

# MEET MARTIN LUTHER

Martin Luther was born on November 10, 1483, in the town of Eisleben, Germany. The next day, his father took baby Martin to church. Martin was baptized in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

As young Martin grew, he continued to go to church. He studied history and the Bible in school. And he loved to sing.

Even when he was young, people knew Martin would grow up to do great things. Martin studied to be a lawyer. He read book after book filled up with the laws that people must follow. He learned that when people broke these laws, they deserved to be punished.

Martin knew that God had laws, too, such as the Ten Commandments. "If I break God's law, God will punish me," thought Martin. "But if I am very good, could I earn God's love?"



# MARTIN'S GOOD NEWS

Then one evening as he read his Bible, Martin found Good News! "Trust in God's righteousness," Martin read. "God's perfect goodness and love come through our Lord Jesus to save you. And you will live by this faith."

What does this mean? We are saved by God's perfect, loving grace. It is a gift to us through Jesus. If we have faith in God's gift of grace, it is ours!

Martin wanted to share the Good News he'd read in the Bible. He wanted others to know that God's love and forgiveness are not things we need to pay for in order to receive. God paid the price when he sent Jesus to die on the cross.

Martin wrote a list of sentences about God's grace and free forgiveness. This list is called the 95 Theses. Martin posted his list on the church door in Wittenberg.



# GRACE ALONE

The churches in Martin Luther's time were selling INDULGENCES. These were little pieces of paper that came with a promise of God's forgiveness. Martin Luther's BIG piece of paper announced that God's grace and forgiveness are FREE!

We are saved by

**GRACE  
ALONE**

through

**FAITH  
ALONE**

as promised in

**GOD'S  
WORD  
ALONE**



# HERE I STAND!



Many people were happy to hear the Good News Martin preached. God's forgiveness is not something that can be bought or sold. But the churches who were selling indulgences were upset. They wanted Martin to stop. They said he could no longer be a monk, and they tried to arrest him.

Martin would not stop preaching or writing. He trusted that what he read in the Bible was true. The Bible is God's Word, and Martin trusted God. A new emperor came to power, and he asked to see Martin. Martin thought, "At last I have the chance to explain the Good News."

But the emperor told Martin that he must stop preaching. "Take back what you have written, Martin," the emperor demanded.

Martin was brave. "I cannot go against the Bible," Martin said. "Here I stand. God help me. Amen."

