

# FINDING THE WAY: REFORMATION AND ROME

## THE HEIGHTS OF REASON: ANSELM AND AQUINAS

James 3.17 (1012)

1 Peter 3.15 (1016)

Colossians 2:8 (984)

Christian History: Anselm of Canterbury (1033-1109) wrote one of the greatest works of medieval philosophy-theology asking the question, "Why did God become man?" (*Cur Deus Homo*).  
Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274) wrote his massive *Summa Theologica* to harmonize the newly found works of Aristotle with Christian thought. He was the first to formulate many doctrines that would become characteristic of sixteenth-century Roman Catholicism, such as transubstantiation.

## THE DEPTHS OF SIN: MARTIN LUTHER

Romans 1.16 (939)

Galatians 1.8-9 (972)

Christian History: Augustinian monk, Martin Luther (1483-1546), could not find salvation from his sins in medieval Western Christianity. His crusade for a gracious God led him to reject both practice and theology of the Western church to the point where the Pope excommunicated him. Luther's support from the German princes and people was great enough to safeguard his life and the foundation of a new Western church not subservient to the Bishop of Rome.

## NO OTHER GOSPEL: JUSTIFICATION

Romans 3.19-28 (941)

Galatians 2.21 (973)

Galatians 5.2-4 (974)

Romans 4.1-8 (941)

Galatians 3.5-14 (973)

James 2.14-26 (1012)

Men cannot be justified before God by their own strength, merits, or works, but are freely justified for Christ's sake, through faith, when they believe that they are received into favor, and that their sins are forgiven for Christ's sake, who, by His death, has made satisfaction for our sins. This faith God imputes for righteousness in His sight.

## THE SACRAMENTS

Acts 2.41-47 (911)

Christian History: Many definitions of the term "sacrament," which is literally translated as "mystery," have been used by Christian teachers and leaders. Roman Catholics since the Reformation list seven sacraments: Baptism, Eucharist, Confession and Absolution, Marriage, Holy Orders, Anointing of the Sick, and Confirmation. Lutherans traditionally argue that the number of

sacraments all depends on how “sacrament” is define. Most Lutherans consider only two church rites as “sacraments” (Baptism and Eucharist).

## AUGSBURG AND SMALCALD

Christian History: The Augsburg Congession was written in 1530 by Philip Melanchthon to express the faith of the Reformation Churches before the Emperor. The Smalcald Articles were written by Martin Luther in preparation for a potential ecumenical church council. The council that would occur would be the Council of Trent in 1580, which was dominated only by theologians loyal to the Pope, cementing the division in the West as it anathematized the Gospel to which the Reformers held.