

Introduction to Church History

Course Description

This course is designed as an overview of the major events, movements, doctrines, and people associated with the development of the Christian church. It is a survey of God's providential hand working in the lives of individuals and institutions throughout the ages.

Learning Outcomes

Learners will:

1. Develop an appreciation of the history and the heritage of the Christian faith.
2. Interact with the important events, ideas, movements, and people within the Christian church.
3. Understand the intellectual, artistic, and doctrinal development of the Christian church.
4. Be inspired and challenged by the men and women the Lord has used throughout the Christian experience.

Week 1 - The Age of Jesus and the Apostles: *Chapters 1-2*
6 BC – AD 70

Week 2 - The Age of Catholic Christianity: *Chapters 3-8*
70 – 312

Week 3 -The Age of the Christian Roman Empire: *Chapters 9-16*
312 – 590

Week 4 - The Christian Middle Ages: *Chapters 17-23*
590 – 1517

Week 5 - The Age of the Reformation: *Chapters 24-31*
1517 – 1648

Week 6 - The Age of the Reason and Revival: *Chapters 32-35*
1648 – 1789

Week 7 - The Age of the Progress: *Chapters 36-41*
1789-1914

Week 8 - The Age of Ideologies: *Chapters 42-48*
1914 – Present

Introduction to Church History

Branches of Church History

- **Political** – Church and State
- **Propagation** – Missions, carrying the Gospel
- **Persecution** – Jewish, Roman, Muslim, Totalitarianism
- **Polity** – Government within the church (3 types)
- **Polemics** – Fighting heresy, declaring positions, dogma, doctrine creeds
- **Praxis** – practical outworking of faith in life, home, work, charity
- **Presentation** - Educational system, hymns, liturgy, architecture, art, preaching

Ages of Church History

- **Ancient – 5 BC – AD 590**
 - Spread throughout empire
 - Old Catholic imperial church
 - Christian Roman empire
- **Medieval – AD 590-1517**
 - Holy Roman Empire
 - Supremacy of the Pope
 - Renaissance
- **Modern – AD 1517 – Present**
 - Reformation / Counter reformation
 - Enlightenment
 - Modern Missions
 - American Christianity

Influences on the Church

- **Rome**
 - Politics – Unity under universal law
 - Free movement – “Pax Romana”
 - System of roads
 - Persecution
- **Greeks**
 - Intellectual approach, movement away from polytheism, pantheism, animism
 - Plato, Aristotle – Logos (the expression of pure mind)
 - Desire to know truth
 - Common language – very precise and expressive
- **Jews**
 - Preservation of the Scriptures
 - Monotheism
 - System of ethics from divine law
 - Diaspora
 - Synagogue

The Birth of the Church

- **Pentecost** – first fruits
 - Acts 2:1-4
- **Early practices**
 - Acts 2:42-47
 - Acts 20, 1Cor 16
- **Organization**
 - Officers –
 - Deacons – Acts 6
 - Elders – 1Tim 3
 - Overseers (Bishops) Titus 1
 - Ordinances
 - The Lord's Supper Acts 20:7
 - Baptism Acts 2



Roman Persecution

- **Religio Licita**
- **Accusations** – Sexual perversity, drowning, cannibalism, secret meetings, atheism
- **Damage to pagan economy**
- **Nero** was the first to target Christians
 - Paul in 67
 - Peter in 68
- Picked up again in 81 under **Domitian** (Dominus et Deus)
 - John to Patmos

Roman Emperors

Augustus	27 BC- AD14	Jesus' birth
Tiberius	14-37	Jesus' ministry
Caligula	37-41	Cruel sadist, sexually perverted
Claudius	41-54	Persecuted Christians as Jews
Nero	54-68	Insane, blamed Christians for everything
Galba	68-69	The year of the four Emperors
Otho	69	
Vitellius	69	
Vespasian	69-79	Quashed Jewish rebellion
Titus	79-81	General who Sacked Jerusalem
Domitian	81-96	"Bloodthirsty Beast", heavy persecution
Nerva	96-98	Lightened persecution, released John
Trajan	98-117	Developed policies on Christians



Laodicea The Lukewarm Church
A.D. 1900—Tribulation

Philadelphia The Church Christ Loved
A.D. 1750—Rapture

Sardis The Dead Church
A.D. 1520—Tribulation

Thyatira The Pagan Church
A.D. 606—Tribulation

Pergamum
The Indulged Church
A.D. 312-606

Smyrna
The Persecuted church
A.D. 100 A.D. 312

Ephesus
The Apostolic Church
A.D. 33 to 100



69 Weeks

The Church Age Revelation Chapter 2 and 3

70 th Week

	Ephesus The Apostolic Church Rev. 2:1-7	Smyrna The Persecuted Church Rev. 2:8-11	Pergamum The Indulged Church Rev. 2:12-17	Thyatira The Pagan Church Rev. 2:18-29	Sardis The Dead Church Rev. 3:1-6	Philadelphia The Church Christ Loved Rev. 3:7-13	Laodicea The Lukewarm Church Rev. 3:14-22
	A.D. 33-100	A.D. 100-312	A.D. 312-606	A.D. 606-Tribulation	A.D. 1520-Tribulation	A.D. 1750-Rapture	A.D. 1900-Tribulation
Commendation	Good works, labor, patience	Works, tribulation, poverty	Works. Held fast my name, has not denied my faith.	Good works, love, service, faith, patience.	Works. A name that you live	Works. Missions. Little Strength. Kept my word. Not denied my name.	Not one word!
Condemnation	You have left your first love.	Not one word!	You have false teachers of Balaam and the Nicolaitans	You allow Jezebel to teach idolatry and compromise	You are dead. Works not complete	Not one word!	You are lukewarm, wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked.
Counsel	Remember from where you are fallen and repent.	Rear not. Be faithful.	Repent.	Hold fast what you have until I come.	Watch. Strengthen the things that remain. Remember hold fast and repent.	Hold fast what you have.	Buy gold tried by fire and white raiment. Anoint your eyes. Be zealous and repent.
Challenge	Will give to eat of the tree of life.	Will not be hurt by the second death.	Will give hidden manna and a white stone.	Will give millennial leadership and the Morning Star	Will be clothed in white raiment. I will not blot his name out of the book of life	Will make him a pillar and write upon him the name of God and My new name	Will grant to sit with me on my throne.