

Luther accomplished in those remaining years of his life a missionary work that spread through Europe. He accomplished a tremendous pastoral work. He dealt with the people there and with the visitors who came through, and the people who thronged to it. He did a scholarly work. He translated the entire Bible and he almost had to make a new German language to put it in because there were so many dialects. He fit them together and took the best things from each of them and the present German language is based largely on what Luther did.

He is one of the individuals who has accomplished as much in sheer accomplishment of hard work as almost anyone who ever lived! He is one who has accomplished about as much for the cause of Christ as almost anyone who ever lived. He kept Christ before his eyes. He put the Word of God, its presentation and interpretation and understanding of it as a major interest in his life. God enabled him to see by the end of his life the Word of God spread over great areas of Europe.

Just after Luther died the Emperor succeeded in organizing a force that conquered all the territory where Luther had been. Just a year later. He was buried in a church. Someone said, This is where that heretic is buried; dig up his bones! Charles drew himself up and said, I fight against the living not the dead."

God used that man as he has used few men because he put God first and everything else second or third or fourth and God used him.

Let us pray: God, our Father we thank you for M. Luther and the way you used him for the glory of God. We thank you for the willingness you gave him to put Christ first and nothing second. That you gave him the willingness to let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also if only he could accomplish the utmost for Christ. We thank you for what you accomplished through this great man of God. O God we pray you will help to follow his footsteps keeping our eyes on Christ determining as he did to understand the Word, to get the truth from it for our times and then present it. Determined to put nothing else in the place of presenting God's Word and ~~leaving~~ reaching people with its truth. We ask in Jesus' Name. Amen.