

Read the following theses and answer the questions about them.

Thesis 32. All those who believe themselves certain of their own salvation by means of letters of indulgence, will be eternally damned, together with their teachers.

1) According to Theses 32, what is the fate of those who believe they will be saved due to their letters of indulgence? _____

Thesis 36. Any Christian whatsoever, who is truly repentant, enjoys plenary remission from penalty and guilt, and this is given him without letters of indulgence.

Thesis 37. Any true Christian whatsoever, living or dead, participates in all benefits of Christ and the Church; and this participation is granted to him by God without letters of indulgences.

2) According to theses 36 and 37, what right do "truly repentant Christians have and in what do "true Christians" participate in? _____

Thesis 82. They ask, why does not the pope liberate everyone from purgatory for the sake of love and because of the supreme necessity of their souls? This would be morally the best of all reasons. Meanwhile he redeems innumerable souls for money, a most perishable thing, with which to build St. Peter's church, a very minor purpose.

Thesis 86. Again: why are the penitential canon laws, which in fact, if not in practice, have long been obsolete and dead in themselves, -why are they, today, still used in imposing fines in money, though the granting of indulgences, as if all penitential canons were fully operative?

3) According to theses 82 and 87, what shrewd questions will the laity ask? . _____

Thesis 42. Christians should be taught that the pope does not at all intend that the purchase of indulgences should be understood as at all comparable with the works of mercy

Thesis 43. Christians should be taught that one who gives to the poor, or lends to the needy, does a better action than if he purchases indulgences.

Thesis 44. Because, by works of love, love grows and a man becomes a better man; whereas, by indulgences, he does not become a better man, but only escapes certain penalties.

Thesis 45. Christians should be taught that he who sees a needy person, but passes him by although he gives money for indulgences, gains no benefit from the pope's pardon, but only incurs the wrath of God.

Thesis 46. Christians should be taught that, unless they have more than they need, they are bound to retain what is only necessary for the upkeep of their home, and should in no way squander it on indulgences.

Thesis 47. Christians should be taught that they purchase indulgences voluntarily, and are not under obligation to do so.

Thesis 48. Christians should be taught that, in granting indulgences, the pop has more need, and more desire, for devout prayer on his own behalf than for ready money

4) According to theses 42-48, what are three things that the church should teach to Christians?

5) According to Luther's 95 theses, how do Christians earn salvation?

6) After reading many of Luther's theses, what changes do you think the Catholic Church will make and why?
