

“Winds of Change”

Series: Church History, Part 3 (1200-1600 AD)

Foundations ABF

August 26, 2006 – September 3, 2006

REVIEW TIME LINE

0-400 A.D.: The Church Established

313 Constantine halts persecution, Christianity soon becomes state religion

400-800 A.D. The Church Empowered

540 Roman Papacy established under Pope Gregory

800-1200 A.D. The Church Divided and Corrupted

800 Charlemagne crowned by the Pope, “Holy Roman Empire,” crusades

1200-1600 A.D. Winds of Change

1517 Martin Luther nails 95 Theses to Wittenberg Door, Reformation born

1600-2000 A.D. The Church Reformed

1992 Foundations ABF class begins

NOTE: FROM THIS POINT ON, WE WILL FOCUS MOSTLY ON WESTERN CHRISTIANITY.

- Roman Catholic Church and Protestant Reformation
- These institutions most influenced our heritage, Western Civilization, and the modern world.
- There is a separate history over these last 800 years of the Eastern church. We will not be focusing on that segment of church history.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 1200-1500, LEADING TO BIRTH OF REFORMATION

1. Francis of Assisi Renounces Wealth (1206 AD)

(See ppt of Assisi, Italy) [assisi italy.jpg](#)

- Church had become very powerful and wealthy
- Francis, born to a wealthy family, decided as a young man to reject his wealth, gave away his (parents') money.
- Father protested (basically had him arrested). Local bishop decreed that if he was not going to wisely handle his parents' money, he needed to give it up.
- Francis gave up his inheritance, returned to his father the clothes on his back, left naked into the woods where he lived as a hermit.
- Eventually (after reading the Gospel of Matthew) he felt led to embrace both poverty and preaching as Christ had sent out his followers in Mt. 10:7-10)
- Began monastic order still today followed (Franciscan monks)

- Impact on many even to this day, for example: Rich Mullins (“Brothers of St. Frank”) – gave away his royalties.

2. Pope Innocent III Empowers Papacy to its Greatest Heights 1215 AD

SUMMARIZE kind of power the church was having at this time in history:

- Christianity is official state religion of most of European countries.
- Roman Bishop (Pope) was now considered the head of the church of the west.
- If a king or emperor did something the Pope disagreed with, he'd place the entire country under “interdict,” forbidding the bishops and priests under his authority to administer the sacraments. Since the church taught that taking of the sacraments was an important part of salvation, the church members would be up-in-arms about their inability to take communion. Their salvation was in jeopardy. The vast majority of the people would then lean so heavily on the government that they would be forced to follow the Pope's orders or face rebellion.
- This made the Pope incredibly politically powerful, of course. The most shrewd of these popes in this era of history, and the most powerful, was Pope Innocent III.

SUMMARY OF POPE INNOCENT III:

- Previous popes had called themselves Vicar of Peter. Innocent III called himself “vicar of Christ,” claiming to be Christ's representative on earth, “a mediator between God and man, below God but beyond man.” (Curtis, 81.)
- “Just as God established two great luminaries in the heavens, the greater to preside over days and the lesser to preside over nights, so did he establish two luminaries in the heavens of the universal church... The greater to preside over souls as over days, and the lesser to preside over bodies as over nights. These are pontifical authority and royal power.” (Innocent III, quoted in Gonzalez, 301.)
 - Intervened in political affairs in Germany, France, England, Spain, and many other European countries
- FOURTH LATERAN COUNCIL 1215 AD
 - Adopted many of Innocent's ideas (Curtis, 81)
 - “Transubstantiation” became official doctrine of church
 - Inquisition became duty of bishops: Every bishop should “inquire as to the presence of heresy in his diocese, and destroy it” (Gonzalez, 310). (further laid groundwork for “Spanish Inquisition”)
 - Condemned several reformed groups like Waldensians.
 - Declared there would be no new monastic orders
 - Decreed that every member of the church must make at least annual confessions to a priest
 - Set up schools in every cathedral

- Required all Jews and Moslems living in Christian lands to wear distinctive garments or badges to identify them. Set stage for Jewish ghettos.
- It has been said, “power corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely.”
- This is high point of power for the church, low point of spirituality and theological integrity

3. Thomas Aquinas Completes Work on *Summa Theologica* 1273 AD

- born to an affluent family
- Decided to become a Dominican monk
- Family (mother and siblings – dad had died) tried to dissuade him
 - Kidnapped him and confined him in their family castle for a year
 - Threatened, even tempted him
- Eventually he escaped and finished his novitiate, became a Dominican
- Recognized as “one of greatest theologians/philosophers of all time”
- Was an “Aristotelian” – follower of Aristotle’s teachings. Up to that time, Christian philosophers had been “Platonic” – followers of Plato.
- Developed “Five Ways” to prove existence of God.
 - God is the “unmoved mover”
 - God is the “uncaused cause”
 - God is the “necessary being” (as compared to contingent beings)
 - God is the “perfect standard” (every quality – beauty, goodness, knowledge, etc.) has degrees moving toward perfection. There must be a perfect standard.
 - God is the designer of the universe. (observed natural order of things)

