

FILL IN THE BLANK

Fill in the blanks in the following narrative about the life and beliefs of Martin Luther.

Martin Luther was born in 1483 in the country of _____. At the age of fourteen, he was sent away from home because his parents were too poor to support him. He attended a Franciscan school for poor boys and it was common for young students to beg or _____ for their food.

At the age of eighteen, Martin attended a university where a life-changing event happened to him. While returning to the university from a visit with family, Martin was knocked down by a _____ during a thunderstorm. He immediately cried out to a saint to save him and pledged he would become a _____. He did! He left law school and entered the Augustinian monastery at Erfurt.

As a monk, Martin tried very hard to do all the right things to be good and holy. He faithfully fasted, prayed, read the _____, and even went without blankets in his icy cold cell in order to rid himself of his _____. However, it seemed the harder he tried to keep God's _____ perfectly, the more he was aware of his sins and his inability to be cleansed from them.

From the monastery at Erfurt, Martin was sent to _____, Germany, to be a professor. While studying the Bible, Martin learned that he didn't have to earn God's forgiveness by working hard to be holy. _____ had earned it for him by dying on the cross for his sins. Martin realized that _____ was not possible through any works he did but through _____ in Christ's work on the cross.

With this truth from the Bible, Martin became troubled with the worldly and sinful behavior of many church officials. In particular, he was quite concerned that a monk named John Tetzel was selling _____ (a monetary payment that took away punishment for sins) near Wittenberg. In response to this troubling practice, Martin wrote down his concerns, called the _____, and nailed them to the door of the _____ in Wittenberg on October 31, 1517.

At the Diet (trial) of _____, the emperor Charles V, along with church leaders, demanded that Martin take back (recant) what he had written. With God-given courage and humility, Martin refused to take back anything he had written because his conscience was ruled by the _____ . Consequently, Martin was declared an outlaw, and his life was in danger.

While fleeing back home to Wittenberg, Martin was kidnapped and brought to a fortress called _____. The kidnappers, however, were actually friends sent by the Duke of Saxony (Frederick the Wise) to protect Martin. For a year Martin lived and worked under the Duke's protection. Among many other projects, Martin translated the _____ into German so that the common people could read it.

Within a short time, Martin's efforts ushered in the era known as the _____. By God's grace, the Reformation impacted not only all of Europe but had far-reaching effects to many countries beyond!