

## Lessons From Church History: Session One

# The Apostolic Church 30-100 AD

### OUTCOME BASED OBJECTIVE:

*The goal of this course is to provide an introduction and foundation for Systematic Theology so that we are more grounded in the truth and able to lead God's people through the many challenges facing us.*

### A Proper View of History

1. A proper view of history is essential to \_\_\_\_\_ the facts of history accurately. Every world-view approaches history differently, but they all must answer three primary questions: Is history cyclical or linear? Is history random or purposeful? Is history optimistic or pessimistic?

View of History	Cyclical / Linear	Random / Purposeful	Optimistic / Pessimistic
Eastern	cyclical	random/purposeful	pessimistic
Darwinian (Western)	linear	random	pessimistic
Providential	linear	purposeful	optimistic

2. Providential history is linear; it had a beginning and it will have an end.
3. Providential history is purposeful; God is directing it according to His predetermined plan.
4. Providential history is optimistic; the end will be glorious.

### Why It Is Important to Study Church History

1. Church history shows the gradual \_\_\_\_\_ of the divine plan of redemption.
2. Church history is the key to understanding the \_\_\_\_\_ condition of the Church and the guide to her future.

*Remember the days of old, consider the years of all generations. Ask your father, and he will inform you, your elders, and they will tell you.*

Deuteronomy 32:7

*"The greatest advances in human civilization have come when we recovered what we had lost: when we learned the lessons of history. We cannot say 'the past is past' without surrendering the future. The farther backward you can look, the farther forward you can see."*<sup>1</sup>

Winston Churchill

3. Church history is a treasury of warning, encouragement, and \_\_\_\_\_. Every age has a message from God that man must understand.

<sup>1</sup> Quoted in, Stephen Mansfield, *Never Give In*, pp. 130, 132, 200

*Ask the former generations and find out what their fathers learned, for we were born only yesterday and know nothing, and our days on earth are but a shadow. Will they not instruct you and tell you? Will they not bring forth words from their understanding?*

Job 8:8-10

## Preparation For the Church Age

*But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son.*

Galatians 4:4

- I. God prepared the world \_\_\_\_\_ for the advent of His Son.
  - More than three centuries before the birth of Christ, Alexander the Great created a vast empire stretching from Greece to the Indian border. His empire fragmented after his death, but the Greek language and culture he instituted remained. Eventually Rome would incorporate Alexander's conquests into its own empire. By the birth of Christ, there was a vast geographical region that shared a common culture and a common language.
  - The empire of the Romans extended from \_\_\_\_\_ in the west to present-day Iraq in the east, and north from the German border, to Egypt and the whole of North Africa in the south.
2. God prepared the world \_\_\_\_\_ for the advent of His Son.
  - There was a great moral and spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ waiting to be filled in the first century. The spread of Greek philosophy with its inherent skepticism had challenged paganism and left the populace with little confidence in the old gods.

*"...the world was intellectually ready for Christianity. It was waiting for God."<sup>2</sup>*

Paul Johnson

**Lesson:** *God sovereignly prepares people and nations for the advance of His Kingdom.*

## THE APOSTOLIC AGE

- I. The Apostolic Age extended from Pentecost to the death of John, from 30 to 100 AD. The field of action was Palestine, Asia Minor, Greece, and Italy, and the most prominent centers were Jerusalem, Antioch, and Rome.
2. There are three stages of the Apostolic Age.
  - Stage 1 was from Pentecost to the Jerusalem Conference. \_\_\_\_\_ was the chief apostle in the first stage. He laid the foundation of the Church among the Jews and the Gentiles.
  - Stage 2 was from the Jerusalem Conference to the persecution of Nero. \_\_\_\_\_ was the chief apostle in the second stage. He established the theology of justification by faith throughout the Gentile world.
  - Stage 3 was from the persecution of Nero to the death of \_\_\_\_\_. He revealed new dimensions of Christ in his insightful writings that concluded the New Testament.

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<sup>2</sup> Paul Johnson, A History of Christianity, p. 7

## The Jerusalem Conference

*Some men came down from Judea to Antioch and were teaching the brothers: "Unless you are circumcised, according to the custom taught by Moses, you cannot be saved." This brought Paul and Barnabas into sharp dispute and debate with them. So Paul and Barnabas were appointed, along with some other believers, to go up to Jerusalem to see the apostles and elders about this question.*

Acts 15:1-2

1. The primary issue of the Jerusalem Conference was \_\_\_\_\_—a vital question in the apostolic age because it involved the larger question of the role of the law, and the relation of Christianity to Judaism.
2. Paul's mission to the \_\_\_\_\_ forced the issue of circumcision because the Jewish believers considered Judaism the necessary introduction to Christianity.
  - A zealous minority was alarmed at the progress of the Gospel among the Gentiles; they saw it as a threat to the purity of the Church.
3. The establishment of faith as the only requirement for salvation ensured the universality of Christianity.

**Lesson:** *The Gospel transcends religious, cultural, and ethnic lines.*

## Persecution in the First Century

1. On July 19, 64 AD, the most destructive \_\_\_\_\_ in Rome's history began. It engulfed 10 of Rome's 14 regions and left thousands dead and homeless. The fire destroyed most of the city; its temples, monuments, buildings, and art collected for centuries. Public rumor traced it to Nero, who wanted to rebuild Rome and call it Neropolis.
2. To divert suspicion, Nero cast the blame upon the hated Christians. He \_\_\_\_\_ and killed many in violent and gruesome ways. Some were sewn in the skins of wild beasts and exposed to mad dogs in the arena. He covered men and women with pitch, nailed them to posts of pine, and burned them as torches for the amusement of the mob.
3. According to the overwhelming testimony of the Church Fathers, Paul and Peter were both \_\_\_\_\_ during this persecution.

## Discussion Questions:

1. How should a providential view of history affect your daily life?
2. How has God prepared the Philippines for its unique role in world evangelism?
3. Is there anything about your gospel presentation that hinders other cultures and ethnicities from accepting it? How much of your own culture is affecting your presentation of the gospel?

