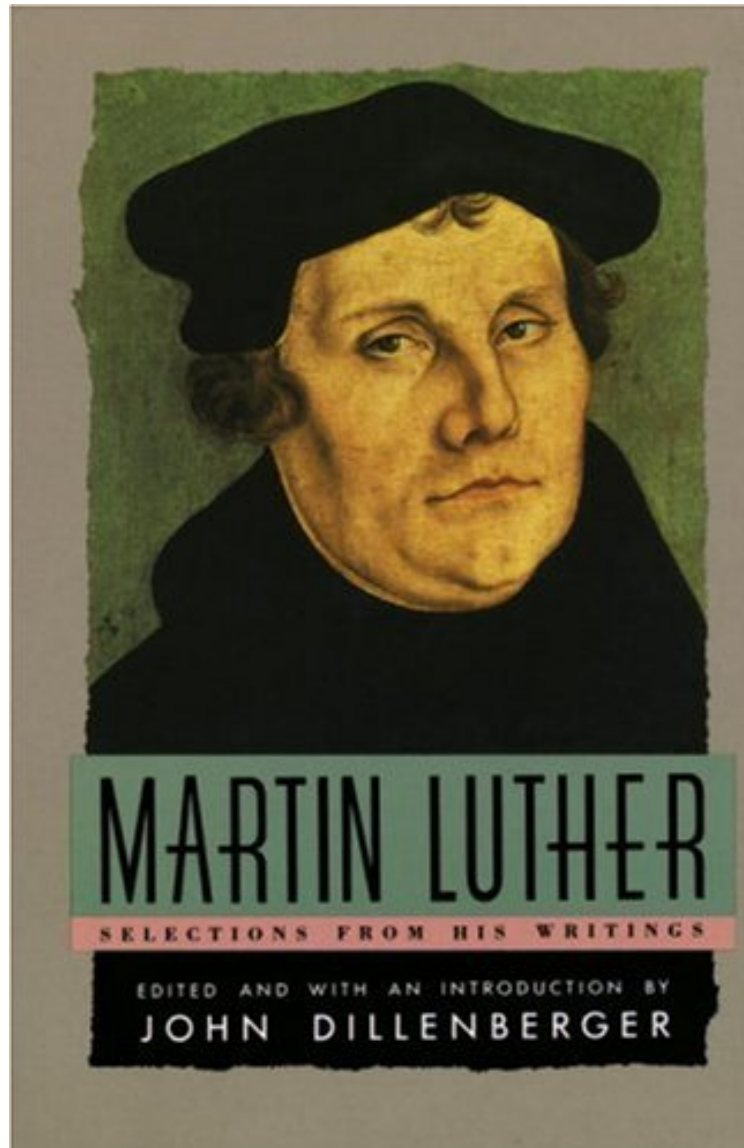


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Martin Luther : Selections From His Writings

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Joseph Streamer Exactly what I wanted. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Classic Luther Texts--Mostly From His Earlier Career By Timothy P. Dost Dillenberger is a fine collection of classic earlier Luther texts with a few examples from his later career. One will find here the basics of Luther's teaching at a reasonable cost and in an agreeable format. The texts cover both Luther's theological views and his views of reform by for the princes of his day. The text also includes his two most famous sets of theses, The Ninety Five Theses and the Theses for the Hiedelberg Disputation. Freedom of a Christian Man does a great job of explaining Luther's view of the benefit of the Gospel in the life of the Christian, as well as the life that results. Some of the writings, such as Bondage of the Will are abridged. Brief introductions are provided to the various works. I would like to see the Theses on Scholastic Theology from 1517 included. The writings are uniformly theological, and so do not include some of Luther's sharp and controversial polemics. I teach Luther courses regularly, and still use this book as it provides the best source based information for the price. For further reading, I also recommend the Theodore Tappert Volume from the Library of Christian Classics, Luther: Letters of Spiritual Counsel, to go with this volume. One might also productively read Paul Althaus, The Theology of Martin Luther for a more systematized treatment of his theology.

The development of Martin Luther's thought was both a symptom and moving force in the transformation of the Middle Ages into the modern world. Geographical discovery, an emerging scientific tradition, and a climate of social change had splintered the unity of medieval Christian culture, and these changes provided the background for Luther's theological challenge. His new apprehension of Scripture and fresh understanding of man's relation to God demanded a break with the Church as then constituted and released the powerful impulses that carried the Reformation. Luther's vigorous, colorful language still retains the excitement it had for thousands of his contemporaries. In this volume, Dr. Dillenberger has made a representative selection from Luther's extensive writings, and has also provided the reader with a lucid introduction to his thought.

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