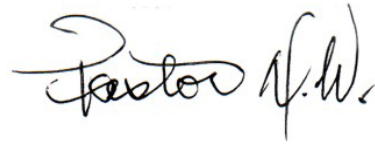


## The Barnabas Letter

The month of October has arrived, very soon we will come to the season of Thanksgiving and Advent. But this month we have Reformation Sunday to think about. Now most people remember that the Reformation was accidentally started by Martin Luther when he posted his Ninety-five Theses upon the door of St. Mary's Church in Wittenberg, Germany. But what most people do not know is that Martin Luther had no intention of creating such a stir! It is often the case that when something needs to be reformed our Lord uses very unlikely people to set about the reformation process. St. Francis of Assisi was another reformer and so was St. Benedict. The church needs to be reformed every little while so that we do not get off track and by being reformed the church is better able to serve the Lord, whose servant she is! In our more modern times we have had such reformers as Pope John the Twenty-third and Pope John Paul the Second. The church at large was richly blessed by the lives of both of these men. But what can we, as individual Christians do in order to reform the church in our little corner of the world? First of all, we can reform ourselves! All of us need to be more attuned to what our Lord would have us to do and all of us can be more willing to carry out our Lord's commands. Secondly, when we see something in our own churches that needs to be addressed, we go to the proper people and see if we can get them to do something about it. If they can't or usually won't, then we become the churches rabble-rousers and we encourage all of the church to make whatever correction is needed. We must, all of us, first and foremost serve our risen Savior and in this we can all do far better than we have done thus far. We are all in need of reformation and because this is so we must live our lives in repentance and in complete faith. Our Lord will always send us the reformers

that the church needs but it is up to us to listen to them. Our Bibles tell us to test the spirits and if the particular reform is, indeed of the Holy Spirit, then we must embrace it and follow where we are led by our loving Lord God. But it is just as important to remember that to reform is not to destroy and therefore we must always preserve that which is good of our traditional past. Until next month, may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Your brother in Christ Jesus:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pastor J. W." The word "Pastor" is written in a larger, more prominent cursive, followed by "J. W." in a smaller, similar cursive.