

# A Simple Reformation Bibliography with a Focus on Martin Luther

Prepared by F. Christopher Anderson with  
Lee C. Barrett, Byron Borger, Harry Serio, and Jane Ellingwood  
Version 3

## Notes:

- This bibliography was prepared for the 2017 Craigville Theological Colloquy, the theme of which is “The Reformation at 500: Is Grace Still the Answer?” (you can learn about and register for the colloquy at <http://craigvillecolloquy.com/wordpress/>).
- The books marked with two asterisks (\*\*) were recommended by Professor Lee Barrett, the keynote speaker for this year’s colloquy.
- The books marked with three asterisks (\*\*\*) were chosen by Byron Borger, co-owner of Hearts & Minds Books.
- All of the books in this bibliography can be ordered online from Hearts & Minds Books (<http://www.heartsandmindsbooks.com>).
- This bibliography will be kept up-to-date in the months prior to the colloquy and will be available from the colloquy’s web site (<http://craigvillecolloquy.com/wordpress/>).

## GENERAL HISTORY ON THE REFORMATION(S)

\*\* Eire, Carlos, *Reformations: The Early Modern World, 1450-1650* (Yale, 2016). This is spectacular and gives an integrated account of the Protestant and Catholic reform movements.

\*\* and \*\*\* Ozment, Steven, *The Age of Reform, 1250-1550: An Intellectual and Religious History of Late Medieval and Reformation Europe* (Yale, 1981; various newer editions). Probably the BEST overview of the Reformation EVER.

\*\* and \*\*\* MacCulloch, Diarmaid, *The Reformation: A History* (2005). A moderate and judicious Anglican account of the Reformation. It is considered one of the very best books of history overall, let alone Reformation era history, and it has won some prestigious awards.

\*\*\* MacCulloch, Diarmaid, *All Things Made New: The Reformation and Its Legacy* (Oxford, 2016).

Payton, Jr., James R., *Getting the Reformation Wrong: Correcting Some Misunderstandings* (2010). This might be one of the best books to read first on the reformation. Payton gives context and history and discusses ways in which Protestants incorrectly view the Reformation. Great for an Adult Sunday School class.

\*\*\* Sunshine, Glenn, *Reformation for Armchair Theologians* (WJK). This is part of a bigger series (see also *Luther for Armchair Theologians* below) that takes theologians and makes them accessible to ordinary folks. There's even some whimsical cartoons and wit about them. This volume looks at all the key players in the tumultuous time of the Reformation.

Dowley, Tim, *Atlas of European Reformations* (2015). This brief and beautiful book offers maps, graphs, timelines, and pictures that give great overviews of the various Reformations.

\*\* Ozment, Steven, *The Serpent and the Lamb* (Yale, 2013). Looks at the spread of Lutheran sensibilities through visual art and printed material.

\*\* Lindberg, Carter, *The European Reformations* (2009). Encyclopedic, thorough, and fair.

\*\*\* Nichols, Stephen, *The Reformation: How a Monk and a Mallet Changed the World* (Crossway). This is a fun "behind the scenes" look that uncovers some of the dynamics behind this era and the stories of the Reformation. History comes alive in about 180 pages.

\*\*\* Ives, Eric, *The Reformation Experience: Living Through the Turbulent 16th Century* (Lion Press). Ives gives us a "down to Earth" street level view of life in England during the era of the Reformation. This book is different. It is less about the "great figures" (Luther, Melancthon, Calvin, Cramner, etc.) and more about the common people.

\*\*\* McGrath, Alister, *Christianity's Dangerous Idea: The Protestant Revolution -- A History from the Sixteenth Century to the Twenty-first* (HarperOne). This is a great overview of the social, political, theological and cultural implications and legacy of the "revolution" that that Reformation began. This is a pretty fresh interpretation, unique and really interesting.

\*\*\* Hendrix, Scott H., *Recultivating the Vineyard: The Reformation Agendas of Christendom* (Westminster/John Knox, 2004).

\*\*\* Hillerbrand, Hans, *The Division of Christendom: Christianity in the Sixteenth Century* (Westminster/John Knox).

\*\*\* Reeves, Michael, and Tim Chester, *Why the Reformation Still Matters* (Crossway, 2016).

## **THEOLOGICAL WORKS ON MARTIN LUTHER**

\*\* Hendrix, Scott, *Luther* (Abingdon Pillars of Theology, 2009). A brief and insightful introduction.

Hendrix, Scott H., *Luther: Visionary Reformer* (Yale University Press, reprint edition, 2017).

Paulson, Steven D., *Luther for Armchair Theologians*, illustrated by Ron Hill (2004). A great simple introduction to the thought and life of Luther. The illustrations are funny and insightful. The series of books are "written by experts but designed for the non-expert."

