

For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building.

1 Cor 3:9 ESV



Celebrating 69 Years of Ministry

1956 - 2025



BEREAN BIBLE CHURCH

Worship & Communion Service

Sunday, October 5, 2025

SERVICES & CONTACTS

Worship Services In-person & Online 10:40am & 6pm

 <https://www.youtube.com/user/bereanbarbados/live>

 <https://www.facebook.com/BereanBarbados/live>

Sunday School In-person 9:30 - 10:15am

 **ZOOM** links provided

Midweek In-person & Online Service (Wednesday)

Noon & 7:30 pm | ZOOM links provided

Youth Service in-person 7pm (Friday)

 **WhatsApp** 845 - 5752 or Tel: 426 - 4707

email: info@bereanbarbados.org

www.bereanbarbados.org



Abandon the Reformation, abandon the gospel

DOES REFORMATION THEOLOGY MATTER TODAY? ABSOLUTELY. IT IS TEMPTING TO THINK OF THE REFORMATION AS A MERE POLITICAL OR SOCIAL MOVEMENT. IN REALITY, HOWEVER, THE REFORMATION WAS A FIGHT OVER THE GOSPEL ITSELF.

“So when the devil throws your sins in your face and declares that you deserve death and hell, tell him this: ‘I admit that I deserve death and hell, what of it? For I know One who suffered and made satisfaction on my behalf. His name is Jesus Christ, Son of God, and where he is there I shall be also!’” — Martin Luther

RELICS, RELICS EVERYWHERE

There they sat. Relics. Lots of them. There was a cut of fabric from the swaddling cloth of baby Jesus, 13 pieces from his crib, a strand of straw from the manger, a piece of gold from a Wise Man, three pieces of myrrh, a morsel of bread from the Last Supper, a thorn from the crown Jesus wore when crucified, and, to top it all off, a genuine piece of stone that Jesus stood on to ascend to the Father’s right hand. And in good Catholic fashion, the blessed Mary was not left out. There sat three pieces of cloth from her cloak, four from her girdle, four hairs from her head, and better yet, seven pieces from the veil that was sprinkled with the blood of Christ.

These relics and countless others (19,000 bones from the saints!) stood ready to be viewed by pious pilgrims. These relics were the proud collection of Frederick the Wise, elector of Saxony, Martin Luther’s prince. And they sat in the Castle Church at Wittenberg, prepared and ready for showing on All Saints Day, November 1, 1517. But in the midst of this fanfare was the essential ingredient, namely, the procurement of indulgences.

Veneration of these relics would be accompanied by indulgences reducing time in purgatory by 1,902,202 years and 270 days. An indulgence, the full or partial remission of punishment for sins, was drawn from the Treasury of Merit, which was accumulated not only by the meritorious work of Christ but also by the superabundant merit of the saints.

MEDIEVAL PROSPERITY GOSPEL

Needing funds to build St. Peter’s basilica, Pope Leo X began selling indulgences. But not any indulgence would do. He needed an indulgence for the full remission of sins, one that would return the sinner to the state of innocence first received at baptism. Even the horrors of years in purgatory would be removed. Not even a sin against the Divine Majesty would outweigh the efficacy of these indulgences. In short, if you had enough money, repentance was for sale!

There was no one so experienced as the Dominican Johann Tetzel to market such a once in a lifetime opportunity. Going from town to town with all the pomp of Rome, Tetzel laid the guilt trip on heavy: “Listen to the voices of your dear dead relatives and friends, beseeching you and saying, ‘Pity us, pity us. We are in dire torment from which you can redeem us for a pittance. . . . Will you let us lie here in flames? Will you delay our promised glory?’” And then came Tetzel’s famous jingle, “As soon as the coin in the coffer rings, the soul from purgatory springs.” With just a quarter of a florin you could liberate your loved one from the flames of purgatory and into the “fatherland of paradise.”

95 REASONS FOR REFORM

Martin Luther had enough. One year earlier, Luther preached against indulgences. This time, however, he would put his objections in writing. In 95 theses Luther exposed the abuse of indulgences. When finished, the theses were posted to the Castle Church door. Luther biographer Roland Bainton summarizes the 95 theses: “There were three main points: an objection to the avowed object of the expenditure, a denial of the powers of the pope over purgatory, and a consideration of the welfare of the sinner.”

Despite his protest, Luther was simply trying to be a good Catholic, reforming the Church from abuse. In fact, at this point, no mention is made of justification by faith alone, *sola Scriptura*, and other Reformation doctrines that would eventually evolve. Nevertheless, the seed had already been planted.

SYNAGOGUE OF SATAN

But evolve they would. While Luther's theses were written in Latin for academic debate, others translated them into the vernacular and spread them throughout Germany. Suddenly, Luther's protest was the talk of the town. Tetzel was the first to erupt, calling for Luther to be burned at the stake as a heretic. Next was Cardinal Cajetan in October 1518 at the imperial Diet at Augsburg. Luther was interrogated for three days and commanded to recant, which Luther would not do. Luther wrote, the cardinal "produced not one syllable of Scripture" but rather depended on scholastic church fathers.

