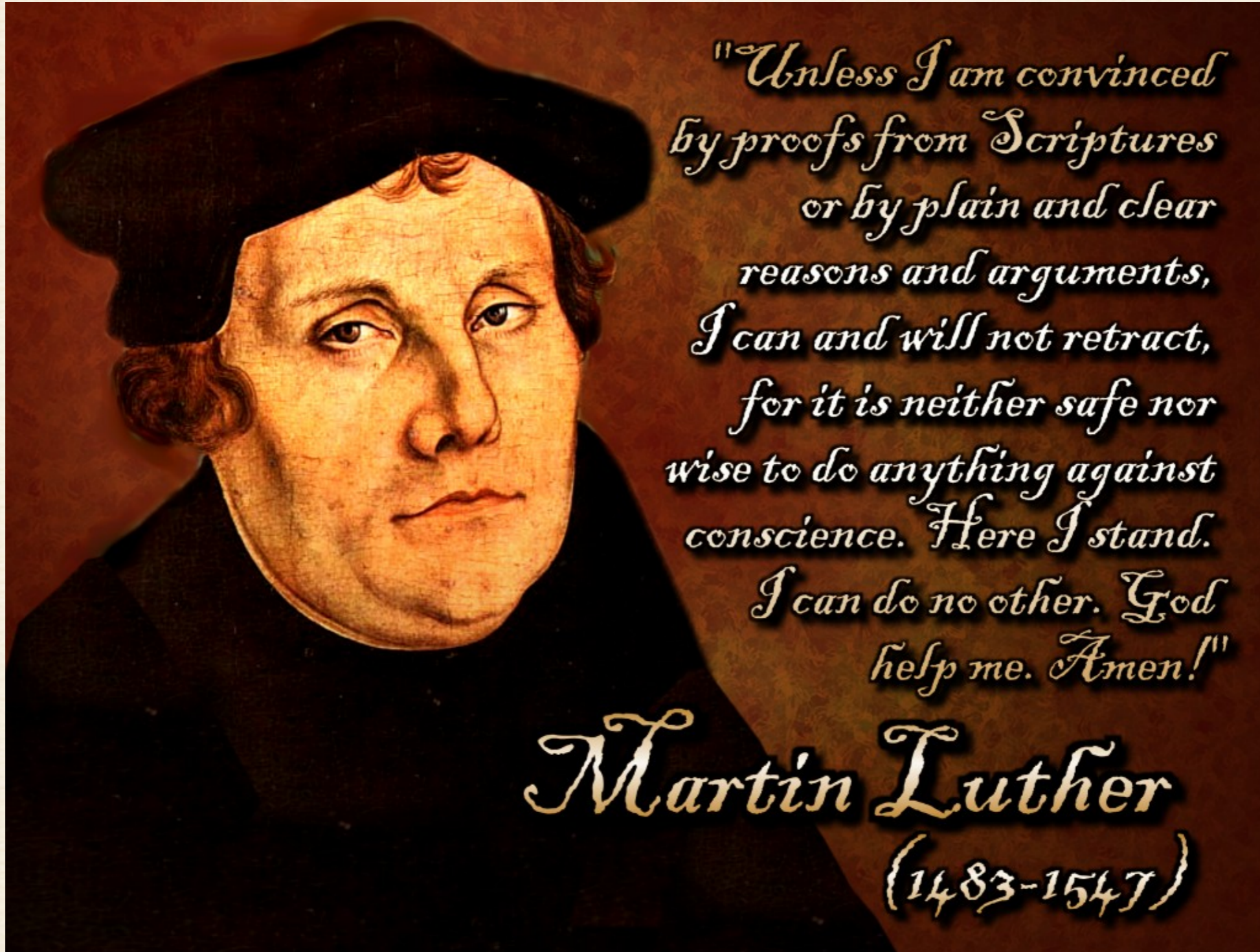
- ❖ **October 31, 1517 – Martin Luther nailed the 95 Theses on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg**



D. Engelsma: *“The Reformation, therefore, was not Luther’s intention, but the will of God. It was not Luther’s achievement, but the work of God. Luther himself said, after the Reformation had sprouted and flowered: ‘Like a blind mule I was led by Him.’”*

Godfrey: *“The 95 Theses mark the moment when Luther and the Reformation began a public, popular challenge to the medieval church. They are the beginning of the end of papal domination of the western church. They are the beginning of Luther’s career as notable teacher of the Bible and reformer of the church. ... We see in them the goodness of God for the reform of his church.”*

## II. LUTHER'S WORK OF DEMOLISHING ROMAN CATHOLICISM



*"Unless I am convinced  
by proofs from Scriptures  
or by plain and clear  
reasons and arguments,  
I can and will not retract,  
for it is neither safe nor  
wise to do anything against  
conscience. Here I stand.  
I can do no other. God  
help me. Amen!"*

*Martin Luther  
(1483-1547)*

## II. LUTHER'S WORK OF DEMOLISHING ROMAN CATHOLICISM

### ❖ Luther Acknowledged the Hand and Work of God



LUTHER: *“God carried on this affair in a marvelous way and drove me into it without my intention, and He alone has advanced it so far that a reconciliation between the pope and us is impossible. ... Therefore may God help this cause. It is completely out of human hands.”*