Lohse, Bernhard, *Martin Luther: An Introduction to His Life and Work* (German 1980). The title gives the impression that this is about Luther's life. It is more a study of Luther's work and how it has been interpreted. Excellent introduction.

Hoffman, Bengt R., *Theology of the Heart: The Role of Mysticism in the Theology of Martin Luther*, trans. by Pearl Willemssen Hoffman (2003).

Wengert, Timothy J., *Martin Luther's Catechism: Forming the Faith* (2009). Wengert is one of the top scholars on Luther. Wengert's translation of Luther's *Small Catechism* is listed below.

Althaus, Paul, *The Ethics of Martin Luther* (1965). Highly recommended by Bernhard Lohse.

Gritsch, Eric W., *The Wit of Martin Luther* (2006). This book is about Luther's humor and is written by a Luther scholar.

\*\*\* Trueman, Carl, *Luther on the Christian Life: Cross and Freedom* (Crossway). This is in a series that is less designed just to be a full biography (although it does offer a great overview of Luther's life), but more to take the thinker's key ideas and apply them to our spiritual lives today. In this case, it's Luther's view of freedom in Christ.

### **LUTHER'S LIFE AND CONTEXT**

\*\*\* Marty, Martin, *October 31, 1517: Martin Luther and the Day that Changed the World*, with a foreword by James Martin, SJ (Paraclete, 2016). This one you can read in one sitting, probably, by one of the great Lutheran leaders of our time, with a foreword by a prominent and well-loved Jesuit. It's a splendid, short overview of that key day, what happened, and why.

\*\*\* Bainton, Roland, *Here I Stand: A Life of Martin Luther* (Abingdon, 1950). This small biography is still a stand-out, just a really engaging read. For years, it was the standard life of Luther.

Marty, Martin, *Martin Luther* (2004). A short popular book that is on his life. It is not meant to give a history of the Reformation.

Wilson, Andrew, *Here I Walk: A Thousand Miles on Foot to Rome with Martin Luther* (2016).

Tjernagel, Neelak S., *Martin Luther and the Jewish People* (2016).

*The Fables of Aesop*. This was Luther's favorite book after the Bible!

### **LUTHER'S OWN WRITINGS (PRIMARY WRITINGS)**

*Selected Writings of Martin Luther* (4 volumes), ed. by Theodore G. Tappert (Fortress Press, 2007). The first volume covers 1517-1520. It includes Luther's "Ninety-five Theses" (1517), "Heidelberg Disputation (1518), "The Babylon Captivity of the Church" (1520), and other works from the beginning of the Reformation.

*Table Talk*, Vol. 54, Luther's Works, ed. by Theodore G. Tappert (1967). There are many abbreviated versions of this work but the full one is so much fun! It contains the notes of students on what Luther said during meals while he was drinking beer!

*A Commentary on Saint Paul's Epistle to the Galatians.*

*A Compend of Luther's Theology*, ed. by Hugh Thomason Kerr, Jr. (1943). Kerr divides theology into eleven parts and places quotes by Luther in these various loci. It is an old work but not a bad way to get a picture of Luther's theology in 252 pages.

*A Contemporary Translation of Luther's Small Catechism*, trans. by Timothy J. Wengert.

*The Bondage of the Will*, ed. by J.I. Packer & O. R. Johnston (1957). Many say this is Luther's most theological and important work. It deals with the Augustinian issues of free will and grace. It gets one into the heart of the Erasmus - Luther controversy.

*The Large Catechism of Martin Luther*. This is the catechism that Luther created for the local pastors. Luther was shocked at the ignorance of many pastors and this was meant to give them theological basics. The 1959 Fortress edition is only 105 pages long!

*Through the Year with Martin Luther: A Selection of Sermons Celebrating the Feasts and Seasons of the Christian Year* (Hendrickson Publishers, 2007). These sermons of Luther's are often long and odd, but because they are unedited somehow one is taken back to experience how sermons were quite different when Luther was preaching.

### **DEVOTIONALS BASED ON LUTHER'S WRITINGS**

*Daily Readings from Luther's Writings*, Barbara Owen, editor (1993). Unlike the other three, immediately below, this does not have a devotional for every date in the year, but it has many more than the last one in this list. Other than that it is very good.

*Day by Day We Magnify You*, Marshall D. Johnson, editor (original 1946). This is considered the best by many.

*Faith Alone: A Daily Devotional*, James C. Calvin, editor (1998). An excellent devotional put together by someone from Youth For Christ.

*Luther Brevier / Luther's Breviary*, Gledhill & Wilson, translators (2007).

*Praying with Martin Luther: Companions for the Journey*, Peter E. Bastien (1999). Includes 15 meditations which are longer than the others on the list above.