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Martin Luther

“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; through him God accomplished a great work for the reformation of the church and the enlightenment of the world” (GC 120).

Rome’s Reorientation of the Reformation

Seventh-day Adventists, Roman Catholics, Evangelicals & Muslims Unite in a Multi-faith Celebration on the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation

On October 31, 2017, a major international event dedicated to the celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation took place in Moscow in the Cultural and Exhibition Complex “Pashkov House” in Russia. Top officials from the Roman Catholic Church and various Protestant Churches, including the Seventh-day Adventist, met with government officials from the Russian Federation to sing, pray, talk, eat and fellowship together in a show of love, unity and solidarity.



Above: The celebration of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation attended by Seventh-day Adventists took place on October 31, 2017 in Moscow, Russia. Below: The multi-faith participants sang, prayed, ate and stood together during the celebrations.

This is truly a sad day for all the sons and daughters of the Protestant Reformation. Over the past several years we have watched with horror as the principles of the Protestant faith have been abandoned. This abandonment comes as a result of the devastating effects of interfaith cooperation and ecumenical dialog.



After 60 years of sitting down with Rome in prayer and consultation, Protestants have come to the conclusion that there is no strong reason to be divided. Martin Luther’s 95 Theses caused the great split to take place within Christianity. It was Luther who exposed the serious theological errors that had become the core teachings of the



ANCHORS



“Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God”

2 Thessalonians 2:3, 4.

The Pope's Ambassador Calls on Protestants to Move Beyond Divisions Adventists, Catholics, Evangelicals, Muslims, Orthodox and Pentecostals Stand Together



Mikhael Kaminsky (far left), president of the Euro-Asian Division of the Seventh-day Adventist Church stands next to Ted Wilson (second from left), President of the General Conference. Together they are standing shoulder to shoulder with Apostolic, Communist, Evangelical, Lutheran, Muslim, Orthodox, Pentecostal with the Pope's representative—Vatican Ambassador and Roman Catholic, Archbishop Celestino Migliore (red arrow).

Roman Catholic Church way back then. Now, 500 years removed, Protestants are embracing these same serious theological errors by returning to the fold they once fled. They are now on track to heal the great divide between Protestants and Rome. Rome has not changed any of her teachings that Luther pointed out in his 95 Theses—purgatory, indulgences, the sacraments, man-made confessionals, the nature of the church and the Bible not being the sole, final authority in religious matters.

Why this urgent push to go back to Rome when Rome has not changed? Why are Protestants reversing their course and running backwards? God predicted these events over 100 years ago.

"Protestantism shall give the hand of fellowship to the Roman power...This is the religion which Protestants are beginning to look upon with so much favor...This union will not, however, be effected by a change in Catholicism, for Rome never changes. She claims infallibility. It is Protestantism that will change" (*Last Day Events*, 130).

Rome, Front and Center

Archbishop Celestino Migliore, the Vatican Ambassador for this ecumenical event, brought greetings from Pope Francis. In his speech to the different religious and political leaders he told them the Roman Catholic Church was not only proud to participate in this celebration but they felt it was their "duty." He also said it was not Rome's intention to

focus on the divisions brought about by the Protestant Reformation which he characterized as a "disease of conflict," but instead to look forward to a new "joint future" based upon overcoming the "prejudices about the Reformation."

Surprisingly, Archbishop Celestino Migliore also praised the important understanding that we must maintain the "centrality" of the Word of God.¹

Migliore brought out the point which started the entire Protestant Reformation. We wish to ask this man, Who has the final authority in spiritual matters?



Representing Pope Francis for this celebration of the 500th year anniversary of the Protestant Reformation was the Roman Catholic, Archbishop Celestino Migliore.

Does the church or the popes have the last say? Or is it the Word of God? 500 years ago Martin Luther stood before the church of Rome and declared that the only source that has the level of authority to actually bind the conscience of a person is the Bible—God's living Word. No written document of men, no collective teaching of the theologians past or present, no church tradition, no church council, no creeds, or confessions of faith, nor any statement by the popes can bind the conscience absolutely. The only source that has authority and carries weight and value in determining spiritual matters is the Word of God. This was Luther's answer to Rome. At this point, Luther was condemned as a heretic and excommunicated from the Church.

