




GREAT CONTROVERSY

*“Lessons from the Church in the Wilderness
and the Reformation”*

WHAT GREAT CONTROVERSY MEANS TO ME

- Teacher of Bible and History at  for 16 years.
- It is impossible to have clear understanding of world history without understanding the great controversy. {Ed 173}
- When my mom died from cancer nearly 12 years ago I began to seriously study *The Great Controversy* for answers.
- Raised money to distribute copies of book to every home and business in the zip code where I live. Pass out copies on street.

**For whatsoever things were written
aforetime were written for our learning, that
we through patience and comfort of the
scriptures might have hope.**

— Romans 15:4 (KJV)

MILITARY LEVELS OF CLEARANCE

- 1. Confidential Clearance
- 2. Secret Clearance
- 3. **Top Secret Clearance**
- **“Need-to-know basis:”**
Access to information must be necessary for conduct of one’s duties.

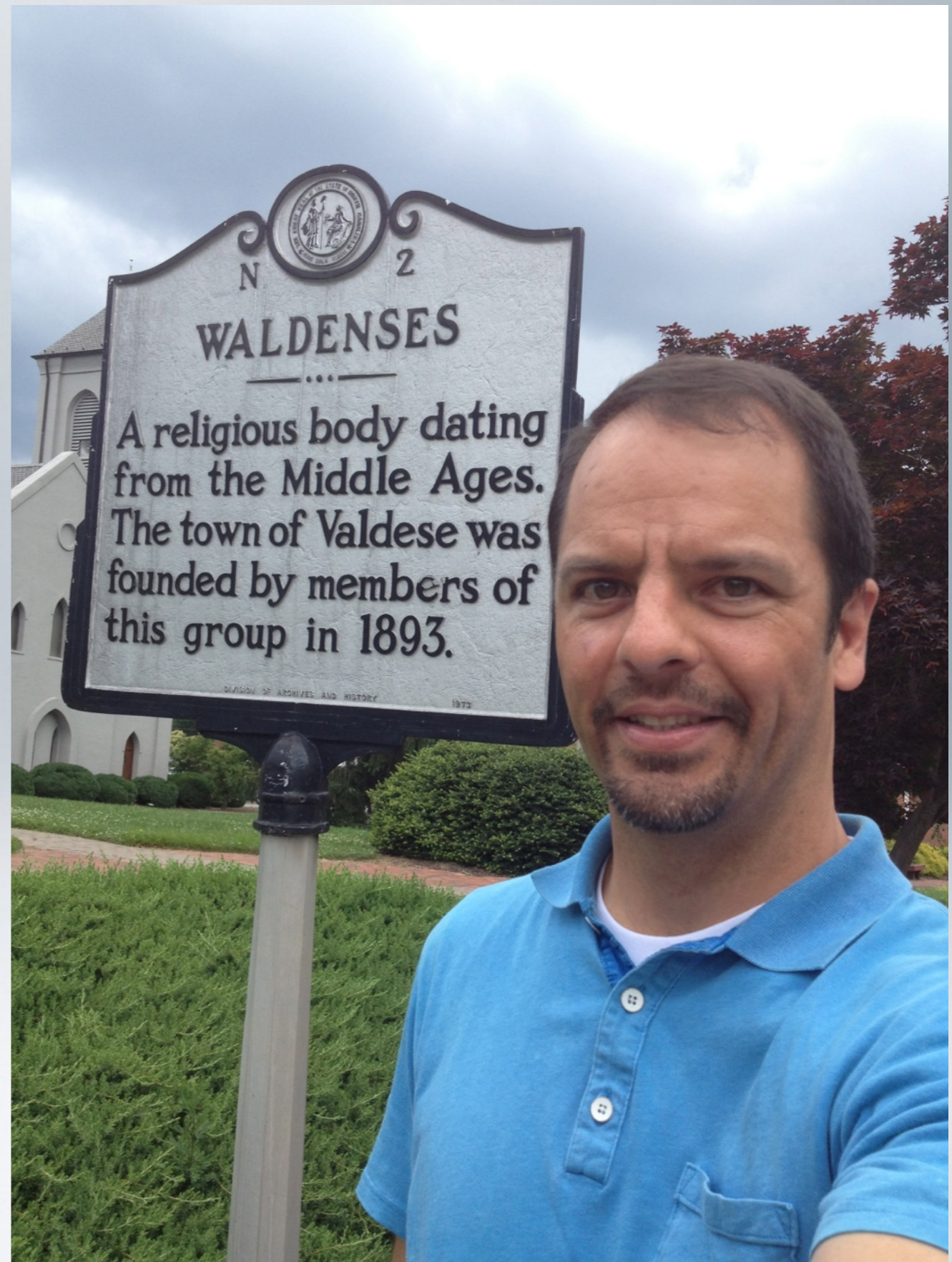


WHY STUDY THE PAST?

- “Satan’s snares are laid for us as verily as they were laid for the children of Israel just prior to their entrance into the land of Canaan. We are repeating the history of that people.” {5T 160.2}
- “We have no time to lose. Troublous times are before us. The world is stirred with the spirit of war. Soon the scenes of trouble spoken of in the prophecies will take place. The prophecy in the eleventh of Daniel has nearly reached its complete fulfillment. Much of the history that has taken place in fulfillment of this prophecy will be repeated.” {13MR 394.1}