## Lessons From Church History: Session Two

### **The Apostolic Church 30-100 AD cont.**

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#### **The Destruction of Jerusalem**

1. In \_\_\_\_\_ AD, the Jews rebelled against their Roman overlords. For four years the battle raged, but in 70 AD, General Titus marched 80,000 troops into Jerusalem, razed it, and destroyed the Temple.
2. The destruction of Jerusalem fully and finally \_\_\_\_\_ Christianity from Judaism. Christianity could no longer be considered a sect of Judaism with the Roman status *religio licita* (a legal and protected religion). This would eventually expose the Church to the wrath of Roman persecution.
3. The Church saw the destruction of Jerusalem as God's specific \_\_\_\_\_ upon Israel for rejecting the Messiah. This would later sow the seeds for a fierce anti-Semitism in the Church.

#### **The Growth and Expansion of the Church**

1. The Church gradually emerged from the limited geographical and \_\_\_\_\_ environment in and around Jerusalem and became a universal and expanding body.
2. This process happened in three phases: the conversion of the Samaritans under the preaching of Philip (Acts 8:12), the conversion of Cornelius, received into the church without circumcision (Acts 11:18), and the rise of the church at Antioch. (Acts 11:20, 21)
3. Edward Gibbon documented the startling growth of the Church during the Apostolic Age and beyond in his classic work, "The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire." He attributed the dramatic growth to five causes.
  - The \_\_\_\_\_ of the Christians.
  - The doctrine of the \_\_\_\_\_ of the soul.
  - The \_\_\_\_\_ powers attributed to the primitive church.
  - The pure \_\_\_\_\_ of the first Christians.
  - The unity and \_\_\_\_\_ of the church.

### **Tested By Fire 100-311 AD**

#### **Persecution By Rome**

1. After the destruction of the Jewish temple in 70 AD, persecution by the \_\_\_\_\_ began in earnest. Rome was generally tolerant of other religions as long as they were loyal to Caesar, but any refusal to worship the divine emperor was treason against the state. Christians would not worship Caesar in any form, and so they became targets for attack. Rome persecuted the Church for the following reasons.
  - Christians refused to pay divine honors to the \_\_\_\_\_, take part in politics, and submit to military service.

- Christians had frequent closed \_\_\_\_\_. The Romans feared sedition and were deeply suspicious of closed meetings.
- The Romans believed the rumors of \_\_\_\_\_ (a misunderstanding of the holy kiss), and cannibalism (a misunderstanding of Communion).
- The populace regarded national \_\_\_\_\_ as punishment inflicted by angry gods because Christians disregarded their worship.

*"If the gods do not send rain, lay it to the Christians. At every flood, or drought, or famine, or pestilence, the fanatical populace cried: Away with the atheists! To the lions with the Christians!"*<sup>3</sup>

Tertullian

## 2. There were five major persecuting emperors.

### Tertullian

*"All your ingenious cruelties can accomplish nothing. Our number increases the more you destroy us. The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the Church."*<sup>4</sup>

- \_\_\_\_\_ (81-96) called himself *dominus et deus*: "Master and God." His enemies called him, "the beast from hell who sat in his den, licking blood." When Jews and Christians refused to give him divine honors, he accused them of treason, and either banished them or killed them.
- \_\_\_\_\_ (98-117) was the first emperor to pronounce Christianity a restricted religion. He decreed that Christians should not be sought out, but if reported and convicted, they were to be punished—unless they repented and worshipped the gods. In 107, Ignatius was tried for this offense and thrown to the lions at Rome.
- \_\_\_\_\_ (161-180) instituted a system of spies to accumulate evidence against the Christians rather than waiting for legal allegations against them. Thousands of Christians were beheaded or thrown to wild beasts, including Justin Martyr.
- \_\_\_\_\_ (249-251) tried to destroy the Church by publishing an edict returning the empire to the official pagan state religion. This was the first persecution to cover the entire empire. Many nominal Christians yielded to the pressure, sacrificed to the gods, and underwent excommunication as apostates.
- \_\_\_\_\_ (284-305) instituted a systematic plan to destroy Christianity to consolidate the crumbling empire by restoring the old pagan state religion. In 303, he issued an edict, requiring the destruction of churches and the burning of all Bibles. All were to sacrifice to the gods upon pain of death.

*"The houses of prayer were razed to the ground, the Holy Scriptures committed to the flames, the pastors hunted, tortured, and torn to pieces in the amphitheater. The bloody swords became dull and shattered; the executioners grew weary, but the Christians sang hymns of praise and thanksgiving in honor of Almighty God, even to their latest breath."*<sup>5</sup>

Eusebius

**LESSON:** *External persecution makes the Church stronger*

<sup>3</sup> Quoted in, Philip Schaff, *The History of the Church*, vol. 2, p. 23

<sup>4</sup> Quoted in, D. Matthew Allen, *Theology Adrift: The Early Church Fathers and Their Views of Eschatology*, p. 9

<sup>5</sup> Eusebius, *The Ecclesiastical History of the Church*

## The Defense of the Gospel

1. Attacks of \_\_\_\_\_ and schism forced the Christians of this era to defend the truth of the Gospel. Heresy is doctrine that violates a central tenet of the faith and renders the adherents outside of the historic faith. Schism is a breach of union with the organized church over doctrine that is important, but not central to salvation.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ was a bizarre blend of Judaism, Christianity, Greek philosophy, and Oriental mysticism.
  - They taught that Divine sparks fell from a celestial realm into evil \_\_\_\_\_ human bodies. To unlock the divinity within man and free him from the prison of the flesh required secret knowledge, imparted through a series of initiation rites.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ was a heresy that taught there were two gods, the stern creator God of the Old Testament who was really a demon, and the superior merciful God of the New Testament. Marcion rejected the Old Testament entirely, keeping only ten of Paul's letters and an expurgated Luke and Acts.
4. Ebionism was a \_\_\_\_\_ group mixture of Judaism and Christianity. It denied the deity of Christ, regarding him as the prophetic successor to Moses and an exalted man who perfectly kept the Law.
5. Montanism was a \_\_\_\_\_ sect founded by the self-proclaimed prophet Montanus in reaction to the dead formalism and clerical aristocracy that began to dominate the Church in the second century.
  - They believed in the \_\_\_\_\_ of the miraculous gifts, especially prophecy, and in the universal priesthood of all Christians, even women. They advocated an extreme asceticism which included celibacy and prolonged fasting. They also predicted the speedy return of Christ and gave the exact location of His arrival.
6. When the Decian persecution ended in 251, many \_\_\_\_\_ sought to return to the Church. Cornelius, the bishop of Rome, advocated mercy. Novatian opposed him, disallowing the apostates who denied Christ to return to the church. He consecrated himself bishop and established his own church.
7. Heresy and schism forced the Church to \_\_\_\_\_ an authoritative body of writings which ultimately led to the formulation of the Canon.