LUTHER: *“The die was cast; and so I did not want to do anything else than what I did. I began to put all my trust upon the Spirit who does not carry on a lazy business.”*

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# III. CALVIN'S WORK OF CONSOLIDATING THE CHURCH'S REFORM

## ❖ JOHN CALVIN: 1509-1564



*We Reformed people believe that the Reformation did not reach its maturity in Luther's theology but rather in that of John Calvin.*



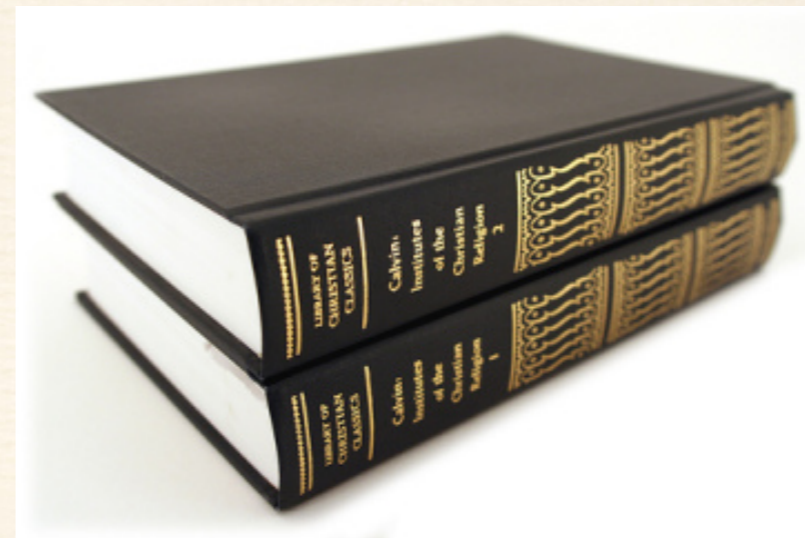
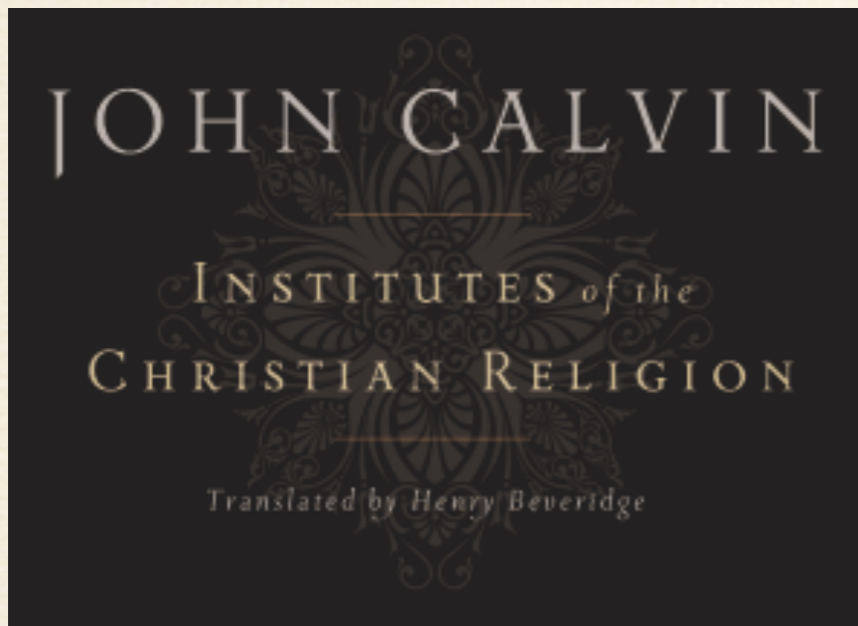
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- ❖ **Calvin in Geneva – 1536-1564 (except 1538-1541)**



# III. CALVIN'S WORK OF CONSOLIDATING THE CHURCH'S REFORM

## ❖ Calvin's *Institutes of the Christian Religion*



**CALVIN:** *“To hand on some elementary teaching by which anyone who has been touched by an interest in religion might be formed to true godliness.”*

# III. CALVIN'S WORK OF CONSOLIDATING THE CHURCH'S REFORM

## ❖ Calvin's Theological Emphasis: The Glory of God

### CALVIN:

- *“There is no knowing that does not begin with knowing God.”*
- *“A dog barks when his master is attacked. I would be a coward if I saw that God's truth is attacked and yet would remain silent.”*
- *“God preordained, for his own glory and the display of His attributes of mercy and justice, a part of the human race, without any merit of their own, to eternal salvation, and another part, in just punishment of their sin, to eternal damnation.”*

# **REFORMATION IS GOD'S WORK**

## **WHAT GOD ACCOMPLISHED:**

### Proper Reformation

- ❖ **In Doctrine**
- ❖ **In Liturgy/Worship**
- ❖ **In Church Government**
- ❖ **In Life**

### Key Elements of Reformation

- ❖ **Pointing out Errors**
- ❖ **Returning to the Past**
- ❖ **Positive Development of the Truth**

*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. [Martin Luther]*