THE WALDENSES

Great Controversy,
Chapter 4



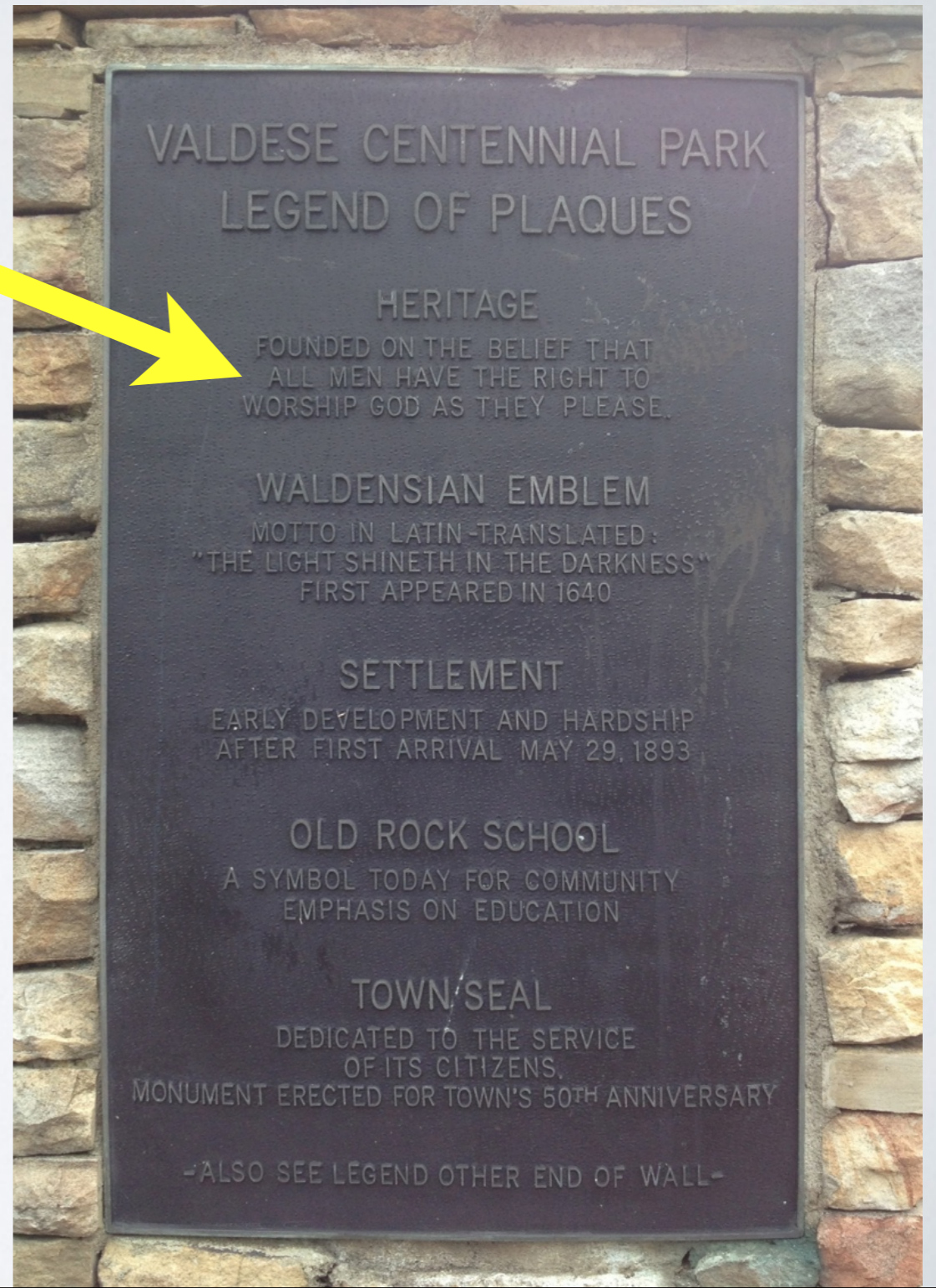
GOD'S FAITHFUL REMNANT

- “In every age there were witnesses for God—men who cherished faith in Christ as the only mediator between God and man, who held the Bible as the only rule of life, and who hallowed the true Sabbath. How much the world owes to these men, posterity will never know.” {GC 61.1}



FIDELITY TO GOD

- “But of those who resisted the encroachments of the papal power, the Waldenses stood foremost. In the very land where popery had fixed its seat, there its falsehood and corruption were most steadfastly resisted.” {GC 64.1}



ANCIENT FAITH

- “Theirs was not a faith newly received. Their religious belief was their inheritance from their fathers. They contended for the faith of the apostolic church, —“the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.” (Jude 3). “The church in the wilderness,” and not the proud hierarchy enthroned in the world’s great capital, was the true church of Christ...” {GC 64.2}



LOVE FOR SCRIPTURES

- “The Waldenses were among the first of the peoples of Europe to obtain a translation of the Holy Scriptures. Hundreds of years before the Reformation they possessed the Bible in manuscript in their native tongue. They had the truth unadulterated, and this rendered them the special objects of hatred and persecution.” {GC 65.2}



1535 Olivetan
Bible

CHARACTER OF THE WALDENSES

- “In their fidelity to His law, God’s servants should be as firm as the unchanging hills.” {GC 66.1}
- “The principles of truth they valued above houses and lands, friends, kindred, even life itself. These principles they earnestly sought to impress upon the hearts of the young.” {GC 67.1}
- “Copies of the Bible were rare; therefore its precious words were committed to memory.” {GC 67.1}

MISSIONARY SPIRIT

The spirit of Christ is a missionary spirit. The very first impulse of the renewed heart is to bring others also to the Saviour. Such was the spirit of the Vaudois Christians. They felt that God required more of them than merely to preserve the truth in its purity in their own churches; that a solemn responsibility rested upon them to let their light shine forth to those who were in darkness: {GC 70.2}



“HIM ONLY SHALT THOU SERVE” (LUKE 4:8)

