

of Germany. It went up into much of France, into Belgium, into Holland, over into Great Britain. After another century Poland was reached by followers of Calvin. One third of Poland became Protestant. The nobility in Poland largely became Protestant. Then the Jesuits came in urging them to have debates and using this procedure of trying to combat these people, these Poles who were not yet very thoroughly trained in the Gospel. They appealed to the people near them, the Lutherans for help. The Lutherans said, We can't help you; you don't agree with us, and they refused to help. And the Calvinists were way the other side of Germany from them. There was no way to get help from them. In the end the Jesuits beginning with disputation and then turning to persecution they wiped Protestantism almost completely out of Poland. Thousands of people were killed and large sections of Europe were won back by the Counter Reformation so that it was impossible for two centuries for anyone to preach salvation through the death of Christ in those areas.

Humanly speaking this might have been prevented if Luther and his associates had made a separation mark between the sort of contention the Lord wants us to go into, the standing for His Word and presenting the truth of Scripture as the only source of knowledge, and taking something on which earnest consecrated Christians might differ and elevating it to an important point of doctrine.

Oh, may the Lord enable us to stand for His Word to present his gospel, to spread it through the world as much as we can. May he use us for his purposes in this regard. But may he enable us in those matters on which consecrated earnest Christian people may differ, may he enable us here to be charitable and tolerant, and to find points of agreement and stand together on it.

Let us pray. O God our Father, we thank you for M. Luther, for U. Zwingli, for J. Calvin, for these other great giants of that time 400 yrs. ago. We thank you for the great things they accomplished in spreading the knowledge of the Word and salvation in Him by faith alone. Help us to see their errors, their mistakes and avoid them. Help us we pray that we may stand four square against denial and compromise, but help us to not let ourselves be divided over which earnest Christian people may differ. We ask in Jesus' Name. Amen.

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