

Martin Luther and the “New Theology”

Martin Luther originally intended to become a lawyer, but a sudden thunderstorm changed his mind and made him a monk. While in the monastery, he had enormous problems with guilt, until he realized that Scripture taught that we are saved by grace through faith, not by our works. Armed with this insight, Luther developed a new approach to theology that he thought would be able to reform the Catholic Church. His arguments were so convincing that he and his students converted the entire theological faculty at the University of Wittenberg to the “New Theology.”

Glenn Sunshine (PhD University of Wisconsin, Madison) is professor of history at the Central Connecticut State University, a Research Fellow of the Acton Institute for the Study of Religion and Liberty, and a faculty member of the Centurions Program at Breakpoint, the worldview training ministry of PFM. An award winning author, Glenn has published several books and numerous articles on history, theology, and culture online and on both sides of the Atlantic, and is a regular columnist for the Worldview Journal of the Colson Center for Christian Worldview. Glenn has taught a variety of Bible, history, and worldview seminars and courses to churches around the U.S. and in Europe, as well as leading church retreats, seminars, and renewal weekends. He was the content consultant for *Wide Angle* and for *Walk the Talk*, worldview training curricula featuring Chuck Colson, Rick Warren, and Gerard Long. He is featured with Chuck Colson on *Worldview and Why It Matters: An Introduction to Christian Worldview*, a leadership training course produced by the Colson Center for Christian Worldview, and appears on Acton Media’s *The Birth of Freedom*, a documentary released on DVD in 2008, and on *Doing the Right Thing*, an ethics curriculum released in 2011.

I. The Silver Boom

A. Elector Fredrick

1. Wealth rivals Habsburgs
2. Relic Collection
3. University of Wittenberg

B. The Luthers

1. Hans Luther

2. Plans for Martin

II. In the Monastery

A. “St. Ann, save me! I will become a monk!”

B. Luther’s Crisis

1. R.C. Sproul’s Explanation

2. Trip to Rome

3. Johann von Staupitz

- C. At the University of Wittenberg

1. Theological Studies

2. Tower Experience

3. The Wittenberg Theology