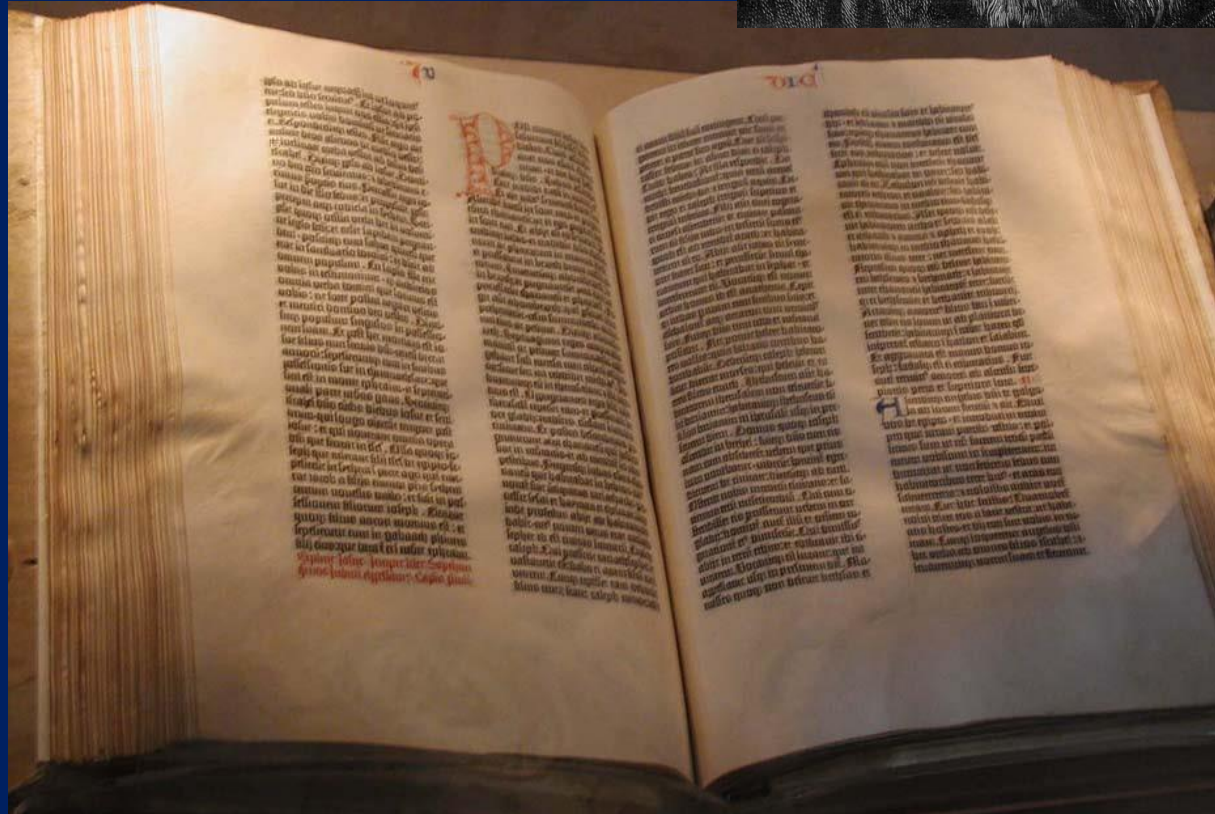
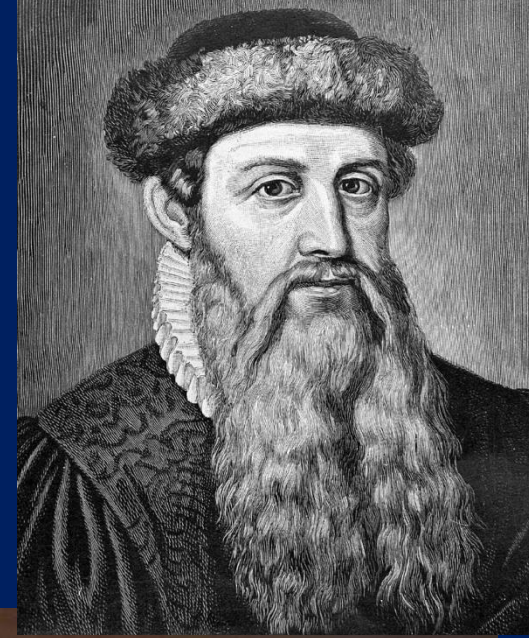


