

Sermon Discussion Guide:

Reformation Sunday

Sunday, November 6, 2022

Scripture: **Galatians 2:16–21**

OVERVIEW

505 years ago on October 31, Martin Luther wrote up 95 theses and posted it to the church door. These were points of disagreement, correction, and condemnation for the doctrine of the church. Martin Luther wasn't the first one to do this, but these made a statement, and are considered by many to be the formal launch of the Protestant reformation. A lot was recovered as a result of the reformation, but one thing stands out above the rest—**the protestant reformation recovered the answer to the most important question humanity is faced with**, “How can we be right with God?”

CORROBORATING TEXTS

Psalm 14:1; Romans 1:19-23; Romans 15:1; Isaiah 64:6; Romans 3:21-24

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. In what ways does the world care about the question, “Can I be right with God?” How would they answer? Given our heavy Roman Catholic influence in the Fox Valley, how would your neighbors answer? Before coming to a saving faith, how did you consider this?
2. While many in the world believe the question, “Can I be right with God?” is unimportant, it does not mean it is irrelevant. What is the relevance of the question? Why is it critical to address?
3. Many today ask the questions, “Is there a point?”, “What is my purpose?”, and “Who am I?”. In what ways do these questions (and others) find their answer in our main question? There are typically three routes the world (and often other believers) answers the question: 1, There is no God; 2, There is nothing wrong; or 3, There is a problem but I can fix it. Which do you see your friends, family, or colleagues gravitating towards? Which do you find yourself at times struggling with?
4. Before the sermon, how would you have defined “justification”? Has that changed since this sermon? Why is justification critical?
5. How have you trusted in your “good works?” In what ways does our faith in our “good works” betray us? Looking at Galatians 2:16, what does “by grace through faith” mean to you? How has this truth freed you to follow Jesus?