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This LightUnit goes with pages 335-380 of
Church History – Resurrection to Reformation

Section 2

The Magisterial Reformation

LESSON 6

Martin Luther's Ninety-Five Theses

Key Concepts

Martin Luther was a priest, Augustinian monk, and university teacher who struggled to find peace with God through self-denial and good works.

Eventually he realized that salvation depends upon faith rather than works.

On October 31, 1517, he posted ninety-five doctrinal theses on the church door in Wittenberg for public debate. This act is considered the beginning of the Magisterial Reformation.

Term

St. Anne – According to Catholic tradition, she was the mother of the Virgin Mary, and thus the grandmother of Jesus.

Ninety-Five Theses – A list of theological statements Martin Luther posted for public debate on the church door at Wittenburg. Many of them addressed the practice of granting indulgences.



In Chapter 29, “The Magisterial Reformation,” read from page 349 to the end of page 352.

Do these exercises.

1. Most historians consider that the Magisterial or _____ Reformation began when _____ nailed his Ninety-Five _____ to the door of the church at the town of _____ on October 31, _____.
2. Some historians think that rather than nailing his theses to the church door, he may have actually _____ them to many scholars as an invitation to debate.
3. The Protestant Reformation can properly be called the *Magisterial* Reformation because reformers such as Luther, Calvin, and Zwingli worked through and sought the backing of _____ authorities called magistrates for their reform efforts.
4. Saint Anne, according to Catholic tradition, was the mother of _____ and grandmother of _____.
5. As he cried out to St. Anne for safety when caught in a _____, Luther vowed that he would become a _____. Soon thereafter, he joined an _____ monastery.
6. How was Luther influenced by his visit to Rome in 1511?

7. After he became a monk, how did Luther try to find peace and the assurance of salvation?

8. Luther's spiritual breakthrough/conversion experience came as he studied Romans 1:17 and realized that salvation comes through _____ rather than by working for it.
9. The money raised by Johan Tetzel's sale of indulgences was being used to help build
_____.
10. What promise did Tetzel give to buyers of his indulgences regarding their loved ones who had died?

Write *true* if the sentence is *true* and *false* if the sentence is *false*.

11. _____ In Luther's day, the Holy Roman Emperor exercised complete control over the lands under his jurisdiction.
12. _____ Martin Luther, Ulrich Zwingli, and John Calvin all lived and worked within the borders of the Holy Roman Empire.
13. _____ Luther was overseer of numerous other Augustinian monasteries besides the one he lived in.
14. _____ Johan Tetzel had the permission of Wittenberg's civil authorities to sell indulgences inside the city.

Circle the letters of the correct answers.

15. Five statements that are true of Martin Luther and his work.
 - a. He grew up in Saxony, a region "Christianized" by Charlemagne many years earlier.
 - b. Finding the study of law to be quite difficult, he gave up his pursuit of a law degree.
 - c. Early in his career, he determined to become a reformer of the church.
 - d. After getting his law degree, he practiced law for the rest of his life.
 - e. Following his father's wishes, Luther studied to become a lawyer.
 - f. He became a popular Augustinian monk and priest.
 - g. His wealth enabled him to devote his life to writing.
 - h. He suffered serious injury fighting in a battle.
 - i. He taught at the University of Wittenberg.
 - j. He earned degrees in theology.
 - k. He died young.

Lesson 6

16. Six statements that are true about Luther's Ninety-Five Theses.
- They attracted little attention.
 - They were a call to a scholarly debate.
 - Luther hoped that they would spark a revolution.
 - Luther strongly opposed the doctrine of indulgences.
 - The church door was commonly used as a bulletin board.
 - The subject of many of the theses dealt with the sale of indulgences.
 - Luther was threatened with arrest immediately after posting his theses.
 - They included strong criticisms of the pope and many church practices.
 - They were translated, printed, and spread across Europe in a few months.
 - People were shocked to see articles for public debate posted on the church door.
 - Some of the theses expressed opposition to the way Tetzel marketed indulgences.
 - In his many writings, Luther never wrote about his posting the theses on a church door.

Review

Underline the correct choice.

17. Although Erasmus strongly criticized the Roman Catholic Church, he believed people should **stay in it and work for reform, start new churches**.
18. Luther and Zwingli **were greatly influenced by, did not know about** the work of Erasmus.
19. The printing press and paper made it **easier, harder** for the church to control what people read.
20. A **handwritten, critical text** of Scripture is compiled by carefully comparing differences between manuscripts to try to determine what the original said.
21. Erasmus's criticism of the church **resulted in, did not result in** his arrest and imprisonment.

Write the letter of the correct answer. Use each letter once.

- | | |
|---|---------------------------|
| 22. _____ The Froschauer Bible was printed in this language. | a. Nonconformists |
| 23. _____ Bible was first published in this language in 1530. | b. Renaissance |
| 24. _____ Stimulated interest in the Greek New Testament. | c. Erasmus |
| 25. _____ Distributed hand-copied portions of Wycliffe's translation. | d. German |
| 26. _____ Produced a critical text edition of the Greek New Testament. | e. Czech |
| 27. _____ Tyndale was martyred because of his work on this translation. | f. French |
| 28. _____ Smuggled English New Testaments into England from Europe. | g. English |
| 29. _____ Distributed hand-written portions of Scripture in the vernacular. | h. Lollards |
| 30. _____ Earlier legal sources of Scripture portions in the vernacular. | i. William Tyndale |
| 31. _____ The first printed Bible in a European vernacular. | j. Psalters, prayer books |

Key Concepts

Martin Luther defended himself against charges of heresy before the Diet of Worms by claiming that his beliefs stood solely on the testimony of Scripture.

With the support of German princes, Luther wrote, translated the New Testament into German, and began a new church.

