

Footstep #31 - Decision to Return to Wittenberg – March 6, 1522

“I would have you know that I come to Wittenberg with a higher protection than that of Your Grace. I do not ask you to protect me, I will protect you more than you will protect me. If I thought you would protect me, I would not come. This is not a case for the sword but for God, and since you are weak in the faith you cannot protect me. ...As a prince you should obey the emperor and offer no resistance. No one should use force except the one who is ordained to use it. Otherwise there is rebellion against God.” (Roland Bainton. *Here I Stand*. p. 164)

“Luther’s understanding of the Christian faith was revolutionized by his direct exposure to Scripture. It was as he studied Psalms, Galatians, and above all Romans, that he came to see that the God of the Bible was different from the God of the medieval church. And so Luther was faced with a hard choice: either the medieval church was right, or Scripture was right. But not both. Luther took his stand on the conviction that Scripture was right, which meant that the medieval church was wrong. Which meant, in turn, that if Luther was to be faithful to Scripture, and to the church as it ought to be, he must speak his dissatisfaction with the church as it was, and call upon it to reform. In these terms Luther was a very good listener, for he listened to the voice of Scripture, and therein heard to gospel.” (Robert Brown. *The Spirit of Protestantism*. p. 17)



Luther’s Bible – He translated it into the local language of the German people while he was in hiding at the Wartburg castle.