4. John Wycliffe Oversees English Bible Translation c. 1380 AD

- Professor at Oxford University (Oxford, England)
- SEE MAP OF OXFORD, ENGLAND [Oxford England.jpg](#)
- Questioned many of church’s teachings
 - Sale of indulgences
 - Transubstantiation
 - Worship of saints and relics
 - Pope’s authority
- Eventually his views got him stripped of his position at Oxford and his books were burned
- But in hiding he was able to work on his Bible translation
- Wycliffe believed everyone should be able to read Bible in his own language. “Forasmuch as the Bible contains Christ, that is all that is necessary for salvation, it is necessary for all men, not for priests alone.”
- He and his helpers finished the first complete English Bible. (translated from a hand-written copy of the Vulgate)
- Distributed illegally by his followers, the Lollards.
- Excommunicated by the Council of Constance

- 1428 – bones were exhumed, burned and ashes scattered
- Was called by many “The Morning Star of the Reformation.”
- NOTE: comment on Wycliffe Bible Translators, importance of Bible translation.
 - <http://www.wycliffe.org/wbt-usa/trangoal.htm>
 - see chart on ppt

NOTE: All these great Christian thinkers and early reformers (Francis, Thomas Aquinas, John Wycliffe) were Roman Catholic. Sought to reform the church, not break away from it. Died Roman Catholic. But they were Christian first.

LESSON TODAY: The Word of God is Living and Active: Make Sure You Know It!

(Mark 12:24) Jesus replied, "Are you not in error because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God?"

(2 Tim 3:16-17) All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

(Heb 4:12) For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

People have literally shed their blood so that you could have a Bible in your own language. Christians for centuries would have given anything to be able to read God's Holy Word. (Many still today...) Does that not motivate you... ?

(PART B – SEPT 3)

5. (QUICKLY) Johann Gutenberg Produces First Printed Bible 1456 AD
 - Summary of biblical literacy to this point:
 - Few people owned Bibles (often chained to Monastery)
 - Bibles were in Latin (most books were in Latin also); in fact, representatives of Roman Catholic church often forbade the reading of the Bible in “the vernacular.” Unauthorized versions of the Bible had, in their minds, created heretical sects like the Waldenses and Albigenses.
 - Hand copied on papyrus sheets or parchments from animal skins
 - Few people could even read in their own language
 - Most people relied on local priest to tell them church doctrine and explain Bible; many priests were not versed in Latin either!
 - Johann Gutenberg born in Mainz, Germany (1398)

- SEE MAP OF MAINZ, GERMANY [Mainz Germany Home of Gutenberg.jpg](#)

- In 1440s Gutenberg experimented with movable pieces of metal type
- 1456: Gutenberg (or he and his friends) printed 200 copies of Jerome's Vulgate. "Common man could not yet understand God's Word, but it was the first step in a mighty revolution." (Curtis, 90)

6. (QUICKLY) Spanish Inquisition Begins 1478 AD

Pope granted authority to King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella to be the inquisitors in Spain to root out heretics.

Torture and execution of heretics had already been authorized a couple centuries earlier.

All Jews and Muslims expelled from country

Protestants and protestant books squelched

Reason that Spain and many Spanish-speaking countries today are so staunchly Roman Catholic

7. Martin Luther Posts the 95 Theses (1517 AD)

Tell story of Martin Luther becoming monk: in lightning storm he cries out, "St. Anne save me! I'll become a monk!"

In monastery has time to read and study...

- Was extremely convicted by his personal sin, God's holiness, and his "utter inability to earn God's favor."
- Drove the head of abbey crazy with his constant confessions of sin... could never seem to confess enough...
- "My situation was that, although an impeccable monk, I stood before God as a sinner troubled in conscience, and I had no confidence that my merit would assuage him. Night and day I pondered until I saw the connection between the justice of God and the statement, 'the just shall live by his faith.' Then I grasped that the justice of God is that righteousness by which through grace and sheer mercy God justifies us through faith. Thereupon I felt myself to be reborn and to have gone through open doors into paradise. The whole of Scripture took on a new meaning... This passage of Paul became to me a gate to heaven." (Curtis, 97.)
- Began to believe that the Catholic church really had it wrong – not just the indulgences and corruption, but their theology as well.