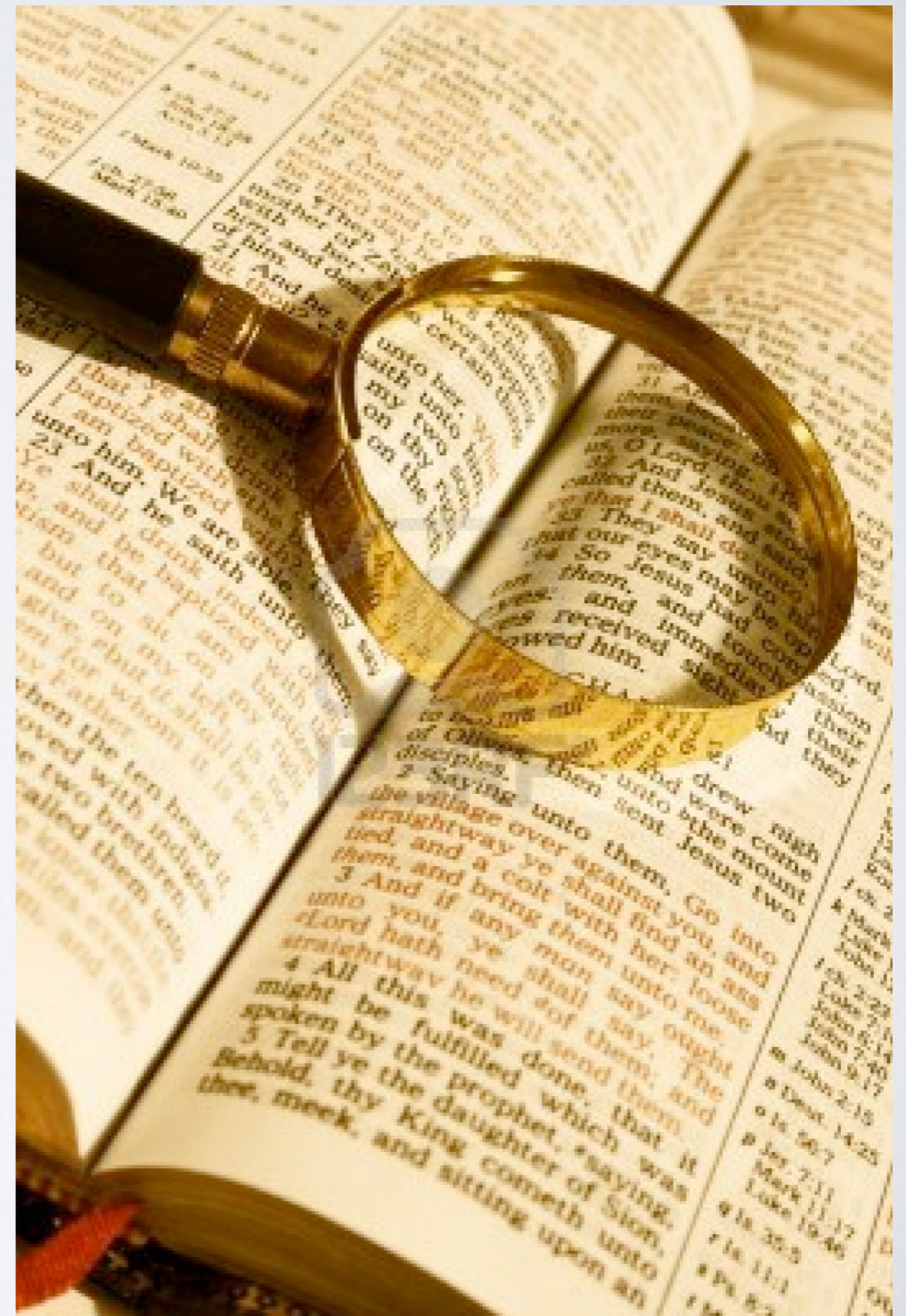
- “No charge could be brought against the moral character of this proscribed class. Even their enemies declared them to be a peaceable, quiet, pious people. Their grand offense was that they would not worship God according to the will of the pope. For this crime every humiliation, insult, and torture that men or devils could invent was heaped upon them.” {GC 76.4}



VAUDOIS BURNED ALIVE IN PAIRS.