So, 500 years later, is Rome telling people that Luther was right after all? If so, then why haven't they repudiated any of their core doctrines that Martin Luther had de-

The Protestant Reformation in Reverse Towards Rome

The Pope's Messages Being Delivered to the Assembly of Protestant Churches



Right & above far right: Roman Catholic Archbishop brings greetings from Pope Francis to the ecumenical gathering. **Left & above far left:** Mikhail Kaminsky, President of the Euro-Asia Division, Ted & Nancy Wilson, President of the General Conference and his wife, and Oleg Goncharov, Director of the Religious Liberty Department for the Euro-Asia Division of Seventh-day Adventists listen to the Pope's greeting.



nounced? Not one of their many non-Biblical doctrines have been abandoned. It appears that Rome is playing lip service to the Bible when in reality they still believe the church is above the Word of God and ultimately, the decisions of the Church are the final authority in religious matters.

God Reveals Rome's Motives

From the perception of the Catholic Church, the Reformation was a period of deep division brought upon by Protestant rebels who were responsible for bringing separation to the "church" of Christ. However, we are told through inspiration that this accusation against Protestants is not true:

"Romanists have persisted in bringing against Protestants the charge of heresy and willful separation from the true church. But these accusations apply rather to themselves. They are the ones who laid down the banner of Christ and departed from 'the faith which was once delivered unto the saints' Jude 3" (*Great Controversy*, 51).

Ever since Protestants began breaking away and forming separate churches, the Catholic Church has been working to bring her lost and separated children back under her authority. How do we know this to be true? God revealed the motives of Rome (modern-day Babylon) thousands of years ago through the prophet Isaiah (47:1-8).

"Therefore hear now this, thou that art given to pleasures, that dwellest carelessly, that sayest in

thine heart, I am, and none else beside me; **I shall not sit as a widow, neither shall I know the loss of children**" Isaiah 47:8.

The New Testament description of Babylon's pride and motives is described this way: "For she saith in her heart, **I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow**" Revelation 18:7.

Martin Luther's Reformation was a major event and split the Roman Catholic Church in two. Rome lost control, influence and power over half of her kingdom when so many embraced the Protestant Reformation. Even though Rome lost her daughters during that time, her attitude was that she would NEVER know the loss of her children. She would somehow bring them all back. Now we are seeing the fulfillment of these words.

This 500th anniversary is proof and evidence that prophecy is fulfilling. We can see that Rome's ultimate objective is being achieved. Medieval Popes could only dream of seeing this restoration. Her influence and power is slowly increasing and overshadowing the entire world. World leaders in both religious and political groups have come to acknowledge Rome's spiritual and temporal powers.

Secular Government Joins Celebration

The Bible predicted thousands of years ago about a coming, working relationship between church and state during the end-time:

"And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten

The Major Religious Faiths Unite in Healing the Wound

“Deliver thyself, O Zion, that dwellest with the daughter of Babylon” Zachariah 2:7.



Russian Muslims were represented by Albir Krganov, chairman of the Central Spiritual Administration of the Muslims of Moscow.



The Orthodox Church was represented by Bishop Hilarion Alfeyev, chairman of the Department of External Church Relations of the Holy Synod of Moscow.



The Pentecostals were represented by Sergey Ryakhovsky, head bishop of the Russian Union of Christians of the Faith of the Pentecostals.

kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast. These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast” Revelation 17:12, 13.

It is quite a concern to see top, secular, government leaders come to sit, pray, sing and fellowship with Rome and all the religious leaders of their country. Russian state officials joined the 500th year anniversary celebration of the Reformation. Why, and what does this mean? Does this mean that the state recognizes the power and influence of the churches as they come together in one mind? Are the leaders of the nations uniting to do the bidding of Rome? One thing is certain—prophecy tells us that state governments throughout the world will give their full support to Rome. And what better time and place to do this than at the very time that Rome is bringing her daughters under subjection.

What message is being given when super-powerful nations respond to the call of Rome? Prophecy describes that in the last days the kings of the earth unite with Rome giving her their full support. When the powerful nations of the earth bow before Rome—she becomes proud and boastful. Instead of giving honor and glory to God and heeding the warning of Scripture, Rome refuses to acknowledge the illicit relationship of uniting politics with religion.

“And I gave her space to repent of her fornication (church & state) and she repented not” Revelation 2:21.

The First Deputy Head of the Presidential Administration for the Russian Federation, Sergey Kirienko, read to the gathered assembly the personal greetings from President Vladimir Putin. Sergey Kirienko assured that the display of unity that was being manifested during this 500th Anniversary of the Reformation was “a benefit for the Protestant communities, but most importantly—for the benefit and development of our country.”¹

In other words, the secular, powerful governments are becoming an extension of Rome’s political bureaucracy. Rome’s ecumenical agenda is officially becoming the agenda of the nations. Apparently, these inter-faith relationships and events are for the benefit and development of the nation.

