

**“Mission Possible:
Stand Alone—Living Up to the Luther in You”**
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- **Psalm 119**

- **October 31, 1517**
 - *Sola Scriptura*—“by Scripture alone”
 - *Sola Fide*—“by faith alone”
 - *Sola Gratia*—“by grace alone”

- **Martin Luther**
 - Luther: “I was a good monk, and I kept the rule of my order so strictly that I may say that if ever a monk got to heaven by his monkery it was I. All my brothers in the monastery who knew me will bear me out. If I had kept on any longer, I should have killed myself with vigils, prayers, reading, and other work.” (Roland Bainton *Here I Stand* 34)
 - Luther: “I was myself more than once driven to the very abyss of despair so that I wished I had never been created. Love God? I hated him!” (Bainton 44)
 - Johan Staupitz: “When it appeared to Luther that all was lost, God raised up a friend and helper for him. The pious Staupitz opened the word of God to Luther’s mind and bade him look away from himself, cease the contemplation of infinite punishment for the violation of God’s law, and look to Jesus, his sin-pardoning Saviour. ‘Instead of torturing yourself on account of your sins, throw yourself into the Redeemer’s arms. Trust in Him, in the righteousness of His life, in the atonement of His death.... Listen to the Son of God. He became man to give you the assurance of divine favor.’ ‘Love Him who first loved you.’” (*Great Controversy* 123-124)
 - “Above everything else he delighted in the study of God’s word. . . . and to this he often repaired.” (*Great Controversy* 123)
 - Luther: “There is on earth no clearer book written than the holy Scripture, which compared with all other books is like the sun compared with all lights.” (Luther’s commentary on Psalm 37:40, SDABC 9:131)
 - “Luther translated the entire New Testament into German within 11 weeks. Like a man possessed, he worked at the rate of more than 1500 words per day. What he produced was so masterful that in time it did much to create the modern German language. He was determined to do as good a job as possible and to prove to the world that ‘German nightingales can sing as beautifully as Roman goldfinches.’ (James Kittelson *Luther the Reformer* 175)
 - Luther: “Night and day I pondered until I saw the connection between the justice of God and the statement that ‘the just shall live by his faith.’ Then I grasped that the justice of God is that righteousness by which through grace [*sola gratia*] and sheer mercy God justifies us through faith [*sola fide*]. Thereupon I felt myself to be reborn and to have gone through open doors into paradise. The whole of Scripture [*sola Scriptura*] took on a new meaning, and whereas before the ‘justice of God’ had filled me with hate, now it became to me inexpressibly sweet in

greater love. This passage of Paul became to me a gate to heaven.” (Bainton 49-50)

- The Diet of Worms: “The scene lends itself to dramatic portrayal. Here was Charles, heir of a long line of Catholic sovereigns—of Maximilian the romantic, of Ferdinand the Catholic, of Isabella the orthodox—scion of the house of Hapsburg, lord of Austria, Burgundy, the Low Countries, Spain, and Naples, save Charlemagne, symbol of medieval unities, incarnation of a glorious if vanishing heritage; and here before him a simple monk, a miner’s son, with nothing to sustain him save his own faith in the Word of God.” (Bainton 141)
- Luther: “Unless I can be instructed and convinced with evidence from the Holy Scriptures or with open, clear, and distinct grounds and reasoning—and my conscience is captive to the Word of God—then I cannot and will not recant, because it is neither safe nor wise to act against conscience. Here I stand. I can do no other. God help me. Amen.” (Kittelson 161/Bainton 144/*Great Controversy* 160)
- “Had the eyes of the assembly been opened, they would have beheld *angels of God in the midst of them*, shedding beams of light athwart the darkness of error and opening minds and hearts to the reception of truth. [One lone man standing on the Word of God—and yet all of Heaven joined in his defense!] It was the power of the God of truth and wisdom that controlled even the adversaries of the reformation, and thus prepared the way for the great work about to be accomplished.” (*Great Controversy* 150 emphasis supplied)
- “The Bible should never be studied without prayer. The Holy Spirit alone can cause us to feel the importance of those things easy to be understood, or prevent us from wresting truths difficult of comprehension. *It is the office of heavenly angels to prepare the heart so to comprehend God’s word* that we shall be charmed with its beauty, admonished by its warnings, or animated and strengthened by its promises.” (*Great Controversy* 600 emphasis supplied)

*If you stand alone on the Word of God,
you will never stand alone.*