

But Luther didn't know how to do it, and so he thought the best thing to do---this indulgence matter is a very involved thing anyway, and the theory of it had never been really worked out, and it had sort of grown up--and Luther said the thing to do is to get the scholars to consider it, and study it, and examine it, and understand it carefully. And so Luther wrote the series of nearly a hundred thesis, and these take up the things Tetzal was quoted as saying, and look at them from different angles in order to investigate them and see what the truth really was about it; and some of the worst of them he denied very strongly, and others he simply raised questions about. "But" he said, "I will put this up on the door of the church there, and then people will see it and we'll have a discussion, and we'll open up the question and work out the true answer to this matter." He said, "I don't believe the Pope (who Luther thought was a godly man, the executive head of the Church living in Rome)- I don't think the Pope would really do something contrary to Scripture, but, he said, "perhaps the Pope has a misunderstanding on this, or he's been misrepresented, and people will discuss these things and it will be worked out probably." And so Luther put these up, and he put them up on the night of All Soul's Eve, because the next day crowds of people would come to Wittenberg since they could get an indulgence there if they would look at the relics of the Elector had in the church; and so that was a good time to put them up so people would see them. And so he posted the thesis.

And the next day, to Martin's surprise, instead of a few people seeing these thesis, and some scholars noticing them, and making arrangements of a discussion, people noticed them and begun to wonder what they were, and they said, "What does that Latin mean?"