



FROM THE
Executive Director STEPHEN NOVOTNY



Here We **STAND**

"Unless I am convinced by the testimony of the Scriptures or by clear reason (for I do not trust either in the pope or in councils alone, since it is well known that they have often erred and contradicted themselves), I am bound by the Scriptures I have quoted and my conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and will not recant anything, since it is neither safe nor right to go against conscience. May God help me. Amen."

~ Martin Luther
Imperial Assembly of Worms
Germany, 1521

The issues were clear in the year 1521. Preeminent was whether Martin Luther would hold fast to his conviction that forgiveness from sin came as a free gift from God through faith in Jesus Christ alone, or whether he would renounce his views and capitulate to certain corrupt church authorities who were teaching that forgiveness could be purchased with money.

The stakes were high. The church and state authorities made it clear that severe punishment, death, or perhaps being burned alive at the stake, were Martin Luther's fate if he did not recant.

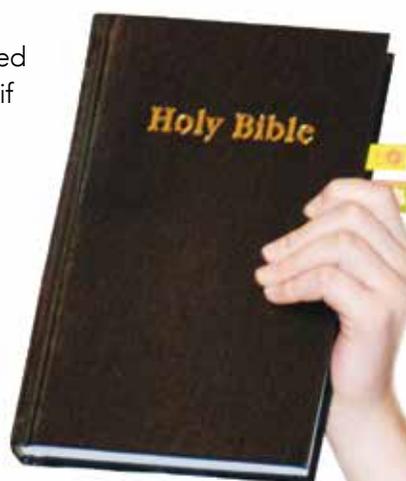
The response of Luther was strong. *"I cannot and will not recant anything . . ."*

I make the point to say Martin Luther's response was strong, yet not to attribute to Luther some inordinate strength unique to him above other men. Indeed, Luther himself often would complain of his many physical and spiritual weaknesses and ended this most famous statement of strength with the fervent plea *"May God help me."*

As a Christian school, we say things and teach things that are in direct opposition to some who hold positions of influence and power in our own day. We hold to the position that protecting the life of babies before they are born is what is morally right. We hold that God's irrevocable design for marriage is between a man and a woman. We hold that man was created by God for His glory and therefore accountable to follow God's commandments as revealed in the Holy Scriptures.

As a Christian school, this is where we stand, we can do no other.

May God help us to always have the strength to do so.



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