

STAND

"But Peter said to him, 'Your money perish with you, because you thought that the gift of God could be purchased with money!'" ACTS 8:20

"The grace of God and of the holy father is at your gates," the messenger cried as he walked through the streets announcing the arrival of Tetzel, a monk from the church of Rome. "The grace of God and of the holy father is at your gates!"

Heinrich and his mother stepped out their front door and joined the gathering crowd that reverently followed Tetzel as if he were God Himself.

The common people in Heinrich's day were poor, and because they couldn't read they relied on the priests of the church to teach them about God.

Standing behind the podium before the people of Juterbog, Germany, Tetzel began. "By this guarantee of pardon I hold in my hand, you will receive forgiveness of all the sins you will hereafter desire to commit. Repentance will not even be necessary if you purchase one of these."

Tetzel continued with an increasing urgency. "This guarantee of pardon has power to save not only the living, but also the dead. As soon as your money drops to

the bottom of my money chest, the one for whom you have purchased this pardon will be released from the pain of purgatory and make their way to heaven."

Heinrich was amazed! "Mom, did you hear that?" He whispered. "Can we please buy one for Father?"

"Son, we are so poor. I don't know how we can afford it. We have very little money left from what your father earned before he died," Heinrich's mom whispered back.

Many people like Heinrich and his mother were forced into deeper poverty by a desire to save themselves and their loved ones.

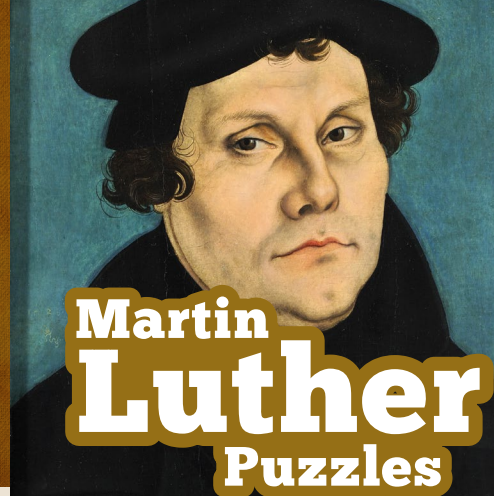
There were many educated men in the church who were outraged by the selling of Tetzel's pardons or indulgences. One of them was a monk named Martin Luther.

Although there were others who were against these false teachings, Martin Luther took it upon himself to speak out against the selling of indulgences.

On October 31, 1517, Martin Luther nailed a list of 95 things to the Castle Church door in Wittenburg, Germany.



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Solve the puzzles in the same way you would numeric Sudoku. Each of the letters M, A, R, T, I, N (in the top puzzle) and L, U, T, H, E, R (in the bottom puzzle) are found once in every row, column, and 2 x 3 box.

N					R
		R	I		
	N	M	R	T	
	R	T	N	I	
		I	A		
T					I

R					T
		T	E		
	R	L	T	H	
	T	H	R	E	
		E	U		
H					E



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These 95 things were biblical points that disagreed with the teachings of his church.

Even though he was kicked out of the church as a result of his protest, Luther's boldness began what is now referred to as the Protestant Reformation.

Because of Luther's desire that everyone understand what the Bible said, he translated the Bible into German, the language of the people.

When Luther first came across a Bible in a university library, he spent every spare moment to read from its pages. How much time do you spend reading your Bible? How well do you know what it says?

This year we celebrate 500 years since the beginning of the Protestant Reformation.

Join the celebration by reading the Bible made available to us by the bravery of those like Martin Luther.

Spend time every day reading the Bible so you can know Jesus as your closest Friend, and God's plan and purpose for your life and future. 🐾