In the meantime, the common people were gagging on the obvious corruption in the Roman Catholic church, illustrated most dramatically by the sale of indulgences.

Enter to the picture: Johann Tetzel, authorized by the Pope to travel the region of Germany where Luther lived, raising money by the selling of indulgences.

- Albert of Brandenburg had borrowed money to buy the archbishopric of Mainz (that tells you much about state of the church right there)

- Pope agreed to sell indulgences to raise \$\$ as long as half the money raised would go to the construction of St. Peter's Basilica in Rome.
- "As soon as the coin in the coffer rings, the soul from purgatory springs," said Johann Tetzel.
- Tell story of man asking if he could buy indulgence to forgive him for a FUTURE sin. "Yes. No sin is too great." Later that day he and band of thieves robbed the priest of the money he had made. Just illustrates how ridiculous theologically the scam was, and how people saw through it.

When Tetzel was heading to Wittenburg where Luther lived, Luther decided he had to do something about it.

- [Wittenberg and Worms for Martin Luther.jpg](#)
- On Oct 31, 1517, Luther wrote a letter to his superiors listing 95 grievances he had with the church, basically challenging Tetzel to debate these issues.
- Legend here about church door: His most influential follower later wrote that Luther nailed the list to the church door (town bulletin board). May or may not be true.
- The list is referred to as the "95 Theses."

Oct 31, 1517, the date that Luther sent his 95 Theses (or nailed it to the church door), is considered the birth date of the Protestant Reformation. Luther's fiery personality and stubborn will lit a flame to the reformation.

1520 Pope issued a bull (decree) condemning Luther's views. Luther burned it.

1521 Diet (council) of Worms ordered Luther to appear... to recant. Legend has it that Luther said, "Here I stand. I can do no other. God help me. Amen."

- Luther was excommunicated, writings banned. Forced his followers to form their own church, broken from Roman Catholic church. Lutherans.
- Frederick the Wise kidnapped him for his own protection and hid him in his castle, where he worked on theological writings and translation of NT into German.

LESSON HERE: We are saved by grace through faith.

Rom. 3:23-28, 5:1

James 2:14-20, 24, 26

Luther called James "an epistle of straw."

Two polar extremes:

- 1) Do these "works" or "deeds" and prove/earn your salvation (most people in the world believe this)
- 2) Saved by faith alone – faith is "mental ascent." If you believe in Jesus, you're in.

Balance: Lordship Salvation.

- Faith is not just "mental ascent," believing Jesus is who he said he is. (James says even demons believe.)

- Faith as defined by Paul and Jesus is faith enough to follow, to SUBMIT to the lordship of the one in whom you are putting your faith.
- It is FAITH ALONE in Jesus, not any deed or work, that saves you.
- But saving faith is not just mental ascent – it is SURRENDER to Jesus as Lord.
- And when a person surrenders his heart, his behavior HAS to follow. That's why James says, "I'll show you my faith by what I do. I'll show you that I have surrendered to Jesus because only Jesus could transform someone's heart to the point he would care for the least of these..."
- I know that I am saved because not only do I believe in the historical reality that Jesus died on the cross and rose again, but I have "put my faith" in him. Rom 10:9 – the person who believes in his heart that "JESUS IS LORD" will be saved.
 - Doesn't mean I never sin
 - Doesn't mean I've never doubted.
 - Doesn't mean I never disobey my Lord
 - Sometimes I have even chaffed under that authority and had a rebellious heart that wanted to do what I wanted to do.
 - But I have never said in my heart or in my mind or in my voice, "you're not my Lord anymore." And by God's grace I never will. (and some would say it's impossible for me to say that because I've been saved. I don't personally believe that but that's OK if you do!)
 - I trust in the promise of God because I know he has saved me and I am his child. Satan cannot snatch me out of his hand. I have declared myself to be on his team and have surrendered to Christ as Lord. That's Lordship Salvation.

(PART C: September 10)

8. Other Reform Movements of the 1500s.

- Ulrich Zwingli leads Swiss Reformation (1523 AD)
 - Came to Zurich [Zurich Switzerland Zwingli.jpg](#) to become pastor, "announced that instead of following the prescribed texts of the lectionary, he would preach through the Gospel of Matthew. It was almost an act of defiance against the church, though he had no intention at this point of separating from Rome." (Curtis, p. 99).
 - Zurich civil government backed him up against Catholic church, gave him the right to keep preaching.
 - Zwingli and Luther disagreed over Eucharist (Zwingli more symbolic, Luther "consubstantiation")
 - Zwingli's reforms swept the German-speaking section of Switzerland, but eventually took hold in the French-speaking city of Geneva as well, *paving the way for Calvin.*
- Anabaptist Movement Begins (1525 AD)
 - Followers of Zwingli who disagreed with him over infant baptism

