

I call your attention to Rom.1:16,17 briefly. . . . Last Thursday Dr. Murray referred back to the days when he began that out of which this present organization has sprung. The days when he was a seminary student along with Vernon Grounds, Kenneth Kantzer, John Sanderson, and Francis Schaeffer. I thought how great an influence has been exerted in various parts of the world as a result of the events of those days, and I praise God for it. I thought of events that have had a far greater effect, an effect over the course of 400 years. I thought back to the foundations of modern Christianity. Today I thought I would look with you at the life of one of the greatest leaders in Christian history who ever lived, Martin Luther. One whose life might be summed up in this verse I just read to you from Rom.1:16 - "the just shall live by faith."

Martin Luther's father, Hans Luther was the son of a poor peasant in Germany. Hans Luther was a man of considerable energy who worked hard to better his situation. He had gotten interested in coal mining. He gradually pushed himself ahead until by the end of his life he was fairly prosperous. But at the time Martin was born Hans did not have very much, but he was anxious that his son should have a chance to get ahead in the world. So when Martin was comparatively young, he sent him away to a cousin's home quite a distance from his home at Eischraven(sp?), off to the town of Eisenach(sp?). There Martin lived with these cousins while he got his education, a better education than could be gotten in the area in which his father lived.

As a child he had to sing in the streets with other poor children in order to collect alms in order to support himself. He worked hard at his studies and he was able to enter the U. of Erfurt. There he took his college work and had a high standing in it, then he received a letter from his father and it said: Martin, I believe that you with the education you have can really become an important figure in Germany. I want you now to go and study law at the University law school and become a great lawyer. Martin entered the law school. He had a few months at the law school but he was not satisfied. All the time he found himself thinking of the question of what life is really about. He found himself thinking of his own failures and unworthiness to live a life such as God wanted him to. One day as he was with a friend in a thunder storm his friend was struck by lightning. Martin through the next few weeks thought very seriously about eternal things. How could I, he thought, with my sins == and he certainly was not a man who was a man whom we would call a wicked man, he was probably better than the average young fellows of his day == but he said, How can one with my sin enter heaven? And he made a decision.

So one evening he called his friends together. He had many friends. He was a popular young man, a fine musician, greatly beloved in the university. He called his friends together, and that evening he took a violin and he handed it to one of them, and said, I want you to keep this to remember me by. He took his law books and gave them to other students. He took practically everything he had. And they said, What's