

Reformation & Restoration

(Jeremiah 6:16)

- Introduction:
1. On October 31, 1517, 500 years ago this week, Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses to the door of the Wittenberg Castle church in Wittenberg, Germany.
 2. His theses expressed his opposition to the selling of indulgences and the abuse of papal power.
 3. This action marked the beginning of what we know today as the "Reformation Movement."
 4. Luther was tried for his statements, and here was his defense – "Unless I am convinced by the testimony of the Scriptures or by clear reason (for I do not trust either in the pope or in councils alone, since it is well known that they have often erred and contradicted themselves), I am bound by the Scriptures I have quoted and my conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and will not recant anything, since it is neither safe nor right to go against conscience. May God help me. Amen"
 5. He was convicted as a heretic and was considered an outlaw. Any who killed him, would receive no penalty for doing so.
 6. We owe much to Luther, but Luther did not go far enough.
 7. In this lesson, we want to consider the difference in "reformation" and "restoration."

I. Examples of Reform

- A. Jehoshaphat (1 Kings 22:41-43).
- B. Jehosash (2 Kings 12:1-3).
- C. Amaziah (2 Kings 14:1-4).
- D. Azariah (2 Kings 15:1-4).
- E. Jotham (2 Kings 15:32-35).

II. Examples of Restoration

- A. Hezekiah (2 Kings 18:1-5).
- B. Josiah (2 Kings 22-23).

III. Are We Reformers or Restorers?

- A. We may have the proper use of religious titles (Mt. 23:9); yet are we worldly (1 John 2:15-17)?
- B. We may have the proper mode of baptism (Romans 6:3); yet do we evangelize (Matthew 28:19-20)?
- C. We may have the proper music in the church (Ephesians 5:19); yet do we gossip (2 Corinthians 12:20)?
- D. We may observe the Lord's Supper (Acts 20:7); yet do we judge our brother (Matthew 7:1)?

- Conclusion:
1. Let's not settle for reformation.
 2. Let's restore the ancient order.
 3. (Jeremiah 6:16).