**LESSON:** *Instead of continuing in the Spirit, the Church developed an authoritarian structure and rigid liturgy to protect against error.*

## Discussion Questions

1. What can we learn from Gibbons assessment of why the Church grew? Which of the five characteristics that he discovered seems especially relevant for our ministry in the Philippines in the 21<sup>st</sup> century?
2. Where do we find gnostic tendencies in our own churches? How do we combat those tendencies in people?

## Lessons From Church History: Session Three

### **Tested By Fire 100-311 AD cont.**

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#### **Development of an Ecclesiastical Structure**

1. Elders \_\_\_\_\_ the churches in the New Testament. The New Testament uses the terms elder and bishop to describe different aspects of the same office.
2. By the beginning of the second century, elder and bishop became two \_\_\_\_\_ offices with the bishop presiding over the elders in a single congregation. By the middle of the second century the bishopric had expanded to a Diocesan office.
3. Gradually the bishops fell into different \_\_\_\_\_, according to the ecclesiastical and political importance of their districts.
4. The Roman bishop gradually assumed the title of \_\_\_\_\_ and claimed supremacy over all of Christendom.
  - It was the only \_\_\_\_\_ church in the West when the Empire fell.
  - It was a large congregation (250 AD) of fifty or sixty thousand, about \_\_\_\_\_ of the population of the city.
  - The two leading apostles, Peter and Paul, were martyred at Rome.

**LESSON:** *The unity and authority of Christ's Body should be reflected in Her spiritual unity and not in the external, organized Church.*

#### **Influential Church Leaders**

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ Fathers were characterized by their close relationship to the Apostles.
  - Clement of Rome. (died c. 97 AD) Clement was Paul's fellow worker mentioned in Philippians 4:3. He is best known for his epistle to the Corinthians (95 AD).
  - Ignatius of Antioch. (35-107) Ignatius was a pupil of John, and the bishop of Antioch. Trajan sentenced him to be thrown to the lions at Rome. On his way to Rome, he wrote important letters to the churches.
  - Polycarp. (69-155) Polycarp was a disciple of John. Arrested as an old man, he was sentenced to be burned at the stake. When given an opportunity to recant he responded, "Eighty-six years I have served Him, and He never did me any wrong. How can I blaspheme my King who saved me?"
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ Fathers were characterized by their defense against the attacks on the Church and their attempts to win legal recognition for Christianity.
  - Justin Martyr. (100-167) Justin was the first learned theologian and Christian thinker among the Church Fathers. During a trip to Rome, he was arrested, subjected to a mock trial, and beheaded.
  - Tertullian. (160-225) Tertullian received a liberal Graeco-Roman education and then practiced law in Rome until his conversion around 195 AD. He was a prolific author writing apologetic treatises, attacks on heresies, and moral tracts.

3. The \_\_\_\_\_ Fathers were characterized by their attempt to attack heresy within the Church.
- Irenaeus. (130-200) Irenaeus was the bishop of Lyons, and labored there as a missionary, converting most of the population and sending missionaries to other parts of France. He is the first writer who makes full use of the New Testament.
  - Cyprian. (200-258) Cyprian lived in wealth and splendor until his conversion at 46. Then he took a vow of chastity and sold his estates for the benefit of the poor. Only two years after his baptism, Cyprian was raised to the bishopric of Carthage, and placed at the head of all the North African clergy.
4. The \_\_\_\_\_ Fathers were characterized by their attempts to blend a systematic study of theology with the current modes of philosophical thought.
- Clement of Alexandria. (150-215) The first Christian school of theology began in Alexandria to provide a philosophic vindication of the truths of revelation. As the head of the school, Clement tried to unite biblical revelation with Hellenic philosophical speculation.
  - Origen. (185-254) Origen was trained at the theological school and later became its head. He was a strict ascetic. His effort to reconcile Christianity with reason, and to commend it to educated heathens, led him into many errors. His great defect was his allegorical hermeneutic and his constant desire to find a hidden mystical meaning in the plain words of Scripture.

**LESSON:** *When the Church draws from secular thought to make the gospel more relevant and understandable to her contemporaries, there is always the danger of error.*

## Christianity and the Empire 312-590 AD

### The Union of Church and State

1. The union of Church and State is largely due to the influence of \_\_\_\_\_ (272-337), elected emperor in 306.
- In 312, while preparing for battle against his rival, he saw a \_\_\_\_\_ of a shining cross in the heavens with the inscription: 'By this sign conquer.' When he defeated Maxentius at the Milvian Bridge, he determined to propitiate the Christian God who had given him victory.
  - One year later he published from \_\_\_\_\_ an edict of religious toleration, granting full freedom to all existing forms of worship, with special reference to Christianity.
2. The Christianizing of the State was a \_\_\_\_\_ of the Church; the temporal gain of Christianity cancelled by great spiritual loss. The Church could now act upon the State, but so could the State act upon the Church. This mutual influence was both a blessing and a curse.

*"The mass of the Roman Empire was baptized only with water, not with the Spirit and the gospel, and it smuggled heathen practices into the sanctuary under a new name."<sup>6</sup>*

Philip Schaff

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<sup>6</sup> Philip Schaff, *The History of the Christian Church*, vol. 3, p. 40

3. The blessings of the alliance of Church and State were:
- Rape became a capital crime, and restrictions on \_\_\_\_\_ were instituted to protect women.
  - Christianity elevated the \_\_\_\_\_ to spiritual equality with the master, leading to the gradual extinction of slavery.
  - To safeguard against poor parents selling or \_\_\_\_\_ their children, Constantine furnished them with food and clothing, partly at his own expense and partly at that of the state.
4. The curses of the alliance of Church and State were:
- The bishops became prominent state \_\_\_\_\_. Their dioceses expanded, and their power and revenue increased. Elevated titles, kneeling, and other tokens of reverence, were shown them by all classes, even the emperor himself.
  - The Church began to persecute \_\_\_\_\_. All departures from the faith were treated as crimes against the state, and punished with civil penalties; at first banishment and confiscation, and later, death.