INTENSE DESIRE TO KNOW TRUTH

- Providentially guided to the Holy Scriptures, they studied the sacred pages with intense interest. They were willing to accept the light at any cost to themselves. Though they did not see all things clearly, they were enabled to perceive many long-buried truths. {GC 79.1}



THE REFORMATION

Great Controversy,
Chapters 5 - 14



**And except those days should be shortened,
there should no flesh be saved: but for the
elect's sake those days shall be shortened.**

— Matthew 24:22 (KJV)

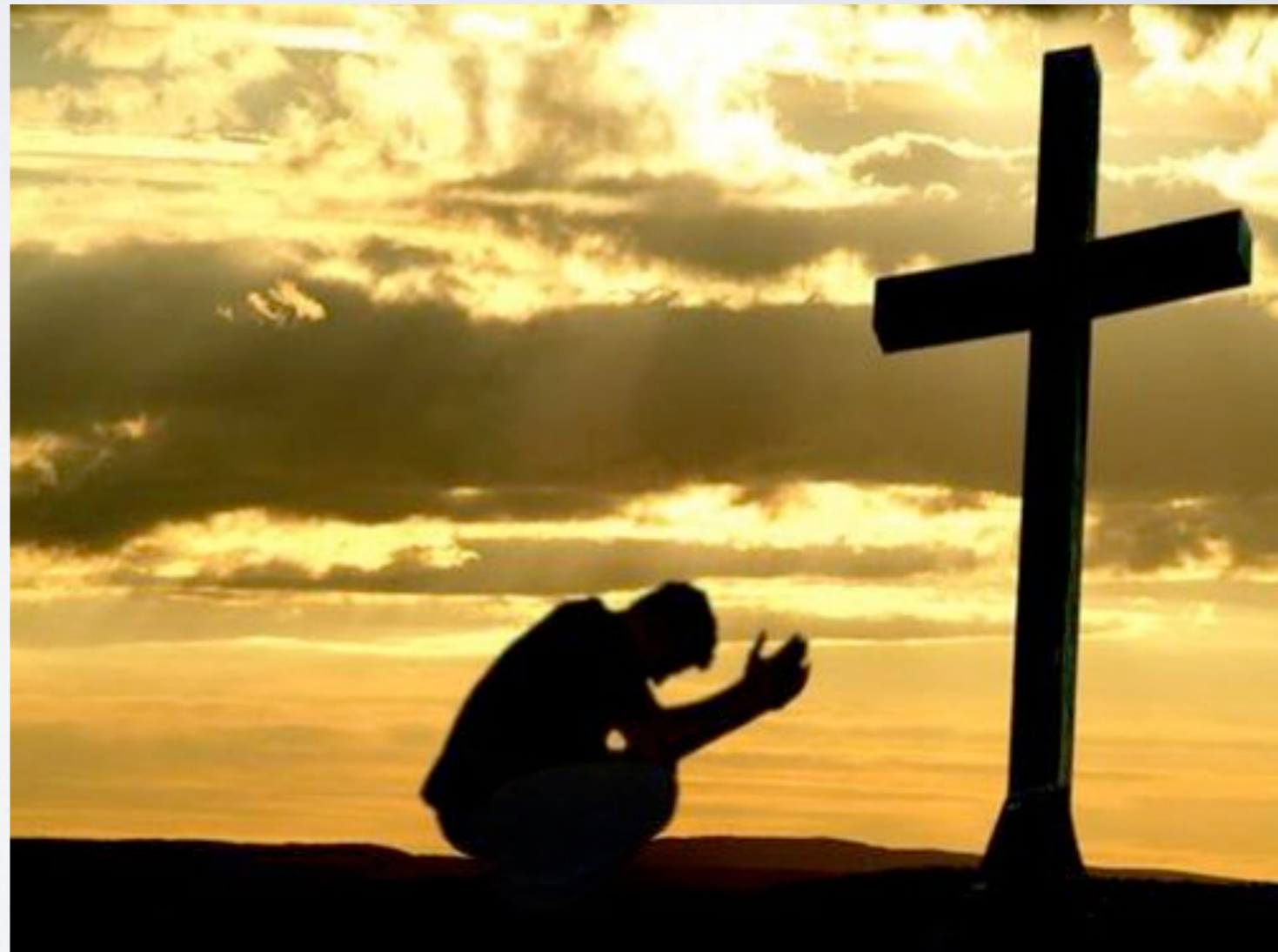
FOUNDATION OF REFORMATION

- ...“the great principle which was the very foundation of the Reformation—that the word of God is the all-sufficient rule of faith and practice;” {GC 186.2}



HUMBLE PEOPLE

- It is God's plan to employ humble instruments to accomplish great results. Then the glory will not be given to men, but to Him who works through them to will and to do of His own good pleasure. {GC 171.1}



JOHN WYCLIFFE

(1328-1384)

- Wycliffe was one of the greatest of the Reformers. In breadth of intellect, in clearness of thought, in firmness to maintain the truth, and in boldness to defend it, he was equaled by few who came after him. Purity of life, unwearying diligence in study and in labor, incorruptible integrity, and Christlike love and faithfulness in his ministry, characterized the first of the Reformers. {GC 94.1}



JOHN HUSS

(1369-1415)

- His example of faith and constancy would encourage multitudes to stand firm for the truth, in the face of torture and death. His execution had exhibited to the whole world the perfidious cruelty of Rome. {GC 110.1}



MARTIN LUTHER

(1483-1546)

- Foremost among those who were called to lead the church from the darkness of popery into the light of a purer faith, stood Martin Luther. Zealous, ardent, and devoted, knowing no fear but the fear of God, and acknowledging no foundation for religious faith but the Holy Scriptures, Luther was the man for his time; {GC 120.1}



