

a drawer and forgot about them. Luther tried to start a reformation by his ideas and nothing came of it. Six months later something happened that Luther never dreamed would start a reformation. Luther found that right in his parish where he was preaching the Gospel, people were being led astray by something that had come in that was injuring things. And he had to speak out against it. Tetsel the Dominican monk was over across the river in the other part of Saxony. The Elector who ruled this part wouldn't allow him in his territory. But over there Tetsel was going from town to town selling indulgences so that they could get money to build the great St. Peter's church in Rome. He was selling these indulgences that the Pope gave. Tetsel was a great orator. He didn't pay much attention to truth, much attention to what the church teaching was. He said what would sell his indulgences. He said, Why should you hold back? Hold on to your money, that filthy
What value is that
luxure/when your eternity= eternal life is at stake he said. He said, Come up here and put your money in the box and get one of these (indulgences) and you are saved from all eternity. He said think of your parents who have died and who are in purgatory. Why he said, just as fast as your coin drops into the box the spirit of your departed ones goes from Purgatory to Heaven." Now later on when he was criticized for that he said, I don't mean they go then, I mean that when they go to heaven they go just as fast as your money drops in." But of course nobody understood it that way. Tetsel said, These indulgences will take care of any sin you ever have or ever will commit. He said, If some one were to rape the blessed Virgin Mary he would be delivered from that terrible sin, if he had one of these indulgences, God would forgive him." That showed the extreme to which Tetsel went. And Luther found that people from his community were going across the river and buying this and coming in and saying, We don't need to worry about your teachings. We've got our indulgence from the pope." And Luther said of Tetsel's drum that he beat as he got the people to come and give their