**LESSON:** *There is a proper biblical kind of separation of Church and State.*

### **Discussion Questions**

1. How do we guard against the tendency to bureaucracy and ecclesiastical structure and still pursue organizational excellence?
2. How do we continually try to make ourselves relevant to our culture without subtly embracing the false assumptions of our culture?

## Lessons From Church History: Session Four

# **Christianity and the Empire 312-590 AD cont.**

### **The Formalization of Worship**

1. The Church traded the primitive \_\_\_\_\_ of worship for formalized splendor. The Mass, or daily repetition of the atoning sacrifice of Christ, became the center of worship. Pagan ceremonies, concealed under new names, crept into the Church.
2. After \_\_\_\_\_ AD, the Church transformed the mother of Jesus into a mother of God, a dispenser of favors, and a sinless co-redeemer.
3. The veneration of martyrs degenerated into a form of \_\_\_\_\_. It took the place of the pagan hero-worship and a new mythology arose, which transformed the pagan myths of heroes into Christian legends.
4. The worship of saints led to the worship of their \_\_\_\_\_. Relics were considered to possess miraculous virtue. They were carried about in processions and worn as amulets against disease and danger of every kind.
5. Baptismal regeneration and \_\_\_\_\_ became the standard belief of the day.

**LESSON:** *Religious formalism is the natural bent of men's souls and without vigilance we will all tend in that direction.*

### **Doctrinal Controversies**

1. Four Church Councils convened from 325–451 to establish important doctrines that heretics were attacking.
2. The First Council met in \_\_\_\_\_ in 325. It condemned Arius and his teaching that Jesus was like God, but not the same essence as God.
  - In 318, the presbyter Arius challenged Bishop Alexander's teachings on the Trinity. The Son, he said, was the foundation of creation and *like* God, but not the same essence as God.

*"If the Father begat the Son, then he who was begotten had a beginning in existence, and from this it follows there was a time when the Son was not."*

Arius

- Arius, who promoted his ideas with popular and catchy songs, soon had a very large following. When the schism escalated to the point of bloodshed in the streets, Constantine ordered 1,800 bishops to convene in Nicea at the expense of the State.
  - The Nicene Council excommunicated Arius, officially anathematized his teaching, and developed the Nicene Creed.
3. The Second Council met in \_\_\_\_\_ in 381. It re-established the Nicene faith (after Arian attacks) and restored unity in the Church.
  4. The Third Council met in \_\_\_\_\_ in 431. It condemned the heretic Pelagius and his teachings.
    - Pelagius denied \_\_\_\_\_ Sin, exalted free will as the primary ingredient in salvation, and taught the moral perfectibility of the human race.

5. The Fourth Council met in \_\_\_\_\_ in 451. It reasserted faith in the complete deity and humanity of Christ.

## Great Men of the Era

1. \_\_\_\_\_ (260-340) was the bishop of Caesarea and the confidant of Constantine. He wrote *Ecclesiastical History*, the primary source of information concerning the first three centuries of the Church.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ (296-373) was banished five times because of his opposition to the Arian heresy. However, he did more than anyone else to bring about the triumph of the orthodox Nicene faith over Arianism.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ (339-397) was the son of the governor of Gaul. He was elected imperial Magistrate of the province of Upper Italy centered in the city of Milan, and became bishop of that city in 374.
  - In 390, Ambrose excommunicated the emperor Theodosius for his indiscriminate massacre of 7,000 Thessalonians. He commanded Theodosius to repent and refused him communion for eight months until the emperor finally submitted and made public confession of his sin.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ (354-430) was born in North Africa, to a heathen father and a Christian mother. After a life of sin and intellectual pursuits, he was converted in 387 through the prayers of his mother and the sermons of Ambrose. In 395, he was elected bishop of Hippo against his will, laboring there for 35 years until his death.
  - Next to the Apostle Paul, Augustine did more to shape Christianity than any other person, laying the theological groundwork for the total Christian society.
5. John \_\_\_\_\_ (347-407) was the greatest preacher of the Greek Church. He opposed the allegorical interpretations of Scripture and promoted the grammatico-historical method of biblical exegesis.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ the Great (400-461) established the see of Rome as the pinnacle of ecclesiastical authority, declaring that resistance to his authority was the sure way to hell. Obedience to the pope was necessary to salvation.

## Discussion Questions:

1. The Church formalized its worship because it appealed to the masses. What is it about religion that is so appealing? What genuine human needs does it try to meet, and how does the gospel (and only the gospel) meet those needs?
2. Where do we see the influences of Pelagianism in our churches? Why is Pelagianism so appealing?

Lessons From Church History:  
Session Five

## Christianity Planted Among the Nations 591-1049

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### The Missionary Endeavor and the Conversion of Nations

1. The missionary labor of the Middle Ages was a process of \_\_\_\_\_ nations through spiritual means, political influence, and in some cases military force.
2. England. The missionary history of Great Britain is divided into two periods, the \_\_\_\_\_ and the Anglo-Saxon.
  - Pope Gregory sent the Benedictine abbot \_\_\_\_\_ to evangelize the Anglo-Saxons in 597. King Ethelbert of Kent met the strangers and listened to them preach. He was converted and baptized, and gradually drew his whole nation after him.
3. Ireland. The former slave, \_\_\_\_\_, was the apostle to the Irish.

*"I am greatly a debtor to God, who has bestowed his grace so largely upon me that multitudes were born again to God through me. The Irish, who never had the knowledge of God and worshipped only idols and unclean things, have lately become the people of the Lord, and are called sons of God."*

Patrick

- Less than a century after Patrick's death, Ireland was covered with churches and monasteries training missionaries and transcribing sacred books.
  - During the sixth and seventh centuries, Ireland sent missionaries to Scotland, England, France, Germany, Switzerland, and Italy.
4. Scotland. In 563, \_\_\_\_\_ sailed from Ireland with twelve disciples to the West of Scotland. He was presented with the inhospitable island of Iona. From there proceeded the Christianization of Scotland.
  5. France. The \_\_\_\_\_ were the first of the Germanic tribes converted to orthodox Christianity.
  6. Germany. \_\_\_\_\_ was born in a noble English family around 680. He felt it his duty to Christianize those countries from which his Anglo-Saxon ancestors had emigrated. He sacrificed his prospects at home, crossed the channel, and began his missionary career with a few companions.