LUTHER ON EDUCATION

- “I am much afraid that the universities will prove to be the great gates of hell, unless they diligently labor in explaining the Holy Scriptures, and engraving them in the hearts of youth. I advise no one to place his child where the Scriptures do not reign paramount. Every institution in which men are not unceasingly occupied with the word of God must become corrupt.” {GC 140.5}



LUTHER BEFORE DIET



- “Unless therefore I am convinced by the testimony of Scripture or by the clearest reasoning, unless I am persuaded by means of the passages I have quoted, and unless they thus render my conscience bound by the word of God, **I cannot and I will not retract...**” {GC 160.2}

COUNTERFEIT HOLINESS

- Counterfeit holiness, spurious sanctification, is still doing its work of deception. Under various forms it exhibits the same spirit as in the days of Luther, diverting minds from the Scriptures and leading men to follow their own feelings and impressions rather than to yield obedience to the law of God. This is one of Satan's most successful devices to cast reproach upon purity and truth. {GC 193.1}



PROTEST OF THE PRINCES (1529)

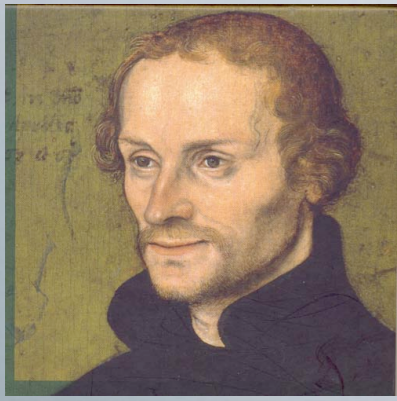


- 1.) Protest denied right of civil rulers to legislate in matters of conscience.
- 2.) Rejected the arbitrary power of the church.
- 3.) Set forth unerring principle that all human teaching should be in subjection to the oracles of God. {GC 203.4}

JOHN KNOX (C. 1514-1572)

- The word of God is plain in itself; and if there appear any obscurity in one place, the Holy Ghost, which is never contrary to Himself, explains the same more clearly in other places, so that there can remain no doubt but unto such as obstinately remain ignorant. {GC 25 1.2}
- Spoken to Mary, Queen of Scots when summoned to appear before her in 1561.





