

Chapter 2.

Luther entered Erfurt in 1501 to study law in accordance with the desire of his father. Brilliant student and in 2 years was teaching. Received BA and MA. Very religious, beginning each day with prayer and church attendance.

One day in the library he came across a Bible. He was thrilled and read it over and over. (Latin Vulgate)

After a couple of near-death incidents and after the ~~the~~ death of his closest friend, Alexis, he could no longer resist undertaking religious life. He had great pangs of conscience and wanted to perfect himself. On Aug. 17, 1505 he joined the hermits of St. Augustine. He was 21 yrs. 9 mos.

Chapter 3.

In joining the monastery Luther demonstrated his belief that he looked to himself for salvation.

Friends were amazed & his father furious. (Father was later reconciled)
Did menial jobs including begging with cheerful obedience.

Later spent more time in study. He made use of Reuchlin's Hebrew lexicon which had just appeared. John Lange, one of the friars, was probably his first instructor in Greek and Hebrew.

Never was there a more pious monk, who knew from earnest, patient, diligent experience that heaven was not to be obtained by pious penitential works. He almost carried his mortifications to death.

But Luther did not find peace of mind in the cloister. Luther had a tender conscience, which was more enlightened because of reading God's Word. He knew what it was to be holy and he knew his own heart was vile. He was truly tortured with the sense of his own sinfulness.

Luther had grown up with the traditions of the Roman Church and accepted and believed them. He later spoke of them as "recourse to a thousand methods to stifle my conscience".

He lived in continual anguish, struggle, and mental torture..

Chapter 6.

In 1510 (11? 12?) Luther was chosen to go to Rome as agent for 7 monasteries who were in dispute on certain points.

The luxurious living in some of the monasteries horrified and shocked frugal Luther.

He still suffers from dreadful pangs of conscience but is continually comforted by "the just shall live by faith".

Luther's heart was converted but his mind was not yet enlightened---he wished his parents were dead so he could offer masses and prayers to deliver his parents from purgatory. He officiated at mass, was horrified at the mockery of other priests and bishops---e.g. "bread thou art and bread thou shalt remain."

One shock followed another as he visited Rome; a saying is quoted "If there is a hell, Rome is built over it; it is an abyss whence issues every kind of sin."---No one can imagine what sins and infamous actions are committed in Rome; they must be seen to be believed."

The incident on the steps---he recognized the idolatry (so he got up from kissing steps, turned around and walked back down)

The doctrine of salvation by faith, by the grace of ~~xxxxxx~~ God and the atoning death of his son, Jesus Christ, became very clear to Luther while in Rome.