### Great Leaders of the Era

1. \_\_\_\_\_ the Great (540-604) organized the papacy into an efficient administrative machine (at a time when the rest of Europe was crumbling), that would last through the Middle Ages.
  - He established many \_\_\_\_\_ that are the cornerstone of Roman Catholicism. For example: The writings of the Church Fathers are equal to Scripture; the clergy must remain celibate; the Eucharist is a sacrifice for redemption, efficacious for the living and the dead; the doctrine of a purgatorial fire, prayer to the saints, and the use of relics and amulets in devotions.

2. \_\_\_\_\_ (742-814) built an empire that included most of western and central Europe. His ambition was to unite all the Teutonic and Latin peoples on the Continent under his reign in union with the pope.
  - He founded schools and granted education to all male children. He was also a devout worshipper and very liberal to the clergy, giving them tithes and appointing worthy bishops and abbots.
  - While celebrating Christmas mass in 800, Pope Leo III placed a golden crown upon him and crowned him head of the Holy Roman Empire. This act controlled the history of the Middle Ages. It raised questions on the relation between these two sovereignties, and the limits of jurisdiction of each that would become the struggle of centuries.

## Monasticism

1. Monasticism was both a blessing and a curse to the Church. In its purest form it was a testimony against the worldliness and immorality of the great cities, and a call to repentance. It was also a source of hospitality to the traveler, healing to the sick, liberality to the poor, and education to the masses. Without monasticism there would have been very little ministry training and missionary activity during the Middle Ages.
2. Unfortunately, monasticism also nourished a religious \_\_\_\_\_, promoting a righteousness of works and a legal religion.
3. There were at least three factors that produced Monasticism.
  - Factor # 1: \_\_\_\_\_ movements began to grow out of a reaction to the polarization between the clergy and the laity.
  - Factor # 2: The development of \_\_\_\_\_ to deal with the perceived danger of the five deadly sins.

Five Deadly Sins:	Disciplines:
Greed	Poverty
Immorality	Chastity
Impiety	Prayer
Ignorance	Study
Sloth	Industry

- Factor # 3: The need for discipleship and spiritual training.

## Discussion Question:

1. What is the proper biblical role of the disciplines in relation to sin?

Lessons From Church History:  
Session Six

## Christianity Planted Among the Nations 591-1049

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### The Rise of Islam

1. Mohammed (570-632) began his prophetic career at \_\_\_\_\_ after receiving messages from the angel Gabriel.
  - At four, he was seized with fits of \_\_\_\_\_, severe headaches, and feverish convulsions—sometimes falling on the ground like a drunken man, and snoring like a camel. As a young man he spent much of his time in fasting and meditation. His violent convulsions and epileptic fits continued—at first he traced them to demoniacal possessions, but afterwards to the overpowering presence of God.
2. His early preaching produced few converts, but by \_\_\_\_\_ he was master of Arabia. The following is a general chronology of the birth and rise of Islam.
  - 570 - Birth of Mohammed at Mecca.
  - 610 - Mohammed receives the visions of Gabriel and begins his career as a prophet.
  - 622 - The Hegira of Mohammed from Mecca to Medina. Beginning of the Mohammedan era.
  - 632 - Death of Mohammed at Medina.
  - 636 - Capture of Jerusalem.
  - 640 - Capture of Alexandria.
  - 732 - Battle of Poitiers and Tours; Islam defeated and Europe saved from Moslem conquest.
3. Islam is founded on the following Five Pillars.
  - Accepting the creed, “There is no God but Allah, and Mohammed is his prophet.”
  - Praying five times a day toward Mecca.
  - Making a pilgrimage to Mecca at least once in one’s lifetime.
  - Giving alms for charitable purposes.
  - Fasting from sunrise to sunset during the month of Ramadan.
4. Islam was successful because it advocated a fanatical \_\_\_\_\_ that promised earthly rewards and eternal salvation to those who would participate in world conquest.
  - The \_\_\_\_\_ of Christianity after years of doctrinal squabbles and the icon worship which looked like polytheism greatly aided the advance of Islam.

**LESSON:** *Doctrinal squabbles and strife between Christians opened the door to the rise of destructive and false worldviews.*

# The Rise and Fall of the Papal Hierarchy 1049-1517

## The Papal Hierarchy

1. The tenth century and the first half of the eleventh century was the darkest of the dark ages, a century of ignorance, superstition, anarchy, and crime in the Church. The papacy became the prey of greed, violence, and intrigue, with most popes ending their career in prison or murdered.
  - In 1032, \_\_\_\_\_ IX ascended the papal throne through a money payment to the Roman clergy. He committed murders and adulteries in open daylight, robbed pilgrims on the graves of martyrs, and turned Rome into a den of thieves. Finally, the people of Rome became weary of his sins, expelled him from the city, and elected Sylvester III as antipope in January 1044.
  - But Benedict returned as pope in April of 1044. He then sold the papal office and emptied the treasury of every article of value. He was finally expelled from Rome for good.
2. But all this changed with the ascension of \_\_\_\_\_ VII (1020-1085). He instituted moral reforms and sought to establish the complete supremacy of the Roman Church.
3. During the reign of \_\_\_\_\_ III (1160-1216) the papacy reached its apex of power.

*"The pope is entrusted with the dominion of the Church and also with the rule of the whole world. He is at once king and priest. All things in heaven and earth and in hell are subject to Christ and so are they also to his vicar – the pope."*

Innocent III

4. \_\_\_\_\_ VIII (1234-1303) sought to elevate the papacy even higher.

*"I have authority of the King of Kings, I am all in all and above all so that God Himself, and I, the vicar of God, have but one council, and I am able to do almost all that God can do...what therefore can you make of me but God?"*

Boniface VIII

**LESSON:** *The Kingdom of God is **not** a political Kingdom established on the earth through the divinely appointed agency of the Church.*

## The Crusades

1. The Crusades were the medieval attempts to \_\_\_\_\_ the Holy Land from Muslim rule. There were eight crusades beginning in 1095 and ending in 1291.
  - The Muslims conquered the Holy Land in the seventh century, but the bulk of the population remained Christian. When the brutal Turks supplanted the Arabs, they harassed Christian pilgrims and threatened the security of the Eastern Church.
2. The Crusades had three goals: win the Holy Land and make it safe for \_\_\_\_\_, check the advance of Islam, and heal the schism between the Eastern and the Western Church. They failed in all three.
3. Crusaders were granted special \_\_\_\_\_ for sins committed, given the reward of eternal life, and allowed the chance to extend their reward to parents and loved ones.

