“The Fruit of the Reformation!”

Genesis 15:6
Luther’s Protest: “95 Theses”
October 31, 1517

* Sell indulgences to absolve one’s sin
* Luther declared the supremacy of the Bible as the foundation for faith
  “Scriptura sola”
* The just shall live by faith “Fide sola” **Focus**: Romans 1:17 and 3:28
Indulgences? For Salvation?
Assurance of salvation based on donations to causes of the church.

* Some “secure salvation” by what we do (including water baptism; infant baptism; baptism for the dead)
* Back in Paul’s day: circumcision Gal. 5:2-4

* Others, by what we *don’t* do Luke 18
The Refocus on Personal Faith Resulting in Salvation

“Abram believed the LORD, and He credited it to him as righteousness” (NIV). Salvation is based on faith in Jesus’ work: the cross and resurrection! (1 Cor. 15:3).

Not works! Romans 3:20, Ephesians 2:8-9
1. Salvation By Grace Through Faith

“The just shall live by faith!” “Fide sola!”

“For it is by grace you have been saved through faith, and this not from yourselves; it is the gift of God, not by works, so that no one can boast”

(Ephesians 2:8-9)

Faith always has an object = Jesus!
Abraham’s Faith Established; Yet Put To The Test!

Genesis 12:4 and vs. 8

Genesis 16:2 – Abe listens to Sarai instead

Genesis 22:2 – the unthinkable! The key to promises fulfilled on the altar!

Genesis 22:14 – “the Lord will provide”
2. Foundation of Faith: 
The Bible That Points to Jesus!

"You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify about Me" (John 5:39)

Romans 10:17 – “Faith comes by hearing”

Validation: your zeal for Bible study
Personal; S.S.; Study groups
Priesthood of Luther’s Day
And Their Critical Role

Under the authority of the Pope/Rome Required to speak forgiveness of sins via Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation:

“in which the faithful obtain absolution for the sins committed against God...”
Church catechism "Christ instituted the sacrament of Penance for all sinful members of his Church: ...who, since Baptism, have fallen into grave sin, and have thus lost their baptismal grace...It is to them that the sacrament of Penance offers a new possibility to convert and to recover the grace of justification. The Fathers of the Church present this sacrament as 'the second plank [of salvation] after the shipwreck which is the loss of grace'."
3. ...A Priesthood of Believers

From Acts 2:38,41 to October 31, 1517

“For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus” (1 Tim. 2:5).

“you are ...being built...to be a holy priesthood...a royal priesthood” (1 Peter 2:5,9)

“He has made us to be a kingdom, priests to His God and Father” (Revelation 1:6)
As His Priests, We’re Authorized To Declare Good News of the Kingdom!

One-on-one; small groups; teaching venues; preaching to multitudes (Acts 5:28)!

Mobilized by the Holy Spirit to minister!

Last June: 34 VBS decisions
GROW contacts follow-ups
Shut-ins
Sick and hospitalized
The Faith Rediscovered and Reclaimed 500 Years Ago Tuesday, 10/31/17

95 Theses Nailed to the Door of the Wittenberg Chapel

“Behold, here I stand; I can do no other!”