

A Strong Stance
By Rick Ezell

“Resist him, firm in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are being experienced by your brothers in the world” (1 Peter 5:9 HCSB).

In 1508, Martin Luther, began teaching that one could receive forgiveness of sin by simple faith in Jesus Christ as opposed to buying a pardon for sins. His disgust came to a head in 1517 when John Tetzel, a representative of the Pope, came to Germany selling certificates already signed by the Pope, offering a pardon of all sins to whoever procured one. On October 31, 1517, a trembling Martin Luther marched to the front doors of the Castle Church in Wittenberg where he posted 95 Theses, soon to become famous throughout the world.

Later, Martin Luther, father of the Reformation, was accused of heresy and the Pope demanded that he recant, Luther took the position that he could not recant while he believed, on the basis of the Scriptures and “evident reason,” that he was speaking the truth. Then he said, “Here I stand, I cannot do otherwise. God help me. Amen.”

The fact is, unless we stand we cannot withstand. Unless we stand for something we will fall for anything. As believers in Christ we need to have our faith firmly grounded in the truth of God’s Word and in the person of Jesus Christ. His word needs to be planted in our hearts so that we can give a reason for our faith whenever anyone asks. We must know what we believe and why we believe it.

Begin today to know what you stand for and why.

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