

Footstep # 9 – Luther’s Prayer of Desperation on the Morning of October 31, 1517

“God on high, is this the way the souls entrusted to your care are prepared for death? It is high time that you looked into this matter. I can be silent no longer. In fear and trembling we must work out our salvation. Indulgences can offer no security but only the remission of eternal canonical penalties. Works of piety and charity are infinitely better than indulgences but of the gospel, and what a horror it is, what a peril to a bishop, if he never gives the gospel to his people except along with the racket of indulgences. In the instructions of Your Paternity to the indulgence sellers, issued without your knowledge and consent, indulgences are called the inestimable gift of God for the reconciliation of man to God and the emptying of purgatory. Contrition is declared to be unnecessary. What shall I do, Illustrious Prince, if not to beseech Your Paternity through Jesus Christ our Lord to suppress utterly these instructions lest someone arise to confute this book and to bring Your Illustrious sublimity into obloquy, which I dread but fear if something is not done speedily? May Your Paternity accept my faithful admonition. I too, am one of your sheep. May the Lord Jesus guard you forever. Amen.

(October 31, 1517- Roland Bainton, *Here I Stand*, p. 64, 65)



Luther Posting the 95 Theses (From the 2009 movie)

"October 31, 1517, was meant by Luther to mark the starting point in rectifying an obvious abuse which did damage to the Church. Instead, this date marks the beginning of his break with Rome. 'He has touched the crown of the pope and the stomachs of the monks.' Erasmus' evaluation of the importance of Luther's action proved correct. The financial interests of the papacy were attacked, and the echo which Luther's action aroused among the people imperiled the whole success of the Indulgence." (George L. Mosse. *The Reformation*, p. 26)