He concluded, however, that all churches need state support.

He opposed nonconformists and urged rulers to quell peasant uprisings.

Terms

Diet of Worms – A diet is an official gathering of German nobles; this one was held at the city of Worms to consider charges of heresy against Martin Luther.

Augsburg Confession – Published in 1530, this document outlined Lutheran beliefs and condemned some Catholic and Anabaptist teachings.

Liturgy – Set of prescribed formal prayers, readings, and responses used during liturgical worship services.



In Chapter 29, “The Magisterial Reformation,” read pages 353-356. Stop at the bold heading near the top of page 356.

Answer the questions.

1. What was the purpose of the Diet of Worms?

2. What promise did Emperor Charles V make to Luther?

3. On Luther's return trip home to Wittenberg after the Diet of Worms, he was

_____ by men sent by _____ and taken to the
_____ castle where he lived in hiding for ten months using the name
_____.

4. During his months of hiding, Luther worked on a German translation of the _____.

5. a. Why did many people in nonconformist groups support Luther early in his career?

- b. Why did they later abandon him? _____

6. What was Luther's belief regarding correct Biblical doctrine?

7. What was Luther's belief regarding obedience to New Testament commands?

8. Luther had little respect for the New Testament Book of James because it speaks of the importance of _____ as part of salvation.
9. What advice did Luther give the German nobles on how to treat peasant uprisings?

10. Which of the churches that came out of Catholicism during the Reformation made the fewest changes? _____

Write *true* if the sentence is *true* and *false* if the sentence is *false*.

11. _____ The town council of Wittenberg invited Luther to return home from the Wartburg castle.
12. _____ Luther primarily opposed the Catholic Church because of the lavish and immoral conduct of its priests, cardinals, and pope.
13. _____ In his later years, Luther lost power, influence, and respect.
14. _____ In his writings, Luther urged Christians to respect the Jewish people.
15. _____ As Luther aged and his health failed, he became more irritable and his language became increasingly harsh and abusive.

Write the letter(s) of the correct answer(s).

16. _____ Which statement is not true of Martin Luther between 1517 and 1521?
 - a. The pope excommunicated him.
 - b. Luther wrote books on the subject of Reformation.
 - c. Luther carefully avoided debating with Catholic theologians.
 - d. Luther publicly burned the pope's certificate (bull) of excommunication.
17. _____ _____ At the Diet of Worms, Luther said that he would recant of a belief only if
 - a. the pope himself demanded it.
 - b. he were convinced of error from Scripture.
 - c. a formal church council found him to be in error.
 - d. he could be shown by clear reasoning to be in error.

18. _____ One reason the German princes at the Diet of Worms did not obey the pope's wishes to condemn Luther without giving him an opportunity to speak was that they
- a. were not Catholic.
 - b. mostly agreed with Luther.
 - c. wanted the Reformation to succeed.
 - d. resented the pope telling them what to do.
19. _____ When it came to forming a church of his own, Luther came to the conclusion that
- a. all churches need the support of state authorities.
 - b. all new churches should seek the support of the pope.
 - c. only true believers should be allowed to be part of the church.
 - d. obedience is far more important than holding to right doctrines.
20. _____ Luther considered starting a "church within a church," in which
- a. all baptized people would be allowed into membership.
 - b. all membership would be approved by the civil authorities.
 - c. the true believers would shun public meetings of the larger church.
 - d. true believers would meet privately while holding membership in the larger church.

Match the descriptions to the items. Two will not be used.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| 21. _____ Charles V | a. Outlined Lutheran beliefs. |
| 22. _____ Knight George | b. Found Luther guilty of heresy. |
| 23. _____ Frederick the Wise | c. Name Luther used while in hiding. |
| 24. _____ Augsburg Confession | d. Latin version of the New Testament. |
| 25. _____ Diet of Worms | e. Prayers, readings, etc., used in worship. |
| 26. _____ Liturgy | f. Kidnapped Luther for safekeeping in a castle. |
| | g. Heard charges of heresy against Martin Luther. |
| | h. Catholic emperor who summoned Luther to Worms. |

Review

Underline the correct choice.

27. Luther was shocked by the moral decay he witnessed on his visit to **Rome in 1511, Worms in 1521.**
28. In Luther's time, church doors were **commonly used as public bulletin boards, sacred and not to be defaced.**
29. Although he started out studying to be a **physician, lawyer**, Luther went on to study theology and became a **Benedictine, an Augustinian** monk and a priest instead.
30. As a monk, Luther **found, could not find** peace with God through his practice of self-denial and dedication to good works.

Lesson 7

31. Luther became a respected monk
but never became overseer of a monastery, who oversaw a number of monasteries.
32. A breakthrough in Luther's life occurred when he learned from Romans 1:17 that
faith is the key to finding salvation, monastic life is unscriptural.

Match each item to its description. Use each letter once.

- | | |
|---|----------------------------|
| 33. _____ Supported by the civil authorities | a. St. Anne |
| 34. _____ Offered as a call to scholarly debate. | b. Wittenberg |
| 35. _____ Offered less time of suffering in purgatory. | c. indulgences |
| 36. _____ The three major magisterial reformers lived here. | d. Johan Tetzel |
| 37. _____ Provided leadership in the Magisterial Reformation. | e. Martin Luther |
| 38. _____ Respected as a priest, monk, and university professor. | f. Ninety-Five Theses |
| 39. _____ Luther's residence, where he posted his famous theses. | g. Holy Roman Empire |
| 40. _____ Sold indulgences to raise money for St. Peter's Basilica. | h. Luther, Zwingli, Calvin |
| 41. _____ Who Luther cried out to when caught in a severe thunderstorm. | i. Magisterial Reformation |