## Anti-Semitism

*“The Jews sacrifice their children to Satan—they are worse than wild beasts. The synagogue is a brothel, the temple of demons devoted to idolatrous cults, a place of meeting for the assassins of Christ, a dwelling of iniquity. The Jews have fallen into a condition lower than the vilest animal. I hate the Jews. I hate the synagogue. It is the duty of all Christians to hate the Jews.”*

John Chrysostom

- I. The Middle Ages abound with examples of entire Jewish communities \_\_\_\_\_, banished, and sometimes killed.
  - Often the Jews had no rights of \_\_\_\_\_, were forbidden to employ Christian nurses, servants, or laborers, were commanded to make a money payment to the priest at Easter, and to wear a distinguishing patch upon their garments.
2. There were three reasons the Jews were persecuted.
  - Their fathers had crucified Christ, and they were \_\_\_\_\_ to bear the guilt and the punishment of the deed.
  - They allegedly perpetrated horrible \_\_\_\_\_ upon Christian children, and mocked the communion wafer and the cross.
  - They often imposed upon Christians high rates of \_\_\_\_\_.

## Discussion Question:

- I. What can we learn from the mistakes of the Roman Church during this era?

## Lessons From Church History: Session Seven

# The Rise and Fall of the Papal Hierarchy 1049-1517

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### Scholasticism

1. Scholasticism was the attempt to use natural human \_\_\_\_\_ to deepen the understanding of the doctrines of faith. It was an attempt to marry Aristotle and Christ.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ (1033-1109) devoted his life to suggesting reasonable arguments for theological propositions. His goal was not to use reason as a tool to understand what he already believed.
3. Thomas \_\_\_\_\_ (1225-1274) is the definitive theologian upon whom most of the current Roman Catholic dogma rests.
  - His defense of sacramental regeneration, \_\_\_\_\_, and the role of human merit in salvation, contributed greatly to the systematizing of a righteousness of works.

**LESSON:** *The Church's obsession with intellectual credibility has often led it into grave errors.*

### The Decline of the Medieval Church

1. During the Renaissance, papal morals deteriorated and the Church became increasingly \_\_\_\_\_.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ VI (1492-1503) spent his career in immorality and political intrigue.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ II (1503-1513) was a politician and warrior who spent his papacy in military campaigns.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ X (1513-1521) took more interest in the revival of pagan literature and art than in religion.

*"So strong was Leo's love of classical scholarship that it seemed to many that he cherished profane literature at the cost of the Scriptures, absorbing the skepticism of the humanists as well as their learning. 'How very profitable this fable of Christ has been to us through the ages,' he remarked lightly to a companion after the latter had quoted from the Gospels."<sup>7</sup>*

E.R. Chamberlin

2. A fierce \_\_\_\_\_ grew in reaction to the many papal failings of this period.
3. The rise of \_\_\_\_\_ fueled the desire for self-determination and the removal of papal interference.

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<sup>7</sup> E.R. Chamberlin, *The Bad Popes*, p. 222

## Forerunners of the Reformation

1. John \_\_\_\_\_ (1330-1384) produced the first complete translation of the Bible into English. He is called the Morning Star of the Reformation.
  - He taught that the Bible was the sole authority for the believer and that Christ, not the pope, is the head of the Church. He condemned many of the doctrines of the Roman Church.
2. Jan \_\_\_\_\_ (1370-1415) condemned the abuses of the Church and was burned at the stake as a result.
3. Desiderius \_\_\_\_\_ (1469-1536), the greatest humanist scholar of the northern Renaissance, challenged many church practices.
4. Johann \_\_\_\_\_ (1396-1468) opened the door for the rapid dissemination of knowledge through his printing press. He also inadvertently undermined the authority of the Roman Church, which had controlled the distribution of knowledge for many centuries.

# Reformation and the Roman Reaction 1517-1648

## The Lutheran Reformation

1. The Protestant Reformation was the turbulent 16th-century religious and political revolution in Western Europe, which ended the supremacy of the pope and established the Protestant churches.
2. Martin Luther (1483–1546) came to believe Christians are not saved by their own \_\_\_\_\_ but by the gift of God's grace, accepted by faith.
  - On October 31, 1517, he published his 95 \_\_\_\_\_, opposing the sale of indulgences to build St. Peter's in Rome. In 1521, he was summoned by Emperor Charles V to Worms to recant his views.

*"Unless I am refuted and convicted by testimonies of the Scriptures or by clear arguments since I believe neither the Pope nor the Councils alone; it being evident that they have often erred and contradicted themselves, I am conquered by the Holy Scriptures quoted by me, and my conscience is bound in the word of God: I can not and will not recant any thing, since it is unsafe and dangerous to do any thing against the conscience. Here I stand. I can do no other. God help me!"*

Martin Luther

3. Luther taught Five \_\_\_\_\_: Scriptura, Fide, Gratia, Christus, and Deo Gloria.
4. Luther began his career with a conciliatory attitude toward the \_\_\_\_\_, but it soon turned to bitterness.
5. Luther had an inflammatory style of writing which made any type of reconciliation impossible.

**LESSON:** *God uses very flawed people to accomplish His purposes.*

## Discussion Question:

1. When a society changes its worldview, everything in the society is affected. What do you think are some of the possible societal changes the following Reformation doctrines could have made?

The priesthood of the believer.

Salvation by faith alone.

All of life is holy to God (dissolution of the sacred / secular divide).

The Bible in the vernacular language.

