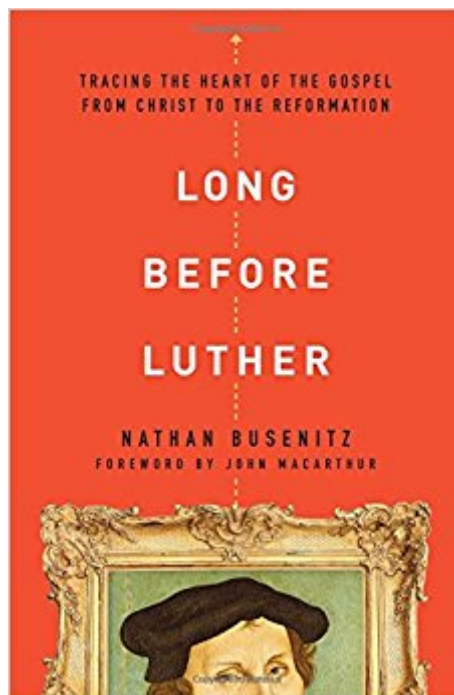




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# Long Before Luther: Tracing The Heart Of The Gospel From Christ To The Reformation



## Synopsis

Where was the gospel before the Reformation? Contemporary evangelicals often struggle to answer that question. As a result, many Roman Catholics are quick to allege that the Reformation understanding of the gospel simply did not exist before the 1500s. They assert that key Reformation doctrines, like sola fide, were nonexistent in the first fifteen centuries of church history. Rather, they were invented by Martin Luther, John Calvin, and others. That is a serious charge, and one that evangelicals must be ready to answer. If an evangelical understanding of the gospel is only 500 years old, we are in major trouble. However, if it can be demonstrated that Reformers were not inventing something new, but instead were recovering something old, then key tenets of the Protestant faith are greatly affirmed. Hence, the need for this book. After reading *Long Before Luther*, readers will: Possess a greater understanding of church history and the role it plays in the church today. Have a deeper appreciation for the hard-won victories of the Reformation. Be equipped to dialogue with Catholic friends about the presence of Reformed doctrines throughout church history. Feel renewed gratefulness for the unearned nature of grace and the power of the gospel.

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NATHAN BUSENITZ, (M.Div., Th.M., Ph.D., The Master's Seminary) is the Dean of Faculty and Assistant Professor of Theology at The Master's Seminary. He holds a doctorate in church history, with a specific focus on patristic theology. He has served as a full-time member of the pastoral staff at Grace Community Church, director of the Shepherd's Fellowship, managing editor of Pulpit

magazine, and as the personal assistant to John MacArthur.

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