

Footstep #17 The Most Wanted Man in Europe - May 1518

As Luther defended his arguments he received both praise and criticism. The older priests were conservative and many were cautious of his new insights into the Scriptures and criticism of the Roman Church. However, the younger priests recognized his command of the scriptures and the validity of his arguments – based on reason and supported by the evidence of God’s Word. These views reflected enlightened scholarship.

“I have great hope that as Christ when rejected by the Jews, went over to the Gentiles, so this true theology, rejected by opinionated old men, will pass over to the younger generation.”

(Roland Bainton. *Here I Stand*, p. 66)

“Luther has a marvelous graciousness in response and unconquerable patience in listening. In argument he shows the acumen of the apostle Paul. That which Erasmus insinuates he speaks openly and freely.” (Roland Bainton. *Here I Stand*, p. 66)



Heidelberg church.

At the conclusion of the Heidelberg Disputation, Luther submitted his Explanations of his Ninety-five Theses to Pope Leo X. He expected a favorable decision in which Pope Leo X would reform the situation of the letters of indulgence. Luther wrote to his Augustinian mentor, Staupitz:

“Christ will know whether my words are his or my own. Without Christ’s command not even a pope can speak, nor is the heart of a king in his own hand. This Christ is the judge whose verdict I am awaiting through the Roman see.” (Scott H. Hendrix. *Luther and the Papacy*. p. 41)

On August 5, Emperor Maximilian will formally denounce Luther as a heretic making him the “Most Wanted” man in Europe!