

STAND UP FOR JESUS!!

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Trinity C.U. Nov.1, 2009 P.M. Romans 3:9-28, 31

What event took place this weekend? Where did it come from? Why do events with religious connections get corrupted by the world system? Think about Easter... and the "bunny"... Think about Christmas and the "red nosed reindeer" or the red suited fellow from the North pole.

Four hundred and ninety-two years ago yesterday... October 31, 1517 an effort to bring reform to the church of that day became an incredible "Christian" revolution. It was the day a young monk by the name of Martin Luther nailed his paper of dispute over the church's "sale of indulgences" to the door of the Castle church in Wittenberg, Germany. By the early months of 1518, the theses had been reprinted in many cities, and Luther's name was associated with demands for radical change in the church. He had Stood Up For Jesus and nearly lost his life as the result!

I. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO "STAND UP FOR JESUS"?

- A. It involves becoming a "Protestant"....
 - "Protest" of abuses in the church....
 - like power... like control... like immorality...
 - "Protest" of corruption in the church....
 - like John Tetzel and the sale of "indulgences"... and many today....
 - "Protest" of false teaching in the church....
 - like "wolves" from without... and "perverters" from within... Acts 20:29,30;
- B. It involves becoming a "Proclaimer"... The Good News... Essentials of Christianity....
 - "sola Biblia"... Bible alone... "the only rule of faith and practice!"
 - It is the guide to holy living and serving
 - "sola fides"... Faith alone....Justification by faith without any merits of good work!
 - Our work for Jesus will be judged... and rewarded accordingly... 1Cor. 3:10-15; Rom.14:12...
 - "sola gratia"... Grace alone... by grace we are saved through faith ... Eph.2:8-10
 - Not by works.... but God ordained that we should walk in them....
 - "solus Christus"... Christ alone... "neither is there salvation in any other...." Acts 4:12
 - He is the power for holy living and serving! Without Him.... John 15:5

II. WHAT DOES IT COST TO "STAND UP FOR JESUS"?

- A. It cost disgrace, hardship, even death...
 - John Wiclif was excommunicated... and exiled...
 - John Hus.... was eventually burned at the stake....
 - Luther was excommunicated... and exiled
 - When he was charged and asked "Why?" He said: "I never wanted to do it, but was forced into it when I had to become a Doctor of Holy Scripture against my will."
 - He was condemned by the church and state.. but survived the attempts to burn him as a heretic.
 - Stephen was stoned... Acts 7
 - James was killed by Herod... Acts 12
 - And the list goes on and on.... even now Many who stand up for Jesus are Persecuted and Dying!
 - Pray for the Persecuted Church....

III. WHAT DOES IT "PAY" TO "STAND UP FOR JESUS"?

- A. Jesus makes it clear...
 - what if we give up everything? Matthew 19:27-30
 - what if we face extreme situations? 2 Corinthians 12:8-10
 - what if we die? John 11:25,26
- B. Paul makes it clear....
 - There is the Blessed Hope of His appearing.... Titus 2:13
 - There is the Assurance of Life beyond this life!! 1 Corinthians 15:19, 54-58
 - There is the Anticipation of Something far better!!
 - 2 Timothy 4:6-8
 - Philippians 1:21-23...

**ARE YOU SAVED?? ARE YOU COMMITTING YOUR ALL FOR JESUS DAILY??
IT WILL BE WORTH IT ALL WHEN WE SEE JESUS!!!**