



THE REFORMATION

OBSERVING 500 YEARS

WHAT WAS LUTHER TAUGHT?

In Luther's time, Christ was commonly pictured as holding the lily of resurrection and a sword. People wondered, "How do I avoid the sword and earn the lily?" Answer: Climb your way to heaven by doing your best, and the church provides God's grace to get you the rest of the way. But what if you died before you made it up the steps? Your soul went to purgatory until your sins were paid for. This is where indulgences came in -- a gift of money in exchange for reducing time in purgatory. Luther knew this system well, but he started wondering, "Does Christ really want us to be afraid of Him?" So he started digging into Scripture; and what he found there changed not only his life, but the life of everyone who followed in his wake.

To learn more about Luther, watch the Reformation 500 video series at lutherhouseofstudy.org or subscribe to Luther House's YouTube channel.



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