

I call your attention briefly to two passages of Scripture. To the last part of the 8th ch. of the Bk. of Romans: vv.35, "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship . . . As it is written, for your sakes we taste death all the day long . . . but in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us for I am convinced that neither death nor life . . . will be able to separate us from the Love of God . . ." These words were certainly echoed in the hymn we just sang, that great hymn by M. Luther.

Then we notice one of Luther's favorite vv. which is Gal. 3:11, Clearly no one is justified before God by the law for the righteous shall live by faith."

Five hundred years ago this year there was born in a little town of Eisleben in Germany, a ~~boy~~ boy who was named Martin Luther. His father was a rather poor man. He came of peasant stock. He had absolutely nothing. By hard work he had raised himself to the position where he had a small coal mine which he operated. I'm sure nobody ever thought that that little child born there would become one of the most famous people in the world.

In fact I heard it said some years ago that there had been more books written about M. Luther and about N. Bonapart than of any other people who ever lived! I don't know whether that's still true today, but certainly there is no mere human (so far as I know) who has exerted a stronger influence on the world than M. Luther did. His father was very anxious that he son should move ahead in life. He wanted his son to become an important person. He had no means there in Eisleben to educate him. He had some cousins who lived a couple hundred miles away in a town called Eisenach. When the ~~boy~~ boy was fairly young he sent him there to live with his cousins where he could get an education.

The young ~~boy~~ boy had to support himself largely by singing in the streets, and accepting gifts from people who would help the young boy who was trying to get his education. Eventually he got far enough along so he was able to go to the university. There he proved to be a brilliant scholar. He got the degree of bachelor of arts, then he got the degree of master of arts. Now he was ready for professional training.

His father said, Martin, I want you to become a lawyer. As a lawyer you can become one of the most prominent men in the country, You have tremendous potentialities before you if you will become a lawyer. So he said I want you to go to law school. So he started in to the law school. He was a great favorite with his fellow students. He loved music and was a fine musician. They had many parties together. He studied hard and made progress in his lessons. One day to the surprise of all his associates when they were together for a party, he took his musical instruments, he took his books and nearly everything he had and distributed them among his associates. They said, What's the matter? Why are you giving all these things away?" He said "Because Martin Luther is dying tonight.