

STUDY PAK 11

THE REFORMATION IN GERMANY

“The Christian is of all men most free because he is not bound by rules – the Christian is of all men most bound because of his inner obligations.” ~Martin Luther~

I. MARTIN LUTHER

- A. As a child Luther had some training from the evangelical Brethren of Common Life.
- B. In 1501 began to study at the University of Erfurt. He was a liberal arts major. He received his baccalaureate in 1503 and a master’s degree in 1505. He was expected to study law but after a dramatic moment in a storm he entered a monastery.
- C. In 1507 Luther was ordained a priest. In 1509 he received a degree in Bible so that he could teach Bible in the universities. In 1510 he made a pilgrimage to Rome. He began to teach Biblical Literature and preach in the city church.
- D. Luther searched desperately for _____. He tried good works, confession, penance and even pain and suffering. He knew that _____.
- E. His study of Habakkuk 2:4 convinced him of salvation by faith and he trusted Christ and began to preach salvation at the church in Wittenberg.

II. INDULGENCES

An indulgence was something that the Roman Catholic Church sold. Each indulgence was supposed to _____.

Right about the time of Luther’s conversion, Pope Leo X was offering the ultimate indulgence – complete freedom from purgatory for yourself or a deceased loved one if you paid enough.

Luther stood publically against this perversion of the plan of salvation.

III. THE DIET OF AUGSBURG

- A. Luther showed up for a religious council. He was determined to stand up for justification by faith.
- B. The Pope declared Luther to be a heretic.
- C. In response Luther stated four principles.
 - 1. The Pope's authority is _____.
 - 2. The church at Rome is not _____.
 - 3. Church councils can _____.
 - 4. Scripture is the _____.
- D. The Pope gave Luther sixty days to respond. The people rallied around Luther. Henry VIII called Luther "the worst wolf of hell."

IV. DIET OF WORMS

- A. Luther accepted a safe conduct pass from Charles V to attend another religious council.
- B. Luther continued to defy the authority of the Catholic Church.

"Unless I am convinced of error by the testimony of Scripture or clear reason, I cannot and will not recant anything for it is neither safe nor honest to act against one's conscience. God help me."

"To councils or popes I cannot defer. " _____
_____"

V. WARTBURG

- A. The Catholic Church prepared to kill Luther.
- B. Luther's friends kidnapped him and hid him in Wartburg Castle for nearly a year. During this time he translated _____
_____ and produced some of his finest religious writings. This has been called Luther's finest hour.
- C. The Roman Catholic Church banned all of his writings.

- D. Luther urged his followers to preach in _____ instead of Latin. He promoted the idea of _____. He is known both as “the Father of the Evangelical Sermon” and “The Father of the Gospel Hymn”. He created the standard German language.
- E. Lutheran churches sprang up all over Germany.

VI. THE LUTHERAN STATE-CHURCH

- A. Luther returned to Wittenberg and began to organize a _____.
- B. He was aided by Phillip Melancton (1497-1560). He was a brilliant organizer and much more political than Luther.
- C. Converted priests began to marry and pastor local congregations.

VII. THE PEASANT’S REVOLT 1524-1525

- A. This was a genuine freedom movement. It stood for:
 1. the right of each church to _____
 2. taxes to be limited _____
 3. end of the feudal system
 4. right to the use of common forests
 5. written law
 6. abolition of the inheritance tax
 7. compensation for government seized land

They offered to withdraw any articles that could be shown to be contrary to the Word of God.
- B. Thomas Munzer
 1. Munzer became the leader of the Peasant’s Revolt. He destroyed forty monasteries and forty castles.
 2. Luther surprised the people by opposing Munzer and the Peasant’s Revolt.
 3. The nobles rallied around Luther and retained control of Germany.

VIII. SACRAMENTARIAN CONTROVERSY

Luther's early alliance with other evangelical groups was broken in a disagreement over the Lord's Supper.

TRANSUBSTANTIATION– Lord's Supper literally becomes the body and blood of Christ.

CONSUBSTANTIATION – Lord's Super spiritually becomes the body and blood of Christ.

EVANGELICAL – Lord's Supper is a memorial of the body and blood of Christ.

Luther broke fellowship with Zwingli and English reformers over this.

IX. POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS 1521-1531

- A. The Turks besieged Vienna, preventing Catholic armies from crushing the Lutherans.
- B. Luther gave us his previous distinction between the secular and spiritual kingdoms.
- C. Civil war broke out throughout Germany.

X. THE PEACE OF AUGSBURG – 1555

The right of each regional prince to pick a religion _____ was recognized.

XI. PEACE OF WESTPHALIA – 1648

_____ existed side by side. Individuals decided which church state to belong to.