

The Wittenberg Times
1526-1550



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

1539 May 30 - Spain Annexes Cuba

Hernando de Soto with substantial funds from Emperor Charles V including 640 men and resources of carpenters, blacksmiths, farmers, priests, and engineers for a long campaign, has taken Cuba. He is leaving today for Tampa on the peninsula of Florida in search of an Indian who has been converted to the Christian faith and may speak Spanish.

We have secured a copy of the following letter from Ponce de Leon, one of the officers in deSoto's armada:

"In order that Your Majesty may entertain good hopes of that country of Florida, we report, that directly upon our arrival here [in Havana], in order that Juan de Anasco might go with fifty men to look for some port on the coast, he was elected to be the royal Comptroller; and although he passed through many hardships, because of the winter, he found the most convenient place that could be desired very near, only some seventy-five or eighty leagues from this land, inhabited and very secure. He brought four of the Indians, as interpreters, who are so intelligent that they already understand us, after a manner, and give grand expectations of that country, so much so, that all depart joyfully and contented.

The bearer of this letter is the Captain Hernan Ponce de Leon, companion of the Adelantado, who has been a witness to all this, and is a person of whom Your Majesty can be informed in whatsoever may most interest you. We will say no more at present, save that on arriving in the land of Florida, we will, by Divine pleasure, take particular care to give a very long relation of all that shall hereafter occur.

Our Lord guard and increase the life of Your Majesty with augmentation of more and greater kingdoms and lordships, as the servants of Y.M. desire.

From the town of San X'bal of the Havana, the eighteenth day of May, of the year 1539."

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1539 Calvin Publishes Commentary on Romans

This reporter has reviewed the excellent commentaries on Romans by Martin Luther, Philip Melancthon, and Martin Bucer. However, this new commentary by John Calvin offers deep insights into faith and the certainty of eternal salvation. It is brilliant!

Calvin claims that Paul is clear that people are predestined to faith by the grace of Jesus Christ. Calvin's disagreement with the Roman Catholic theologians is that there is no uncertainty about one's salvation and that it cannot depend on good works. Calvin's commentary gives Christians peace and the serenity of conscience in the promise that they are justified by faith alone.

Calvin further explains that God helps Christians who are enduring suffering. He argues that Romans 5:5 is proof that God will help people with faith.

"And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us."

Although Calvin references the commentaries of Luther, Bucer, and Melancthon, it is the clarity and directness of his words that make this book popular.

"I will repeat this again in other words,—*If grace be everything that we obtain by faith, then every regard for works is laid in the dust.*" But what next follows more fully removes all ambiguity,—that the promise then only stands firm, when it recumbs on grace: for by this expression Paul confirms this truth, that as long as men depend on works, they are harassed with doubts; for they deprive themselves of what the promises contain. Hence, also, we may easily learn, that grace is not to be taken, as some imagine, for the gift of regeneration, but for a gratuitous favour: for as regeneration is never perfect, it can never suffice to pacify souls, nor of itself can it make the promise certain."

As Christians endure suffering, Calvin writes that their salvation is confirmed as God pours His love into their hearts.

"For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us." (Romans 8)

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1539 France Announces First Public Lottery

King Francis 1 announced the results today of the first national lottery, the *Loterie Royale*, sponsored by the government to raise funds for the depleted treasury. The lottery was a huge failure and failed to raise the money to cover the prizes. The clergy and nobles opposed the lottery. The French lottery was different from other auctions and raffles conducted in Renaissance cities in Italy because in this one winners were selected by matching a series of winning numbers.

Prizes drawn in the Lottery from the xvi. to the xxvi. by 1539.