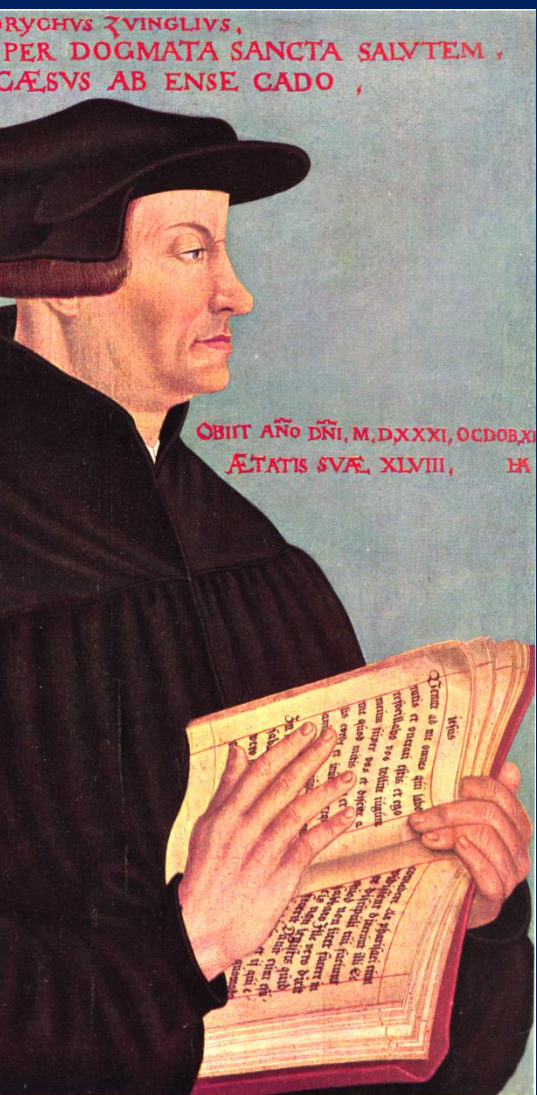
In 1456
Gutenberg
invented the
printing press.
His first book to
be printed was
the Bible. In
time, it would
allow all men to
read the Bible
but it did begin a
revolution.



For 1000 years, there had been no major rifts in “Christianity.” But “the established church” was nearly unrecognizable in the word of God.

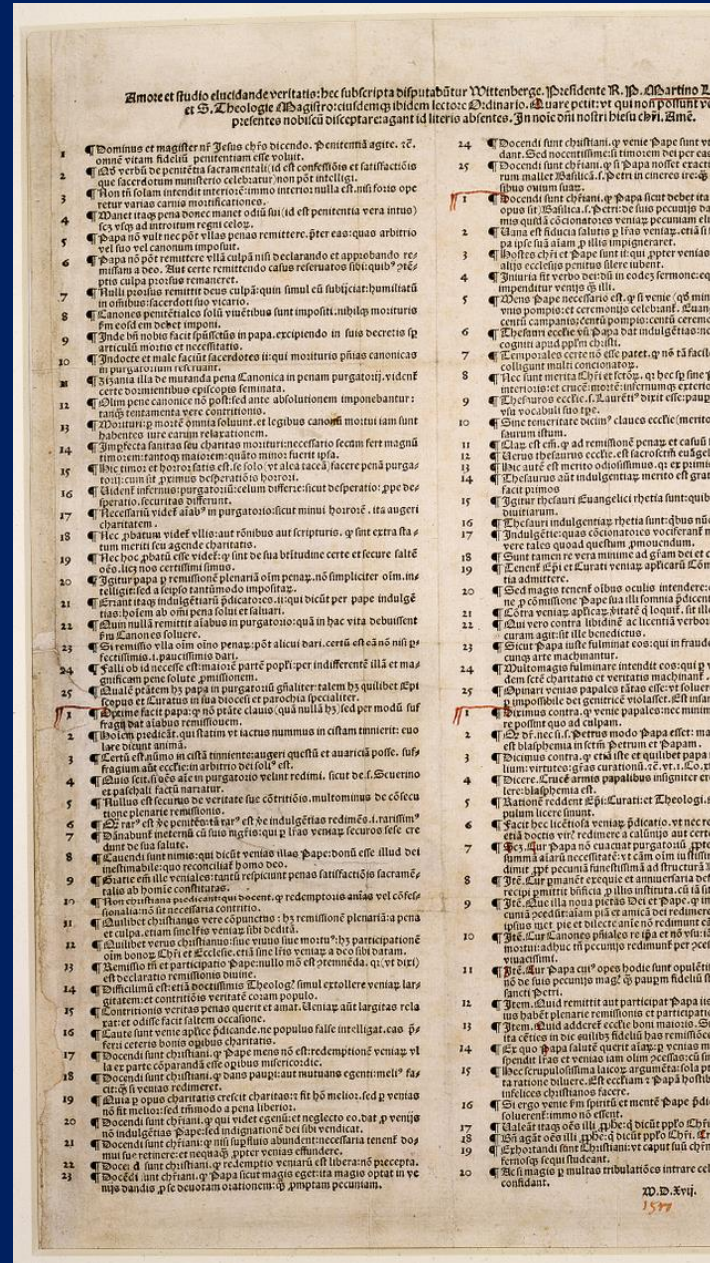
In 1516 Huldreich Zwingli turned to the Scriptures alone to learn of God’s word..