The Seventh-day Adventist Role in this Ecumenical Event

President Ted Wilson addressed the ecumenical assembly and spoke briefly about the



The Armenian Apostolic Church was represented by Priest George Vardanyan from the Russian and Novo-Nakhichevan Diocese.



The Lutheran Church was represented by Archbishop Dietrich Brower, head of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Russia.



The Evangelicals were represented by Eduard Grabovenko, Head Bishop of the Russian Church of Christians of Evangelical Faith.

Church & State: Russian Government Leaders Unite in Prayer and Singing

“These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast” Revelation 17:13.

great privilege of “continuing the Reformation.” He reiterated that Seventh-day Adventists are grateful that Luther established the principles of (1) the Bible only, (2) that salvation is believing in Jesus, (3) that Christ is the only Mediator, (4) that eternal life is by the grace of Jesus, (5) and all glory belongs only to God.

Ted Wilson mentioned that these same 5 principles are found recorded in Revelation 14 and are part of the “Three Angels’ Messages.” He also spoke about the importance of helping the poor and broken hearted and he thanked the Russian Government for defending religious liberty.²

The multi-faith audience smiled and clapped after Ted Wilson spoke, and one of Rome’s agents stood up and shook his hand, thanking him for his speech. We wish Brother Wilson would have read a page or two from *The Great Controversy* sharing Martin Luther’s experience, telling the crowd exactly why there was a reformation in the first place and why we still need it today.

If Brother Wilson would have read the “Three Angels’ Messages” right from the Bible and explained it in simple terms it could have resulted in a true reformation moment. We wonder, would there have been applause and praise from the crowd and from the agents of Rome if they had heard that kind of message?

Jesus Himself met opposition when proclaiming the gospel. Notice what He said to His own brethren of the Jewish faith: “The world cannot hate you; but me it hateth, because I testify of it, that the works thereof are evil” John 7:7.

In between the speeches by the different speakers a choir made up of Seventh-day Adventists from the different churches around Moscow performed songs from the book of Psalms. For their grand finale, the Adventist choir sang one of the most beautiful pieces of Christian music ever written. They sang George Frideric Handel’s “Hallelujah” Chorus. It was a great song but for the wrong event. They might just as well have



First Deputy Head of the Presidential Administration of the Russian Federation, Sergey Kirienko, President Putin’s right hand man.



Head of the Moscow Department of National Policy and Interregional Relations, Vitaly Suchkov.



Iosif Diskin, Chairman of the Commission on Harmonization of Interethnic and Interreligious Relations for the Russian Government.



Sergei Gavrilov, Head of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation.

sung the famous Latin Catholic song, “Ave Maria” (Hail Mary). That song would have been more befitting the occasion.

How Should We Respond?

Yes, Rome’s deadly wound is being healed by her union with the Protestant Churches and by the union of the kings of the earth—church & state. In light of all these prophetic signs that we are seeing today, what should be the attitude of God’s remnant people and how should they respond? How do we relate to the ecumenical movement and what does God expect from us? We see two points that need to be very clear in the minds of every Seventh-day Adventist.

1. First of all, **we should not set out on a mission to belittle, ridicule disparage or condemn anyone - our job is to share the special truths contained in the final warning message of Revelation 14:6-12.** Inspiration tells us that many people, including the members of these churches, have not had opportunity to hear our message in a “true light.” God intends for all to have “sufficient light” so that they can make a “decision intelligently” either for or against the truth.

“There are many who have never had an opportunity to hear the special truths for this time. The obligation of the fourth commandment has never been set before them in its true light. He who reads every heart and tries every motive will leave none who desire a knowledge of the truth, to be deceived as to the issues of the controversy. The decree (mark of the beast) is not to be urged upon the people blindly. Everyone is to have sufficient light to make his decision intelligently. The Sabbath will be the great test of loyalty, for it is the point of truth especially controverted” (*Great Controversy*, 605).

2. Even though we don’t condemn these churches it must be

Kiss the Reformation Good-bye!

Seventh-day Adventists Participate in this Multi-faith, Ecumenical Lovefest



Mikhail Kaminsky (left), President of the Euro-Asia Division of SDAs translated for President Ted Wilson (right) during his speech.



Ted Wilson gets applause and praise from the ecumenical audience after his brief speech.



Ted Wilson with the SDA delegation that attended the ecumenical event.