<p>Prize of 100,000 livres</p> <p>Prize of 50,000 livres</p> <p>Prize of 25,000 livres</p> <p>Prize of 10,000 livres</p> <p>Prize of 5,000 livres</p> <p>Prize of 2,500 livres</p> <p>Prize of 1,250 livres</p> <p>Prize of 625 livres</p> <p>Prize of 312 livres</p> <p>Prize of 156 livres</p> <p>Prize of 78 livres</p> <p>Prize of 39 livres</p> <p>Prize of 19 livres</p> <p>Prize of 9 livres</p> <p>Prize of 4 livres</p> <p>Prize of 2 livres</p> <p>Prize of 1 livre</p> <p>Prize of 100 livres</p> <p>Prize of 50 livres</p> <p>Prize of 25 livres</p> <p>Prize of 10 livres</p> <p>Prize of 5 livres</p> <p>Prize of 2 livres</p> <p>Prize of 1 livre</p> <p>Prize of 100 livres</p> <p>Prize of 50 livres</p> <p>Prize of 25 livres</p> <p>Prize of 10 livres</p> <p>Prize of 5 livres</p> <p>Prize of 2 livres</p> <p>Prize of 1 livre</p>	<p>Prize of 100,000 livres</p> <p>Prize of 50,000 livres</p> <p>Prize of 25,000 livres</p> <p>Prize of 10,000 livres</p> <p>Prize of 5,000 livres</p> <p>Prize of 2,500 livres</p> <p>Prize of 1,250 livres</p> <p>Prize of 625 livres</p> <p>Prize of 312 livres</p> <p>Prize of 156 livres</p> <p>Prize of 78 livres</p> <p>Prize of 39 livres</p> <p>Prize of 19 livres</p> <p>Prize of 9 livres</p> <p>Prize of 4 livres</p> <p>Prize of 2 livres</p> <p>Prize of 1 livre</p> <p>Prize of 100 livres</p> <p>Prize of 50 livres</p> <p>Prize of 25 livres</p> <p>Prize of 10 livres</p> <p>Prize of 5 livres</p> <p>Prize of 2 livres</p> <p>Prize of 1 livre</p> <p>Prize of 100 livres</p> <p>Prize of 50 livres</p> <p>Prize of 25 livres</p> <p>Prize of 10 livres</p> <p>Prize of 5 livres</p> <p>Prize of 2 livres</p> <p>Prize of 1 livre</p>	<p>Prize of 100,000 livres</p> <p>Prize of 50,000 livres</p> <p>Prize of 25,000 livres</p> <p>Prize of 10,000 livres</p> <p>Prize of 5,000 livres</p> <p>Prize of 2,500 livres</p> <p>Prize of 1,250 livres</p> <p>Prize of 625 livres</p> <p>Prize of 312 livres</p> <p>Prize of 156 livres</p> <p>Prize of 78 livres</p> <p>Prize of 39 livres</p> <p>Prize of 19 livres</p> <p>Prize of 9 livres</p> <p>Prize of 4 livres</p> <p>Prize of 2 livres</p> <p>Prize of 1 livre</p> <p>Prize of 100 livres</p> <p>Prize of 50 livres</p> <p>Prize of 25 livres</p> <p>Prize of 10 livres</p> <p>Prize of 5 livres</p> <p>Prize of 2 livres</p> <p>Prize of 1 livre</p> <p>Prize of 100 livres</p> <p>Prize of 50 livres</p> <p>Prize of 25 livres</p> <p>Prize of 10 livres</p> <p>Prize of 5 livres</p> <p>Prize of 2 livres</p> <p>Prize of 1 livre</p>	<p>Prize of 100,000 livres</p> <p>Prize of 50,000 livres</p> <p>Prize of 25,000 livres</p> <p>Prize of 10,000 livres</p> <p>Prize of 5,000 livres</p> <p>Prize of 2,500 livres</p> <p>Prize of 1,250 livres</p> <p>Prize of 625 livres</p> <p>Prize of 312 livres</p> <p>Prize of 156 livres</p> <p>Prize of 78 livres</p> <p>Prize of 39 livres</p> <p>Prize of 19 livres</p> <p>Prize of 9 livres</p> <p>Prize of 4 livres</p> <p>Prize of 2 livres</p> <p>Prize of 1 livre</p> <p>Prize of 100 livres</p> <p>Prize of 50 livres</p> <p>Prize of 25 livres</p> <p>Prize of 10 livres</p> <p>Prize of 5 livres</p> <p>Prize of 2 livres</p> <p>Prize of 1 livre</p> <p>Prize of 100 livres</p> <p>Prize of 50 livres</p> <p>Prize of 25 livres</p> <p>Prize of 10 livres</p> <p>Prize of 5 livres</p> <p>Prize of 2 livres</p> <p>Prize of 1 livre</p>
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