



# EDITORIAL

The 500th anniversary of the Reformation calls for thanksgiving and praise to God for that great awakening which He has wrought through Martin Luther and other Reformers. Protestant Christians should never forget that great event in the history of the church. After Martin Luther posted his Ninety-Five Theses in 1517, an unstoppable movement broke out throughout all Europe. Its ripples quickly moved across the world, and its influence continues to be felt till this day. Luther's passionate witness for the Gospel of Christ and the resultant Reformation movement was one of the greatest effusions of the Holy Spirit in human history. We must give thanks for the Reformers' rediscovery and proclamation of the biblical truths of salvation in Christ Jesus.

Our reason for looking to that past event of the Reformation is also that we may learn great lessons from it and apply them. We must tell our generation and our posterity of the great exploits of the Reformation – how the Reformers challenged and stripped away the authority of the Roman Pope and Church tradition that veiled the biblical truths and how they reinstated the authority of Holy Scripture. We must also recount how they hacked away idolatries that had encrusted the Gospel of grace and how they proclaimed the doctrine of justification by faith in Christ alone. We must not fail to be reminded of the great price that the Reformers had paid to reform the church's worship and ministry for the glory of God.

Dear Christian readers, do not fail to take stock of our Protestant heritage of 500 years. What are we really celebrating? Many Protestants of our time who celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation are, tragically, engaged in ecumenical compromises with Rome. To be sure, Luther, Zwingli and Calvin would have nothing to do with these modern evangelicals and charismatics, who think there is no real reason for biblical separation from Roman Catholicism. As we reflect on the work of the Reformers, this milestone commemoration must not be a mere exercise in hagiography, but rather a true evaluation of our own devotion to the truths of Christ and His Word. "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us" (Hebrews 12:1).

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