

October 31, 2017 is a very important date! Yes, it's Halloween. It's also the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation (1517). This was when Martin Luther posted 95 theses on the Castle Church door in Wittenburg. He sought to dispute, discuss false doctrine in the Catholic church. Instead, he was dismissed and even risked death!

Today, we begin a new life lesson series, "SOLA". From the Reformation, five SOLA (alone/only) doctrinal statements emerged: *SOLA Scriptura*, *SOLA Fide*, *SOLA Gratia*, *SOLUS Christus*, *SOLI Deo Gloria*. 500 years later, it's impossible to imagine our world without the influence of the Reformation! These teachings are still relevant for us!

SOLA Scriptura - Scripture Alone - Charles Spurgeon said, "It all began when (Martin) Luther found a discarded Bible in his monastery." Luther said, "The Bible is alive, it speaks to me; it has feet, it runs after me; it has hands, it lays hold of me." A journey through John 20:31, Hebrews 4:12, Ephesians 6:17, 2 Peter 1:20-21, and 2 Tim. 3:14-17 helps us to understand Luther's strong view on the Bible!

NOT Church Traditions or Leaders. The Catholic church had placed tradition, papal rulings, and decision of councils into equal authority with the Bible. Paul, in Colossians 2:8 (ESV) warned, “See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.” Luther stood on Scripture alone!

Life application? 1. Know “what God says, Scripture says.” May your conscience be held captive by it! 2. Believe the Bible is THE source and authority for life and faith. Scripture ALONE. 3. Give thanks the Word of God is in your language. The *Luther Bible*. 4. Search the Scriptures and see the glory of God revealed in the face of Jesus Christ!

Let’s pray. Lord, Isaiah 40:8 (ESV) says, “The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.” Lord, at the Diet of Worms, when Martin Luther was asked to recant his “protests”, he said, “Here I stand. I can do no other, so help me God.” Lord, help us read, study, meditate, celebrate, trust, and obey Your Word!