Declared a heretic by Cajetan, Luther returned home fearful for his life. But Luther's greatest challenge would come in June 1519 with the Catholic debater Johann Eck, whom Luther called "that little glory-hungry beast." Eck brought the real issue to the table: who had final authority, God's Word or the pope? For Eck, Scripture received its authority from the pope. Luther strongly disagreed and in doing so was quickly classified with the forerunning heretics John Wycliffe and Jan Hus. At first Luther denied such an association, but during a break in his debate Luther realized that Hus had taught exactly what he believed.

Eck returned to Rome reporting his findings to the pope, and Luther left the debate only to become further convinced that Scripture, not the pope, was the sole and final authority. Additionally, Luther realized that if the pope was always to have authority over Scripture, then reform from within was impossible. As Michael Reeves explains, "The pope's word would always trump God's. In that case, the reign of the antichrist there was sealed, and it was no longer the church of God but the synagogue of Satan."

FAITH ALONE

But it was not only Luther's understanding of the authority of the pope that would change. His view of salvation would undergo a revolution as well. Luther once again returned to the book of Romans, specifically Romans 1:17, where Paul speaks of the righteousness of God. After understanding it, Luther famously said, "Here I felt that I was altogether born again and had entered paradise itself through open gates."

Suddenly, the gospel became good news. Previously Luther understood the righteousness of God as God punishing sinners in his justice and avenging anger. God's righteousness was bad news, condemning Luther no matter how many good works he did. Luther, therefore, hated God. However, Luther came to realize that the righteousness of God referred to in Romans 1:17 is revealed in the gospel, for the righteous will live by faith. God's righteousness was no longer to be feared but a gift to be received by faith in Christ, that sinners, even the worst of sinners, might be counted righteous before God.

Moreover, the righteousness that God demands is not something we can earn; rather, it has been earned for us in Christ. We need not a righteousness of our own but an alien righteousness, imputed or credited to us by God. Here lay what Luther understood as the "joyous exchange." Christ has taken our sin while we have received his righteousness. As Paul writes, "For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God" (2 Cor. 5:21). And again Paul states in Philippians 3:9, my hope is to "be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith." Therefore, Luther now knew that we are justified not by our works and merits but rather by grace alone (*sola gratia*) through faith alone (*sola fide*).

Matthew Barrett

WORSHIP & COMMUNION SUNDAY

October 5, 2025 at 10:40am

SERVICE THEME: "Praise God!"

- i. Welcome (Pastor Paul Garnes)
- ii. Announcements (Secretary Mark Murray)
- iii. Meditation

1. Scriptural Call to Worship: Psalm 103:1-5 (Pastor Paul Garnes)
2. Prayer of Adoration and Invocation (Pastor Paul Garnes)
3. **Congregational Song**
 - a. **LH #82 / HG #2 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty**
 - b. **HG #4 Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven**
 - c. **HG #11 All Creatures of Our God and King**
4. Scripture Readings
 - a. OT Reading Leviticus 25:18-34 (Sis. Angela 'Annie' Bourne)
 - b. NT Reading Acts 11:1-18 (Sis. Lorna Ward)
5. Prayer of Confession and Pardon (Bro. Owen Thompson)
6. **Congregational Song**
 - a. **HG #18 All People That on Earth Do Dwell**
7. Prayer of Thanksgiving and Offertory Prayer (Bro. Peter Thomas)
8. **Offertory Chorus: Psalm 100 (Praise God)**
9. Intercessory Prayer (Elder Elon Richards)
10. The Berean Senior Choir
11. **Congregational Song: LH #52 / HG #19 To God Be the Glory**
12. Sermon: 1 Timothy 6:1-2a (Pastor Paul Garnes)
13. **Congregational Song: HG #352 I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord**
14. Benediction

ITEMS FOR PRAYER

- Giving thanks for 69 years of ministry
- For a Pastor for the Grazettes church
- For Chirlene's home restoration
- For comfort to those who are grieving.
- For the persecuted church.
- The proposed building project.
- Pray for the ministry and wellbeing of our Pastor and family.
- For healing for our sick members and grace for our shut-in members.
- For the Berean Churches, Grazettes, Dominica, Grenada and DR Congo.
- For unemployed members to find meaningful employment.
- For the peace of Jerusalem. Psalm 122:6-8

ANNIVERSARY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Anniversary Service - Sunday, Oct. 12 10:40am

Berean Bible Challenge - Saturday, Oct. 25, at 5-7pm

Hike - Saturday, Nov. 1 at 6:30am

October Birthdays

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|------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 3 - Gabrielle Licorish | 9 - Jennifer Piggott | 14 - Ryan Bayne |
| 8 - Margo Johnson | 13 - Ethan Boyce | 19 - Alicia Harewood |

October Anniversaries

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|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 5 - Paul & Malivia Garnes | 24 - Clyde & Melissa Lucas |
| 5 - Ricardo & Sheryl Parris | 25 - Carl & Delores Ward |
| 16 - Christopher & Deirdre Boyce | 31 - Richard & Frances Pierce |