

# *The Wittenberg Times*

1526-1550



All the news that's fit to print with some editorializing by Martin Luther  
Editor: Hank Bitten

## **1529 – October 1 - Luther and Zwingli Meet at the University of Marburg**

The main issue of the Agenda for this colloquy is the correct interpretation of the Lord's Supper. Martin Luther remains unequivocal in his position on the real presence of the body and blood of Jesus Christ in the sacrament. He is likely empowered after winning his argument with Professor Bodenstein von Carlstadt at the University of Wittenberg.

However, Erasmus, Zwingli, and the theologians of the Roman Catholic Church strongly disagree with Luther's position. Both Luther and Zwingli have written extensively on the Lord's Supper and preached several sermons in the past year.

Martin Luther has clarified his theological argument by explaining that both the bread and wine and body and blood are in the Lord's Supper as a sacramental union. As a result, he has the support of many nobles and laypeople in southwest Germany. Martin Luther stated in a press conference before the colloquy that the clearest exposition of the real presence is in 1 Corinthians 10:16, "***This is My body.***" Luther added that Holy Communion is a gift from God and that the people actually receive the flesh and blood of the historic Christ. He concluded by saying, "This is God's miracle and our forgiveness."

Zwingli, who does not have a doctorate degree in theology, holds to the symbolic view of the Lord's Supper. Zwingli maintained that as the sinner eats and drinks the sacrament, the sinner is also reflecting on the benefit of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. His position is based on John 6:63, "***the flesh profiteth nothing.***" The bread and wine are symbols lifting up our faith to God.

It appears that the reformers will agree on 14 of the 15 articles for discussion. Luther maintains that in His resurrection Jesus Christ is present everywhere and not limited by time, space, or human understanding.

Standing outside the University of Marburg on a spectacular fall day, I have the impression that this is one of the most historic events that may ever take place in the history of the Christian Church. This difference between two brilliant theologians is likely to continue for the next 500, or more, years!

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## **1529 – Turks Attack Vienna**

This morning the Hapsburg capital is under siege with an army of Suleimein's that is twice the size of the attack used at Mohacs just three years ago. Although Emperor Charles V was fighting France, he made peace at Cambria with Francis I so he could return to the eastern provinces under attack. However, he lacks sufficient forces to win this invasion of 300,000 on horseback. At this time, Ferdinand's forces from Bohemia are experiencing the brunt of the attack. The Turks have opened at least 20 holes in the walls around Vienna.

Although it is still October, snow is beginning to fall as I am on a hill overlooking Vienna. If this storm continues with heavy rains and icy snow, it may give the Vienna burghers a chance to defend their property and city as the Turks are not prepared for severe weather. (Horses and explosives are not made for ice and rain). The smoke I see on the horizon is from the explosives the burghers are using to blow up the Ottoman tunnels and destroy the fodder the horses need to survive.

As I report from the hills outside the city, this attack appears to be a major setback for the Muslim invaders and a victory for the Holy Roman Empire and Christianity. The military victory may actually be less important than the victory that is likely to come to Martin Luther and the Protestants as Charles V will have no time for this domestic religious issue - for at least a year.