Philip Melancthon



Ulrich Zwingli



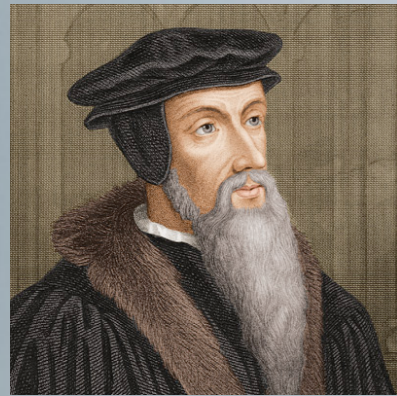
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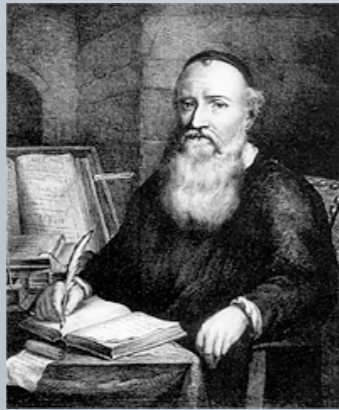
William Farel



Louis de Berquin



John Calvin



Menno Simons



Hans Tausen



William Tyndale



John Wesley

“**The grand principle** maintained by these Reformers—the same that had been held by the *Waldenses*, by *Wycliffe*, by *John Huss*, by *Luther*, *Zwingli*, and those who united with them—was the infallible authority of the Holy Scriptures as a rule of faith and practice. They denied the right of popes, councils, Fathers, and kings, to control the conscience in matters of religion. The Bible was their authority, and by its teaching they tested all doctrines and all claims.” {GC 249.1}

PRESENT TRUTH!!!

- Opposition is the lot of all whom God employs to present truths specially applicable to their time. There was a present truth in the days of Luther,—a truth at that time of special importance; there is a present truth for the church today. He who does all things according to the counsel of His will has been pleased to place men under various circumstances and to enjoin upon them duties peculiar to the times in which they live and the conditions under which they are placed. If they would prize the light given them, broader views of truth would be opened before them. But truth is no more desired by the majority today than it was by the papists who opposed Luther. There is the same disposition to accept the theories and traditions of men instead of the word of God as in former ages. {GC 143.3}

CONTROVERSY TO INTENSIFY



- Those who present the truth for this time should not expect to be received with greater favor than were earlier reformers. The great controversy between truth and error, between Christ and Satan, is to increase in intensity to the close of this world's history. {GC 143.3}

THE REFORMATION CONTINUES...

- The Reformation did not, as many suppose, end with Luther. It is to be continued to the close of this world's history. Luther had a great work to do in reflecting to others the light which God had permitted to shine upon him; yet he did not receive all the light which was to be given to the world. From that time to this, new light has been continually shining upon the Scriptures, and new truths have been constantly unfolding. {GC 148.4}



REFORMATION PRINCIPLES

- Word of God is all-sufficient rule of faith and practice {GC 93; 120; 183; 186; 203; 204; 249}
- Realized need of prayer {GC 122; 209; 210}
- Holy Spirit is interpreter of Scriptures {GC 132; 251}
- The pope is antichrist {GC 51; 141}
- New light and new truths constantly unfolding {GC 148}
- We are accountable for the light shining upon us {GC 164}
- God employs humble instruments {GC 171}
- Salvation by faith alone {GC 129; 190; 256}
- In matters of conscience the majority has no power {GC 201}
- Separation of Church and State {GC 203}