Beginning in 1519 in the Cathedral of Zurich, Zwingli put aside the homilies and for the next twelve years preached through the New Testament beginning in Matthew.



Zwingli believed that the Scripture alone was the standard in all matters relating to the church. He stripped the ornate cathedral of its statues, relics, pictures, and altar equipment, the priestly vestments abolished, and the walls whitewashed. The Roman Catholic mass was reduced to a simple memorial meal.” ... everything not based on scriptural precedent should be abolished, for “everything that is added to the true institutions of Christ is an abuse The people must be educated in the Word of God.

On Oct 31, 1517, Luther tacked his 95 theses to the door of the church castle in Wittenburg, Germany. He was most upset by the sale of Indulgences - The buying of a pardon for the temporal punishment of sin, either on earth or in purgatory. "As soon as the penny tinkles in the box, the soul is released from purgatory."



The church was selling sin!

Luther attacked the ceremonial legalism of the Roman Church, he believed that many of the traditional forms could be kept as long as the substance of the gospel which they expressed was understood properly.

Luther in seeing the emphasis placed on works in the church wanted to reform the church.

Zwingli in reading the Scriptures wanted to restore New Testament Christianity.

Zwingli attacked the idea of the real presence and argued that the word is in the words of the institution—"This is my body, this is my blood"—means signifies. Hence, the words are understood as a metaphor and Zwingli claimed that there was no real presence during the eucharist. In effect, the meal was symbolic of the Last Supper. Luther claimed the bread actually became the body, as did the Roman Catholic Church.

There followed 300 years of war throughout Europe.

The argument these men made at that time still confronts us today. Shall we reform or restore? How do we prevent war over these matters?

As we look to our faith, we must determine what kind of attitude we will have toward the word of God and the church to which our parents belonged. It does not matter whether that was a church of Christ or a Roman Catholic Church. What matters is what will we do about our faith!

Are we going to accept what the established religion of our parents said on the matter or will we look to the word of God?

Concerning Statues

1 Cor 8:4 Therefore concerning the eating of things sacrificed to idols, we know that there is no such thing as an idol in the world, and that there is no God but one. 5 For even if there are so-called gods whether in heaven or on earth, as indeed there are many gods and many lords, 6 yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom are all things, and we exist for Him; and one Lord, Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we exist through Him.

The church needs no idols!

relics, pictures

Rom 1:23 and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures.

Rev 22:8 And I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I heard and saw, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed me these things. 9 And he said to me, "Do not do that; I am a fellow servant of yours and of your brethren the prophets and of those who heed the words of this book; worship God."

We need no relics; they have no value.

Concerning altar equipment

Heb 13:9 Do not be carried away by varied and strange teachings; for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace, not by foods, through which those who were thus occupied were not benefited.

10 We have an altar, from which those who serve the tabernacle have no right to eat. 11 For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the holy place by the high priest as an offering for sin, are burned outside the camp. 12 Therefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people through His own blood, suffered outside the gate.

The cross of Christ is the altar of which the Hebrew
writer speaks!

Organs were destroyed

Col 3:16 Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

Eph 5:19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord;

Singing is for teaching and the melody is made in the heart

Priestly vestments abolished

Matt 20:25 But Jesus called them to Himself, and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them. 26 "It is not so among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant, 27 and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave; 28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

Roman Catholic mass was reduced to a simple
memorial meal

1 Cor 11:23 For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which He was betrayed took bread; 24 and when He had given thanks, He broke it, and said, "This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me." 25 In the same way He took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." 26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

infant baptism

Acts 8:12 But when they believed Philip preaching the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were being baptized, men and women alike. 13 And even Simon himself believed; and after being baptized, he continued on with Philip; and as he observed signs and great miracles taking place, he was constantly amazed.

Acts 16:33 And he took them that very hour of the night and washed their wounds, and immediately he was baptized, he and all his household. 34 And he brought them into his house and set food before them, and rejoiced greatly, having believed in God with his whole household.

There is no infant baptism in the Scriptures - only baptism for adult believers!

What about you and your faith?

Do you want to restore New Testament Christianity
in your life?

If so, are you willing to follow the Scriptures
exclusively, putting your faith in the word of God?

If so, you need to know that you are guilty of sin!

Rom 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the
glory of God,

There is only one way out of that sin!

Acts 2:36 "Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ-- this Jesus whom you crucified." 37 Now when they heard this they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do?" 38 And Peter said to them, "Repent, and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.