

NOXIV 17211H

The Pope didn't want to displease Frederick and Frederick always had some excuse. The result was the Pope sent a man up to see Luther and Luther found that this man though he was a great theologian and a man who in many ways differed from the medieval ideas of the day, his orders from the Pope were Make that Monk Recant so we can See the Indulgences! So he said, Luther, Take back what you have done. Luther said, This isn't right! Surely this isn't what the pope would do. The man said, Take it back and you'll be alright. He demanded recantation. Luther could not do that.

So Stwupitz released Luther from all responsibility to the Augustinian order. Now during the next 3 years the pope was maneuvering, trying to get, to keep on good terms with Frederick so that the electorate he wanted, the electorate would vote for the man he wanted for Emperor, and the Pope's supporters were doing their best to try to quiet Luther and using one manouver after another. Meanwhile Luther was studying. As he studied he saw more and more that the whole system as it had developed through the Middle Ages had buried Scripture under a whole lot of traditions and superstitions. Luther reached a point where he said, "The Pope can err, a council can err, the Word of God is the only authority!"

Luther wrote. He was one of the most energetic men who ever lived. Luther's writings fill 100 volumes. His writings came to be distributed all over Germany. They were translated and distributed in other countries. In England at Oxford University there was a group of students that used to meet to study Luther's writings and they called them The German, because they were studying the writings of this German. That was the beginning of the English Reformation. Luther began to have a wide influence. Finally the Pope decided he should excommunicate him, and he wrote an order of excommunication against Luther. By this time Luther had reached the point that when brought this in German and began to distribute it, Luther in a public service committed it and the canon law to the flame. Communications had been burned before by kings and leaders, but for the son of a peasant to do such a thing, that was utterly unknown up to that time.

Now there was a new Emperor, a young man, who had been elected Emperor. The Pope asked this Emperor to clean up this matter of Luther and Charles said, Certainly we will do it. Well, Frederick said, I will not let Luther go out of my domain unless we have a statement of safe conduct, giving him safe conduct to the meeting of the diet (which was the name they called the meeting of the leaders of the whole empire) and come back safely. Charles gave him such a letter of safe conduct. The people said to Luther: Don't you go; here Frederick can give you some help. They said 100 yrs. ago John Huss of Bohemia preached the same things you are preaching and the Emperor Sigmund gave him a letter of safe conduct to the Council of Constance and when he got there they took Huss and put him in a dungeon and did not give him any chance to speak at all and they led him out and burned him at the stake! That's what Charles will probably do to you! The man came with a wagon to take Luther clear across Germany to Wormes where the meeting would be held, and as they went people came out in place after place and said, Luther don't go to Wormes; they will burn you, they will kill you! Luther said, If