

and at the end of that time then, of course, it was no longer in effect. Well, the emperor Sigismund, a century before had given the same kind of a safe conduct to John Huss, and John Huss had left Prague, had gone to the Council of Constance, appeared before the Council and they seized him, thrown him into a dungeon, brought him out, and burned him at the stake for his views. And when John Huss saw the Emperor Sigismund, they say that he passed him on the way to the scaffold, that the emperor's face turned red because of his embarrassment, but he made very little effort to maintain his safe conduct, when the leaders of the Church desired that Huss be burned at the stake. And so, people said to Luther, "Why should you trust a safe conduct? They'll burn you too." "Well" Luther said, "they probably will one of these days anyway. "But" he said, "The Lord is giving me an opportunity to witness to the Gospel before the Emperor, and," he said, "I couldn't miss that opportunity." And so Luther started off. And as he went, at nearly every place, people would come and say, "Oh, Luther, don't go any further. You get to Worms, they'll kill you there." And Luther said, one time he said, "If there were as many devils in Worms as there are shingles on the house tops, he said, "still I would go to Worms." Every place they came through Luther saw signs posted, "By order of the Emperor, Luther's books are all to be burned." People said, "He'll burn you; he's burning your books now; when you get there he will burn you."

But everywhere he went on the way, Luther persuaded the Imperial Heralds to let him stop and preach, and so in every town on the way he preached the Gospel. And in one of these towns they went into the church and they stood there and the crowd that came in to hear the excommunicated man to see what sort of man he was anyway, and such a crowd came in and the building was rather old