

THE PROTESTANT REFORMATION Part I

Reference: miscellaneous Scripture
Pastor Larry Webb

On October 31, 1517, **Martin Luther** nailed his ninety-five theses to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany. In that document, he protested against some of the more unbiblical practices of the Catholic Church; and in particular, it opposed the church's practice of _____.

Most historians consider that ninety-five theses made public on that date to be the formal start of the Protestant Reformation.

The word "catholic" means "_____" so during the first two centuries AD, the organizational Christian church was catholic. In _____ AD, **Roman Emperor Constantine** supposedly converted to Christianity, and that radically changed his attitude toward Christians. He then issued the Edict of _____ (Tolerance) in 313 AD, and that decree decriminalized Christian worship and granted religious freedom throughout the Roman Empire.

Roman Emperor Theodosius II authorized a compilation of Roman laws called the **Theodosian Code**. That code was created to reorganize the complicated group of imperial laws that had been promulgated since the reign of Emperor Constantine. It was introduced on February 15, 438 AD.

In that document, Theodosius called those members of the church "_____ Christians." That code also included a law that made Christianity the official religion of the Roman Empire and marked the formal recognition of Roman Catholicism. The Roman Catholic Church continued to evolve through the centuries until the middle ages, and the Protestant reformers challenged the church's teachings.

There are five Latin phrases that summarized the Reformers basic theological arguments against the Catholic Church. Each phrase starts with the Latin word "sola" and in the English language sola means "_____ or _____"

- Sola _____
This phrase means salvation is through *Scripture alone*

The (Catholic) **Council of Trent** (1545-1563) decreed that both Scripture and church _____ constituted the actual word of God. During the **second Vatican Council** (1962-1965), the Catholic Church reaffirmed that doctrine.

In the volume published in 1994, entitled "The Catechism of the Catholic Church" (page 82), it reads that the Catholic Church "*does not derive her certainty about all revealed truths from the Holy Scriptures alone. Both Scripture and _____ must be accepted and honored with equal sentiments of devotion and reverence.*"

The principle argument Catholicism uses to teach that Scripture and inherited tradition are both the binding and authoritative word of God is that the Bible _____ doesn't seem to teach the Scriptures alone are authoritative.

The Protestant rebuttal is that Sola Scriptura is not stated in an _____ sense, but it is stated in an _____ sense.

Reference: **II Timothy 3:15-17**

verse fifteen, "*and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, **which** (meaning the Scriptures) **are able to make you wise for salvation** through faith which is in Christ Jesus.*"
verse sixteen, "***All Scripture** is given by inspiration of God, and **is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.***"
verse seventeen, "*that the man of God may be complete, **thoroughly equipped for every good work.***"

Reference: **Matthew 15:1-9** (see screen)

Reference: **Acts 17:10, 11** (see screen)