Source B: Martin Luther’s “95 Theses”

Martin Luther’s “95 Theses” was the first time the abuse of power of the Catholic Church had been publicly questioned. This document was the catalyst for the Protestant Reformation.

32. Those who believe that, through letters of pardon indulgences, they are made sure of their own salvation, will be eternally damned along with their teachers.

86. Again; why does not the Pope, whose riches are at this day more ample than those of the wealthiest of the wealthy, build the one Basilica of St. Peter with his own money, rather than with that of poor believers?

Martin Luther 95 Theses 1517

Keywords

Salvation: To be saved from sin.
Eternally: Lasting forever.
Ample: More than adequate or sufficient.
Basilica: A large Catholic Church in Rome.

Questions

1) What does Martin Luther say about the fate of people who believe in indulgences?

2) Who do you think the believers’ teachers are?

3) What does Martin Luther say about the Pope’s wealth?

4) According to Luther, who should finance the building of a new church in Rome?

5) Do you agree with Luther or the Church? Why?