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**MARTIN LUTHER IN THE REFORMATION ERA: IMPLICATION FOR
CONTEMPORARY PASTORS IN NIGERIA**

A DEGREE ESSAY

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ABSTRACT

The word Reformation and Martin Luther are often sounding alike in the history of the Church. Discussing Martin Luther is not complete without including reformation, because a diligent consideration of this fact will show that Luther is the most significant voice in the history of reformation as regards the Church. This research work is embarked on to address the problem that the current pastors or leaders are facing. Also, there had been drastic reduction in the value of Christian faith. These are serious problems that need urgent attention. The writer is of the opinion that the cause of this problems is lack of understanding of what reformation connote both on the part of the Church and its leaders therefore, this work is an attempt to explain what reformation of the 16th century means, at the same time presenting its implications to the contemporary pastors or leaders how these implication can be of great advantage to the growth and development of the present Church. The approach to this concept is through elaborate library research work. In – depth study of available materials on the subject that can present fact is equally adopted. Finally, the writer recommends that the pastor should be on the look out to guard and guide against infiltration of wrong doctrines and teachings that are capable of destroying the value of Christ’s teaching.

5.2 CONCLUSION

The fullness of time had come. Reformation was in the Minds of many and on the lips of a few. Having considered the dimension with which the reformation of Martin Luther has influenced the Church, it is certain that it is a blessing to it both then and now. Though if it were not Luther who took up this challenge, God knows how and who he would use to save his Church. But it should be clear that the Church should be carefully looked into. The Church in this age is loosing Social conscience. This means it has become so permissive that certain things which are not Bible based have come to be accepted in the Church. This is similar to what formed the basis of reformation.

Therefore the current Church should and need to be careful and watchful not to move back into the error of the past on how to move ahead to be light in this dark world. Rather than turning to darkness itself. The goal it should face in earnest is to proclaim the gospel as commanded by the Lord Jesus in Mathew 28:19-20 “therefore

go and make disciples of all nations, Baptize them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and the Holy Spirit; Teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”⁹²

5.3 RECOMMENDATIONS

There is the need to teach the doctrines exactly according to the Bible because of this and on the basis of findings. Therefore, the writer wants to make the following recommendations:

- 1 The present Church Pastors should be on his guide against any form of wrong teaching of the Bible. Because this is what caused the Church in the 16th century into reformation by Martin Luther
- 2 Another one that similar to it is that the sound doctrine should be prominently grounded in the Church in order to avoid human tradition and self gain.
- 3 Church leaders and Pastors should give themselves to the study of the scriptures thoroughly so that they will not mislead the Church member.
- 4 They should embark on evangelism. The Church should strive to meet up with this rather than fighting for position and some other less relevant issues.
- 5 Efforts must always be made to assure that designated cooperative funds are properly used to attain the target of the pursuit without deviation to something else apart from the cooperate desire.
- 6 The need for Church leaders is to stand for the truth even if such will cause their lives as Martin Luther did.

⁹²NIV Bible.

- 7 The Churches I that are facing some reformation should be opened to the leading of the Holy Spirit so that they will not do contrary to the will of God.
- 8 Christians, all over the world have to come together to dialogue on the challenges that are confronting the present world.