- Jan 21, 1525, after city council ordered a halt to the disputing, this fringe group met, baptized one another, called by their detractors “Anabaptists” – “rebaptizers.”
 - First to champion the idea of “separation of church and state.”
 - Too radical for many, had some bizarre views, often persecuted by protestants and Catholics
 - Best-known Anabaptist was Menno Simmons (1496-1559)
 - Mennonites and Brethren churches trace roots to this group.
- Church of England Established by Henry VIII (1534 AD)
 - An “anti-Catholic” mood in England that some would trace all the way back to the Celtic movement of the 3rd and 4th centuries. (remember St. Patrick?)
 - Leaders were calling for reform.
 - King Henry VIII was not a spiritual man, although (ironically) Pope had declared him “Defender of the Faith” because Henry had attacked views of Luther on the sacraments.
 - The “straw that broke the camel’s back”:
 - Wanted to divorce his wife (Catherine of Aragon) and marry Anne Boleyn
 - Pope wouldn’t grant him a divorce.
 - Henry appointed Thomas Cranmer archbishop of Canterbury [Canterbury England.jpg](#) (Thomas was good man, later did many great things for the church of England, but was willing at this point to grant Henry the divorce he wanted)
 - 1534 English Parliament passed the Act of Supremacy, declaring “the king’s highness to be supreme head of the Church of England.”
 - No intent to break theologically, only to break from papal authority
 - Formation of Church of England or Anglican Church – in America “Episcopal Church.”
- John Calvin Furthers Reform in Switzerland (1536 AD)
 - Respected theologian from France who was supporting the reformation
 - Was invited by a reformer in Geneva [Geneva Switzerland.jpg](#) to come to help the reform there.
 - Reform and revival was so successful and powerful that reformers led by Calvin attempted to set up a “theocracy” in Geneva.
 - It was successful at first then led to a lot of problems, rebellion, judging and executing of heretics, etc.
 - Footnote: “forced” theocracy doesn’t work; voluntary theocracy? Monasteries, communes, etc. have been somewhat successful, but all governmental systems are tainted by sin nature of man.
 - Calvin is most known for his heavy emphasis on sovereignty of God
 - Followers developed “TULIP” doctrine.

- Out of this reformation in Switzerland (Zwingli and Calvin) comes Reformed Theology (Presbyterians trace their heritage here, many Baptists and others from various denominations would trace their “theological heritage” to this point)
 - NOTE: As we mentioned earlier, it was Augustine, not Calvin, who first popularized these teachings.
 - Catholic Counter-Reformation (1540s AD)
 - Jesuits (Ignatius of Loyola was founder; Francis Xavier spread Jesuit teachings around world)
 - Council of Trent (1545-1563 AD) [Trento Italy Council of Trent.jpg](#)
 - Led by Pope Paul III, who also approved Jesuits.
 - Indulgences abolished
 - Seven sacraments, not two, reaffirmed
 - Transubstantiation reaffirmed
 - Latin mass reaffirmed
 - Church alone could adequately interpret Scripture, discouraged Scriptures in common language
 - Reformed the worst indiscretions of the church, but not the theology. Really served to FURTHER SEPARATE ROMAN CATHOLIC AND PROTESTANT CHURCHES.
 - John Knox Leads Scottish Reformation (1559 AD) [Scotland.jpg](#)
 - Follower of Calvin
 - Returned to Scotland in 1559, much political upheaval, protestants overthrew the Catholic queen's forces, wanted to break away...
 - Parliament “stated that the pope had no jurisdiction in Scotland and forbade the mass.” (Curtis, 110).
 - Knox's *Book of Discipline* replaced Catholicism, formed the beginnings of the Presbyterian Church
9. An Underappreciated Reformer: William Tyndale, Martyred 1535 AD
- Explain difference between Tyndale (1500s) and Wycliffe (1300s)
 - Both taught at Oxford [Oxford England.jpg](#)
 - John Wycliffe was first to translate Bible into English (from Latin, not a great translation, but first)
 - 200 yrs later, after printing press, Tyndale comes along, has Greek and Hebrew available to him ... makes English Bible popular
 - First to translate from original Greek and Hebrew into English
 - His wording was so literary, artistic, beautiful that it greatly influenced the English language
 - Comparatively little change in English language over last 500 yrs.
 - King James Bible of 1611 is 80% plus from Tyndale.
 - “Without Tyndale there is no Shakespeare.”

- branded a heretic for translating Bible into the common language, burned at stake
- SHOW VIDEO FROM “INK AND BLOOD” (About 10 m in long)

CONCLUSION: HEB. 4:12

How can you not hunger for this Word for which people have given their lives?