

*Luther*



Recently we discussed some of the outstanding events in the career of Martin Luther and noticed his greatness. He was a man of great charm, a man of tremendous energy, a man who, after great struggles and difficulties, learned to understand the essentials of the Gospel of Christ, and when he did his life was transformed, unified centered on one great goal, that of making known the wonderful grace of the Lord Jesus, and the call to all men to avail ~~glim~~ themselves of this grace. Luther did not set out specifically to reform the church; he did not undertake to establish an organization; he did not seek his own glory or his own prestige: he sought one thing alone, ~~the~~ to bring to all men's attention the centrality of the grace of Christ and the call to "Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

There were many others during Luther's ~~gim~~ time who reached the same conclusions that he did. During a century or two before there had been individuals who had come to see the Gospel as clearly or almost as clearly as Luther. Some of these had been burned at the stake; some of them had been closed off in monasteries and deprived of almost all contact with the outside world. Luther was able to arouse people's interest, to stir their hearts. He was able to be the catalyst which drew together those who saw the great central teaching of the Gospel and desired to make it known. Modern Protestantism is impossible to think of without the tremendous place that Martin Luther occupies at its beginning. *me* The Lord does not wish us to put any character in a primary position, except the Lord Jesus Christ.

All ~~the~~ human beings are fallible; all have their faults. Some have many small faults; one or ~~more~~ more some have ~~a~~ few great faults. There was ~~one~~ one unfortunate flaw in Luther's Chn° leader character, a flaw that is found in many a ~~person~~ person today, one which I believe we need to look at and to seek to guard against. This flaw was his insistence ~~on~~ at one particular place point his own idea and refusal to recognize that the point was a secondary one on which equally good Chns° might differ. As a result of this flaw Protestantism was split ~~was~~ in two and might easily have fallen