Wilson stands with the SDA choir.



clear in our minds that **we CANNOT join them. We can't link up with churches that are wondering after the beast. Without question, prophecy predicts the startling phenomenon of the ever-increasing eagerness on the part of Rome to draw all churches back into her fold. The healing of the deadly wound and the unification of all faiths is the fulfillment of prophecy and one of the last signs of the end-times.**

The underlying message of the ecumenical movement that will bring all the world under the banner of Rome is "Come in." But at the heart of the Seventh-day Adventist message is the call to "Come out." This is the very reason why the Adventist Movement exists. We are to "come out" and call others out!

This is the very heart (center) of the Three Angels' Messages of Revelation 14. It is also the Latter Rain message of Revelation 18. God's message to all the churches of other faiths is to "Come out of her my people." The "come out" message was also a call for Israel (Exodus 8:1) to come out of Egypt and worship God. The same "come out" message was the heart of the Protestant Reformation (Revelation 12:14) as the faithful "fled" the apostasy and persecution and escaped into the "wilderness."

Likewise, God has in these last days called out a special people with a special message. The fate of the Seventh-day Adventist Movement depends on the 2nd Angel's message. **Either God has called out a unique people into a unique movement that is uniquely His own - or He hasn't.**

If we don't believe that God has called us out to be His special Remnant Church (Revelation 12:17) then we wouldn't need to resist the call to unite with all the churches and join in the ecumenical movement with Rome? It is only as we preach this command to "come out" and call others to be obedient can there be any Advent Movement.

So we have God's message, to "Come out" on one side and



Left: Oleg Goncharov, Director of the Religious Liberty Department for the Euro-Asia Division of the Seventh-day Adventist Church with an agent of Rome.



Religious liberty is hard at work.



"With her much fair speech" and "flattering of her lips she forced him" Proverbs 7:21.



"The kisses of an enemy are deceitful" Proverbs 27:6.

Breaking Bread and Drinking at the Table of Brotherhood

“Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of the Lord's table, and of the table of devils” 1 Corinthians 10:21.

Rome's Message of "Come in" on the other side. Which side are we going to be a part of?

A Counterfeit

Rome's loud cry message to the world is "Come in, because we are all God's people." Their message contradicts God's command. Satan always presents a counterfeit message. God commanded man NOT to eat of the fruit of knowledge of good and evil lest they die, then Satan turned right around and presented a lying wonder to counter the truth of God by saying that they would not die and they would become as God.

In Rome's ecumenical movement everyone is welcome to believe in whatever they want to believe because Bible doctrine is not the focus. Love is the focus. Unity and solidarity is the emphasis, not the Word of God.

In fact, the ecumenical movement has made room to accommodate Seventh-day Adventists to join in by saying, "Come, join us. You can keep your Sabbath. We don't mind at all."

But even if the world makes us an offer where we can have a seat at their ecumenical table and allows us to keep our Sabbath - that would still be a really bad idea. Don't accept the devils deception. Don't sit down with them at any table!

Here is the reason why: We are not commanded only to keep the seventh-day Sabbath (Saturday) but **we are commanded to proclaim it to the world and persuade others to keep it.** We are not only told to come out of Babylon, we need to present it to all others to come out as well. And we are not only commanded to avoid the mark of the beast (Sunday-keeping), **we have been given the responsibility to warn others to avoid it too.** This is the very heart and soul of the mission of Seventh-day Adventists. God has given us a message of great importance that needs to be given to the last generation of



Lutheran (left) & Wilson (right) are happy.



A view of the ecumenical roundtable.



Wilson engaging in interfaith fellowship.



Eating with Catholics and Evangelicals.



Wilson (left) with Oleg Goncharov (right), Director of Religious Liberty for the Euro-Asia Division. They enjoy fellowship.

