

Title: **THE LIFE AND MINISTRY OF MARTIN LUTHER (1483-1546)**

Text: **Hebrews 11**

**(I) ROMAN CATHOLIC DOMINANCE**

**1. The only Church in the Middle Ages**

**2. The Pope's influence**

- a) Religious
- b) Secular

**3. Sad features that dominated**

- a) Power of the Pope
- b) Corruption of the Church
- c) Corruption of the priesthood

**4. The common people**

- a) No access to the Bible
- b) No knowledge of the Gospel
- c) Superstition and far prevailed

## **(II) MARTIN LUTHER- REFORMER**

### **1. Riddled with fear of judgment from God**

### **2. Sought salvation in the Church**

- a) Vowed to be a monk
- b) Praying and fasting
- c) Confession and Severe penances
- d) Pilgrimages

No peace of the soul was found!

### **3. Providentially he was urged to study the Scriptures by his superior**

- a) Devoted his life to become a Doctor of the Bible
- b) Studied the Scriptures against the background of the Roman Church
- c) Began to declare his teachings openly:-
  - i) Salvation is through justification by God
  - ii) Salvation is by grace through faith in Jesus
  - iii) The Scriptures are the only source of authority
  - iv) The sale of indulgences (forgiveness of sin through payment of money) is wrong

## **(III) CONTRIBUTIONS OF MARTIN LUTHER**

### **1. Founder of the Lutheran Church**

### **2. Catalyst for the Protestant Movement**

### **3. Translator of the Bible into German**

### **4. Catechisms**

### **5. Many theological books**