

he had been mulling them over but the actual production would not be fulfilled. In May of 1520 he produced the treatise ON GOOD WORKS, a work decrying the indulgence ideal and championing the only good work as being that of believing in Christ. In August he issued TO THE CHRISTIAN NOBILITY OF THE GERMAN NATION, a work suggesting that there was no superiority of the spiritual over the temporal and that a universal priesthood of all believers was the right understanding of the priesthood in contradiction to what was taught in Rome. Coupled with this was the concept that councils by general authority are the proper means for the governing of the church. In October he brought out THE BABYLONIAN CAPTIVITY OF THE CHURCH, a work in which he spoke against the seven sacraments regarding them as putting the church in captivity to superstition. He allowed merely two sacraments: baptism and communion. Shortly thereafter appeared his work ON CHRISTIAN LIBERTY in which he proposed that Christian men were most free in serving God and the most bound to do His will. True freedom is found in bondage to the Lord. You can see that in the months following the papal bull Luther did not just sit on his hands and feel sorry for his lot.

Luther did seek to inform the pope of what he thought the issues to be. No useful result came of this and there is nothing to indicate Leo either understood or cared for the Lutheran declarations. Luther spoke of him as the pope "ill-informed" and now "better informed" but there is no reason to think that is an accurate assessment. With no response from the highest offices in the ecclesiastical courts, Luther burned the papal bull that condemned him along with a number of ecclesiastical canons that he found abusive. The time was December 1520.

It is interesting to see that modern catholic scholars are a bit defensive on Luther's behalf at this time. There is an acknowledgement that insensitivity of the Vatican court was very much responsible for the acts that moved Luther to his "revolt". Luther may yet be canonized in the Roman gallery if the present ecumenical thrust continues. Interesting reading in this regard is Daniel Oliver: THE TRIAL OF MARTIN LUTHER.

But the final papal bull was given on 2 January 1521. Aleander, the papal nuncio in the court of Charles V urged the Emperor to have Luther condemned and placed under death sentence. Frederick the Wise, however, argued that Luther needed a fair