

Luther's Friend and Political Adviser to Elector Frederick the Wise



GEORG SPALATIN

Born: Jan. 17, 1484 |
Spalt (near Nürnberg),
Germany

Died: Jan. 16, 1545 |
Altenburg, Germany

IT IS BELIEVED THAT MARTIN LUTHER NEVER MET HIS PRINCE AND PROTECTOR FREDERICK THE WISE FACE-TO-FACE. While Luther did send correspondence to Frederick, most often he would send Frederick various requests and updates of his activities by means of the librarian at the Castle Church in Wittenberg and the prince's personal secretary, Georg Spalatin.

Like Luther, Spalatin had been educated as a humanist, studying the new learning that stressed a return to the original sources of the Scriptures in Hebrew and Greek. Spalatin became convinced of the necessity of reforming the Roman Catholic Church in Germany gradually, seeking theological insights from Luther over the course of many years. However, once convinced of the truth of the Reformation Gospel, he became a powerful advocate in defending Luther and reforming ecclesiastical and educational institutions in many German territories.

As the elector's secretary, Spalatin used his skills to advance the best interests of his prince along with those of the Reformation. After the death of Frederick the Wise in 1525, Spalatin moved to Altenburg and began implementing reforms there.



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