**Martin Luther** – From Struggle to Revelation

1. Life of Martin Luther
   1. Born in 1483
   2. As a child and young man, Luther was privileged to attend school
   3. Around twenty-two years of age, a thunderstorm changed the direction of Luther’s life
   4. He became an Augustinian monk and embarked on a life of strictness and sincerity: “I kept the rule so strictly, that I may say that if ever a monk got to heaven by his sheer monkery, it was I.”
   5. As Luther contemplated his own sinfulness in the light of God’s justice, he was overcome with guilt, fear, and dread. “Who am I that I should lift up mine eyes or raise my hands to the divine majesty? For I am dust and ashes and full of sin, and I am speaking to the living, eternal and true God.”
   6. His life became a great struggle, full of turmoil and unrest; although Luther tried to live an acceptable life before God with the utmost of his power, he felt like it was insufficient and continually felt the condemnation of God over him.
   7. Under the orders of his superior, Luther became a professor at the University of Wittenberg, and there he studied and lectured on the Scriptures
   8. It was as Luther studied the Scriptures and sought to understand them that he came to see the Gospel in a new light
      1. He realized that forgiveness of sins and justification before God can only occur when one places his faith in Jesus Christ; they are not earned by special works that win God’s favor
      2. Concerning Romans 1:17: “Night and day I pondered until I saw the connection between the justice of God and the statement that ‘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.”
   9. These ideas, which were radically different from the prevalent view of the church at that time, at last brought peace and rest to Luther’s heart and mind
   10. At the same time, Luther also was noticing other problems with the status quo in the church. And worst of all, was the shameless sale of indulgences.
   11. Tetzel, especially, with his outrageous claims, provoked Luther into action
   12. Ninety-Five Theses-- October 31, 1517—Luther nails the Ninety-Five Theses to the Wittenberg church door—this event is often associated with the beginning of the Protestant Reformation