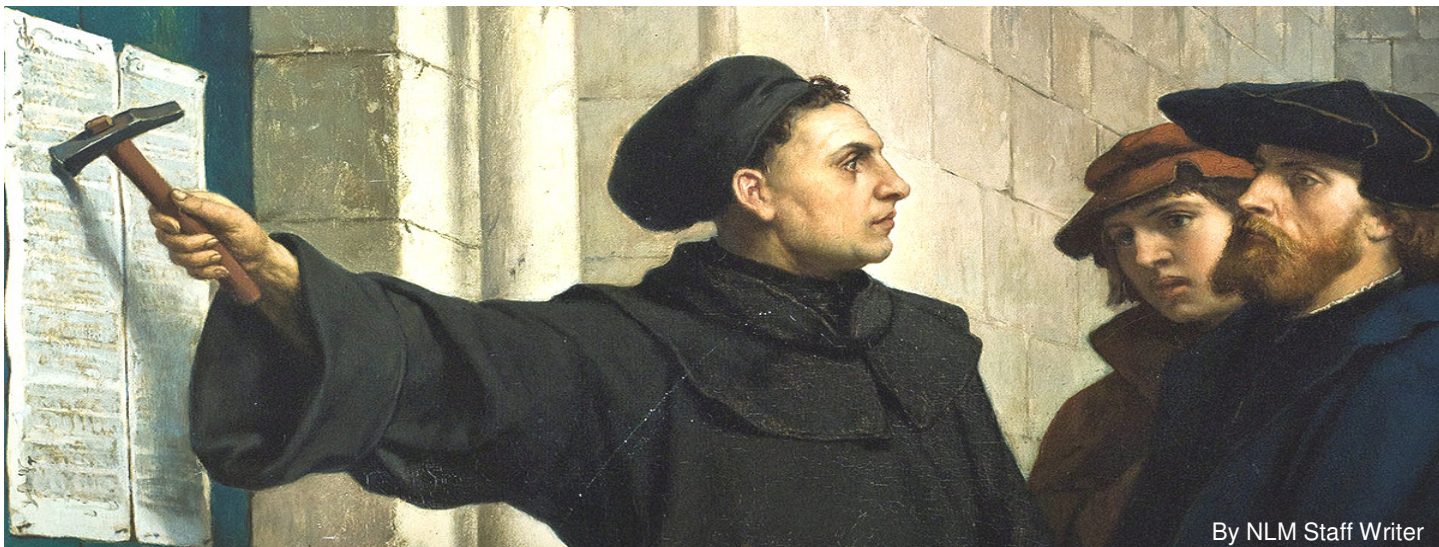
earth. We were not raised up to be yet one more Protestant denomination. The SDA movement is the continuation of the Reformation to refocus the Christian Church after the years of Papal apostasy and confusion. We are not Seventh-day Protestants or Seventh-day Methodists or Seventh-day Catholics or Seventh-day Presbyterians. **We are Seventh-day Adventists who have been called out of every church to form the remnant who "keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus" (Revelation 12:17, Revelation 14:12).**

The Final Warning Message

Because God foresaw the decline of Protestantism, the rise of the papal power and the union of church & state during these last days, He has raised up Advent people to clearly preach the special truths described in Revelation, chapters 12-18. **God will have a true and faithful people who will not sit quietly and allow the beast power to come in and tear down the spirit of Protestantism—the very same spirit upon which the Advent Movement was founded.** God is waiting for his people to call into question, to challenge, and to reprove these blatant violations of the beast and his image? Where are the champions of Protestantism at this crucial hour? May God help us to move ahead with His work and carry it forward—while the vast majority are heading backwards.

¹ <http://0s://www.mos.ru/news/item/31961073/>

² <http://adventist.ru/2017/11/09/rossiyskie-protestanty-i-otprazdnovani-500-letie-reformatsii-v-dome-pashkova/>



By NLM Staff Writer

In the Small Town of Wittenberg - October 31, 1517

In the small town of Wittenberg,
Martin's hammer could be heard,
A love for truth was in his heart,
The Reformation was to start.
In the church he loved so dear,
1517 was the year,
October 31, prepared the day,
When many people would come to pray.
He nailed his theses to the door,
So all could read what God abhors,
The wicked work of men corrupt,
True faith in Christ they did disrupt.
By selling grace for coins of gold,
The souls of men were bought and sold,
A coin would make the coffer ring,
A soul from purgatory spring.
Luther saw Tetzel's money cup,
His zeal for God consumed him up,
He cried against all their designs,
That paid for churches, temples, shrines.
With pen and voice he taught God's Word,
The truth throughout the land was heard,
God's Word alone defines the faith,
The lies of men cannot replace
We're bonded to the Word of God,
All other tests will end in fraud.

The priests and popes became enraged
To see their rule become upstaged,
They called on Luther to appear
To make his protest disappear.
"Recant, Recant or you will die,
The Pope's own law you do defy."
Luther stood with hand held high,
And pointed to the heaven's sky,
"How can I ever dare reject,
The Word of God which I respect?
And if you show me from His Word
The errs I teach that you have heard,
I'll gladly burn my writings now,
And all my teachings disavow.
But if you can't from God's own Word,
Show me how the truth I blur,
And if you use the words of priests,
To try to ban all my beliefs,
Then all will know just where you stand,
Your house is built upon the sand.
My faith holds fast for it stands strong,
Based on God's Word which can't go wrong,
It will endure the test of time,
For it reveals your sin and crime.
So here I stand, I'll do no less,
God's Holy Word I will confess."

New Life Mission *Life Lines*

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