EXERCISE

In the following texts underline what appears to be important to you.

Peter Waldo was a rich merchant from Lyon in southern France. He was particularly impressed by the manner in which Jesus' Apostles were to fulfil their commission according to Matthew 13, namely with great modesty and relinquishing earthly possessions. This caused Peter Waldo to distribute his entire fortune among the poor. From that time on he and those who were like-minded , the so-called Waldensians, endea- voured to follow Christ through poverty, fulfilling the requirementents of the Sermon on the Mount, and preaching the gospel to the people. He also demanded that the clergy lead a life of poverty. The Waldensians were persecuted terribly by the Roman Catholic Church.



PETE/I... 'N AI--DO (nvE/, PTH CENTU/I...Y)

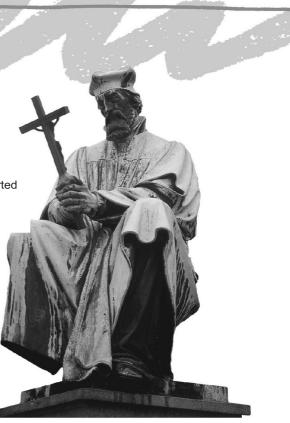


John Wycliffe was professor of theology at the University of Oxford in England. He determined that his church was not in accord with what the Bible reports about the early church. This led him to fiercely criticize the church. He called for church doctrine based on the Bible. He opposed the Pope and the clergy, condemning their temporal possessions and power. By especially emphasizing God's grace as being the source of salvation, he opposed the Roman Catholic Church's doctrine prevalent at the time. Wycliffe's teachings were condemned by the church.

JOHN VAJYCI--Iffe (Afl...OUND 1330-13f4_)

THE REFORMATION I

Jan Hus was a preacher in Prague. He became acquainted with John Wycliffe's writings and supported his claims. Also he regarded the Bible as the standard for church doctrine. Among other things he criticized secular church property and indulgence collections. In addition he supported the view that sacraments dispensed by unworthy clerics were invalid. In the year 1415 at the Council of Constance, he was convicted of heresy and burned at the stake. For a long time his followers, the Hussites, were cruelly persecuted .



JAN HUS (AROUND 1370-1415)

Discuss what these men have in common!

