

George was glad to have them sold in his territory, and in many places there was a very fine line between the two sections.

When Luther went into the church and saw a man there who had been dead drunk and had committed all sorts of minor offences, Luther said then when the man said "I want absolution," Luther said, Will you up your drinking? Will you give up doing these things? The man said, No. Why should I? Luther said, Do you expect God to forgive you if you won't change your life? and put your faith in Christ? The man said, Why I've got a paper here; I don't have to do those things! He showed Luther the paper. He'd crossed over into the other part of Saxony and bought the paper. He said, This forgives me all my sins, past, present and future. Now, he said, You've got to give me absolution. Luther said, I wouldn't do such a thing. That's ridiculous.

Luther was quite upset when he found some of his parishioners that way. Luther had no thought of starting a reformation. It never entered his head. He thought of protecting his people from the false teaching that was being brought into it. Luther ==They told how Staupitz(?) (you mean Tetzel) would go around with a big drum and gather the people in these sections and in the section where Luther was and make these great orations and the people would make all these payments to ~~him~~ him. Luther said, I'd better make a hole in his drum.

Luther thought, How can I bring to the attention of the church what this man is doing? How can I show that he's doing things the church has never supported at all! So he said, I will follow a rather common practice of the day, to write a theses--that is some statements of ~~the~~ ideas, some on one side, some on the other side, giving the whole view in general and it presents the subject. The people can see this, other scholars can come and debate and ~~the~~ discuss them and work out the ~~truth~~ truth of it.

So it came at All ~~Saints~~ Saints Day toward the end of October and he knew many people would come to Wittenburg. He wrote out these about 100 theses and he tacked them up on the church door which was the normal custom of inviting other scholars to discuss the matters. They were put up there in Latin.

In the morning when the people came to church they said, What's this on the church? Crowds were coming in because this was the day when many people came to church. They said, What are these things written on the door here? Oh, they said, it's just a discussion some scholars are having. Just an argument in Latin. They asked, What is it about? What does it say? Then somebody who knew Latin began translating it into German. They said, If that's true we are wasting all this money! These are of no value at all if that's true. Somebody said, That's amazing. Somebody said, I'm going to copy that and let other people know about it. So he made a copy and they got it printed.