

Footstep #3 The Inquiry of a Renaissance Scholar - 1512

“I greatly longed to understand Paul’s Epistle to the Romans and nothing stood in the way but that one expression, ‘the justice of God,’ because I took it to mean that justice whereby God is just and deals justly in punishing the unjust. My situation was that, although an impeccable monk, I stood before God as a sinner troubled in conscience, and I had no confidence that my merit would assuage him. Therefore, I did not love a just and angry God, but rather hated and murmured against him. Yet I clung to the dear Paul and had a great yearning to know what he meant.” (Roland Bainton, *Here I Stand*, p. 49) (1512)

As a Professor of Theology at the University of Wittenberg, Luther’s reading of St. Paul’s letter to the Romans led him to an understanding of God’s unfathomable love for man. As an educated Renaissance student and teacher, Luther pursued inquiry leading to the truth.



University of Wittenberg in Germany

1512 is the year that Copernicus announced his discovery that the earth and other planets revolve around the sun. This teaching challenged the literal interpretation of the description of the battle at Gilgal with the Amorites in Judges 10:13: *“So the sun stood still, and the moon stopped, till the nation avenged itself on its enemies.*