## Lessons From Church History: Session Eight

# Reformation and the Roman Reaction 1517-1648

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### The Reformed Tradition

1. The Reformed tradition centers around three individuals.
2. John \_\_\_\_\_ (1509-1564) was born in France in 1509. He experienced a religious transformation around 1530, and six years later published his *Institutes of the Christian Religion*.
  - He spent most of his life in \_\_\_\_\_ promoting the Reformation and reforming the Church.
  - His theology and form of church \_\_\_\_\_ eventually triumphed in the Protestant Church of France, the Church of Scotland, the Reformed Church in Hungary and Holland, and in Puritanism in England and New England.
3. Ulrich \_\_\_\_\_ (1484-1531) was born again by teaching the New Testament to his congregation in Zürich.
  - When Pope Adrian VI discovered what he was teaching he forbade him the pulpit and asked the Zürich council to repudiate him as a heretic. In 1523, the council upheld Zwingli and officially adopted the Reformation.
  - The Reformation quickly spread to six districts in Switzerland while the remaining five remained Catholic. In 1529, the hostility between the districts flared into civil war.
4. John \_\_\_\_\_ (1513-1572) was the key figure of the Reformation in Scotland and the founder of Scottish Presbyterianism.
  - After training in Geneva, Knox went to Scotland and spent his life leading the Church and shaping the character of the nation. His constant prayer was “Give me Scotland or I die!” His adversary, Mary Queen of Scots, once said, “I fear the prayers of John Knox more than an army of 10,000 men!”
5. In reaction to the Reformed view of Church and State, the \_\_\_\_\_ advocated pacifism and opposition to State churches. They rejected the hierarchy of the Church and the authority of civil bodies in religious matters. Because of this, they were accused of sedition and heresy by civil and religious leaders (Protestant and Catholic) and hunted, persecuted, and often martyred.

**LESSON:** *It is essential that the Church has a right view of its relationship with the State.*

### The Anglican Reformation

1. \_\_\_\_\_ VIII (1491-1547) was an ardent Roman Catholic who had received the title “Defender of the Faith” by the pope for his polemic against Luther entitled *The Seven Sacraments*.
  - But when Pope Clement VII denied Henry’s \_\_\_\_\_ from Catherine of Aragon, Henry broke with Rome, and declared himself head of the English Church.

- Henry changed very little in the Church of England. However, when his son \_\_\_\_\_ VI (1537-1553) became king in 1547, real change and genuine Protestant doctrine was introduced in the Church.
  - Six years later Edward died and \_\_\_\_\_ (1516-1558), a fanatical Roman Catholic, began her reign by abolishing the religious innovations of her father and brother. When she died five years later, Elizabeth became queen and restored Protestantism.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ was a Calvinistic movement that sought to purify the Church of England from within. They stressed rigid morals, church discipline, and conversion as a pre-requisite to church membership.
- There were those who saw the process of reforming the Church of England from within as entirely hopeless. They separated from the Church, some going to Holland and others to the new colony of Massachusetts in North America.

## The Counter Reformation

1. The Counter Reformation was the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Roman Catholic Church in response to the Protestant Reformation.
2. The Council of \_\_\_\_\_ was called to initiate reform in the church and to define its essential doctrines. They upheld the traditional Roman Catholic view of Transubstantiation, Purgatory, relics, indulgences, and prayer to the saints. Their primary decisions were:
  - Scripture is but \_\_\_\_\_ of the sources of the doctrines of Christianity and must be understood within the written and oral tradition of the Church.
  - The seven sacraments bestow \_\_\_\_\_ on the believer and are necessary for salvation.
  - Salvation is by faith and good works.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ of Loyola (1491-1556) was the founder of the Society of Jesus (Jesuits), a religious order based on unqualified allegiance to the pope.
  - The Jesuits were the leaders in European education for 150 years. By 1640, they had more than 500 colleges throughout Europe.
  - Their devotion to the papacy called forth opposition from nationalistic rulers and leaders, and their zeal for ecclesiastical reform antagonized the clergy. At one time or another, the order has been expelled from every country in Europe. They were even suppressed by the papacy from 1773 to 1814.
4. The Spanish \_\_\_\_\_ was established in 1478 to deal with the Jewish problem in Spain. After 1520, it turned its attention to persons suspected of Protestantism.
  - The Inquisition became a political institution that executed thousands of reputed heretics. It was finally suppressed in 1834.

## The Thirty Years War

1. The Reformation closed with a bloodbath known as the Thirty Years War, a series of European conflicts lasting from 1618 to 1648, involving most of the countries of Western Europe, and fought mainly in Germany.
2. The Peace of \_\_\_\_\_, signed in 1648, ended the war and fundamentally influenced the subsequent history of Europe.
  - It established Switzerland and the Netherlands as independent states, greatly weakened the Holy Roman Empire, and ensured the emergence of France as the chief power on the Continent.
  - The war, one of the most destructive in European history, exhausted the continent and opened the door to a new, entirely secular spirit.

### Discussion Questions:

1. The Puritans sought to purify the Church of England from within. The Separatists left the Church of England because they did not believe it could be reformed. If you lived in those times, which option do you think you would have chosen? Why?
2. What is the proper biblical relationship between the Church and the State?

## Lessons From Church History: Session Nine

# Rationalism and Revival 1648-1800

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### The Enlightenment

1. The Enlightenment (or, Age of Reason) was a European intellectual movement that exalted \_\_\_\_\_ and science. It was characterized by an optimistic faith in man and his unlimited ability to understand and eventually control everything in the natural world.
2. Some of the significant personalities of the Enlightenment were:
  - René \_\_\_\_\_. (1596–1650) Descartes' intellectual quest for certainty began with a commitment to radical skepticism and ended in an epistemology firmly centered on reason and mathematics.
  - John \_\_\_\_\_. (1632–1704) Although Locke was an orthodox Christian, his writings on epistemology emphasized reason to such an extent that revelation was discounted by many who followed him.
  - Isaac \_\_\_\_\_. (1642–1727) Newton's book *Principia Mathematica* presented the universe as a well-oiled machine and helped propagate the philosophy of Deism.

**LESSON:** *When the Church practices strife and disunity, the door is open for a strong secular spirit to overwhelm society.*

### The First Great Awakening

1. The First Great Awakening refers to a period in American history from 1735-1750 when the churches were stirred to life and many people were converted.
2. In 1734, Jonathan \_\_\_\_\_ preached a series of sermons on justification by faith. In December of that year, he reported, "The Spirit of God began extraordinarily to set in and wonderfully to work among us."
  - Jonathan Edwards was colonial America's greatest theologian.
3. Edwards's published an account of the revival (*A Faithful Narrative of the Surprising Work of God*) that prepared New England for awakening, but it was the preaching of George Whitefield that brought it to life.
  - As many as \_\_\_\_\_ people were added to the membership of New England churches—fifteen percent of the entire population. The number of churches in the Middle and Southern Colonies tripled.
  - It brought major changes to the religious and political thought of colonial Americans, including many of the Founding Fathers who would later shape the destiny of the fledgling nation.
  - It produced an increased concern for missions and education.

