



FIVE THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE LUTHERAN REFORMATION

In this video commercial we see the Reverend Doctor Martin “Winkie” Luther laboring over one of his many writings. The real Martin Luther, who lived some 500 years ago, was a prolific writer of tracts, pamphlets, and books about church doctrine and theology. He also wrote many hymns and liturgies, versions of which are used to this day. Unlike reformers and theologians before him, Luther benefitted from a new technology, the movable metal type printing press, which had been invented by a fellow German, Johannes Gutenberg, just a few decades prior to Luther’s birth. The printing press enabled Luther’s writings to quickly spread across Europe and into the hands of common people.

1. In the commercial, what is Winkie Luther’s problem and why would a copy machine be the answer to his prayers?
2. What reservations does Luther have about the use of such a machine? Are you aware of other Christians who are suspicious of new technologies? Give examples.
3. Do you think it’s possible that God would use technologies created by humans to spread the Gospel in the world? Why or why not? Are there technologies Christians should not use?
4. The commercial suggests that, with the copy machine, you can “start your own reformation.” When would this be a good idea?