## Great Leaders of The Era

1. George \_\_\_\_\_ (1714–1770) was led to Christ by Charles Wesley and became a member of the “Holy Club” at Oxford.
  - He was the first modern evangelist to travel and preach to large crowds in fields and town squares.
2. John \_\_\_\_\_ (1703–1791) was the fifteenth of nineteen children born to Reverend Samuel and Susannah Wesley. He was trained for the ministry at Oxford and ordained a priest in 1728.

*“In the evening I went very unwillingly to a society in Aldersgate Street, where one was reading Luther’s preface to the Epistle to the Romans. About a quarter before nine, while he was describing the change which God works in the heart through faith in Christ, I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone for salvation; and an assurance was given to me that he had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death.”*

John Wesley

- When the \_\_\_\_\_ pulpit was denied him, he took to the open fields preaching over 40,000 sermons and traveling over 250,000 miles on horseback.
  - He was a prolific author of educational treatises, histories, sermons and commentaries, publishing \_\_\_\_\_ books and 5,000 tracts. He edited and compiled an English dictionary, published twenty-three collections of hymns, and recorded his travels in his Journal. His medical handbook went through thirty-two editions.
  - He pioneered or participated in prison reform, the abolition of slavery, civil rights, and popular education.
  - At his death, there were over 500 preachers and 115,000 people who called themselves Methodists.
3. Wesley and Whitefield were \_\_\_\_\_ early in their ministry but eventually separated over issues related to predestination.

*“My brother Wesley acted more wisely than I. The souls that were awakened under his ministry he joined in small groups and thus preserved the fruits of his labors. This I neglected and my people are a rope of sand.”*

George Whitefield

**LESSON:** *God joins people together for increased effectiveness in ministry and the enemy works hard to separate them.*

## Discussion Questions:

1. What is the proper biblical relationship between reason and revelation? What does an epistemology based on Scripture look like?
2. How much doctrinal agreement is necessary to build together?

## Lessons From Church History: Session Ten

# Rationalism and Revival 1648-1800

### The Second Great Awakening

- I. On Friday, August 6, 1801, an outdoor camp meeting at Cane Ridge, Kentucky ignited the Second Great Awakening.
  - “The noise was like the roar of Niagara. Sinners shrieking, groaning, crying for mercy; believers praying, agonizing, fainting, falling down in distress for sinners, or in raptures of joy! Some were singing, some shouting, some clapping their hands, or hugging, kissing and laughing. Very many fell down, as men slain in battle, and continued for hours in an apparently breathless and motionless state—sometimes for a few moments reviving, and exhibiting symptoms of life by a deep groan, or piercing shriek, or by a prayer for mercy most fervently uttered. With astonishment did I hear men, women, and children declaring the wonderful works of God.”
2. Much of the Awakening was carried out by Methodist \_\_\_\_\_ Riders.
3. Francis \_\_\_\_\_ (1745–1816) was converted at 14 and began preaching four years later. At 26, he responded to John Wesley’s call for volunteers to go to America as missionaries.
  - During his 45-year career, he rode more than \_\_\_\_\_ miles on horseback, ordained over 4,000 ministers, and preached at least 17,000 sermons. When he came to America in 1771, there were about three hundred Methodists. At the close of his career there were over 214,000.
4. Charles \_\_\_\_\_ (1792–1875) is called the “father of modern revivalism.” He paved the way for later revivalists like D. L. Moody, Billy Sunday, and Billy Graham.
  - He introduced new \_\_\_\_\_ in evangelism such as lay-witnessing from house to house, special prayer meetings for evangelism, and protracted meetings lasting several days or weeks.
  - He was also a vocal and active supporter of the \_\_\_\_\_ movements of his day, especially women’s rights and the antislavery movement.

**LESSON:** *Real revival always expresses itself in social justice.*

## The Spread of Missions and Modernism 1800-1900

### THE SPREAD OF MODERNISM

- I. Two opposite trends characterized the nineteenth century: the intellectual shift to \_\_\_\_\_ and modernism, and the rapid and systematic spread of the Gospel to lands formerly unreached. The following people contributed to the shift to modernism.
2. Charles \_\_\_\_\_ (1809-1882) published *The Origin of Species* in 1859, one of the most significant books of the nineteenth century.

- His influence eventually infiltrated every academic discipline, and his theories became one of the guiding principles of the twentieth century.
3. F. C. \_\_\_\_\_ (1792-1860) was a German theologian who applied the methods of critical analysis to the content of biblical texts. His rationalistic, anti-supernatural view cast serious doubts on the reliability and inerrancy of the Scriptures.
    - Baur, along with \_\_\_\_\_ theologians Friedrich Schleiermacher (1768–1834) and Julius Wellhausen (1844–1918), were major contributors to the liberal, secular view of theology that undermined Christianity throughout Europe and the West.

## **The Explosion of Missions**

1. During the last 200 years, a burning passion for carrying the gospel to the whole world has motivated the Church.
  - Only 200 years ago, Protestant Christianity was almost exclusively \_\_\_\_\_ with only 1% living in Asia, Africa, and Latin America. By 1900, this number had grown to 10%. Today more than 67% of all Protestant Christians live in countries once considered foreign mission fields.
2. Four factors that caused missions to explode are: the Moravians, the Great Awakenings, growing commercial interests, and the new Mission Societies.
3. The number of missionaries has grown most rapidly among believers from Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

## **Significant Missionaries**

1. William \_\_\_\_\_ (1761–1834) founded 26 churches and 126 schools in India, translated Scripture into 44 languages, produced grammars and dictionaries, and organized India's first medical mission, savings bank, seminary, girls' school, and vernacular newspaper. He is rightly called the "father of modern missions."
  - He developed a systematic plan for world evangelization, established indigenous churches and trained native pastors, set up schools, and initiated social reform.
2. Hudson \_\_\_\_\_ (1832–1905) founded the China Inland Mission. His single-minded purpose was to win to Christ every man, woman, and child in China.
  - Aware of the cultural \_\_\_\_\_ of most missionaries, he decided to "become Chinese." When he died, over 50% of the missionaries in China were a part of his organization. His pioneering work paved the way for the work of God taking place in China today.
3. David \_\_\_\_\_ (1813–1873) went to Africa as a medical missionary and fell in love with the continent, inspiring generations of missionaries to reach Africa with the gospel.

## **Discussion Question:**

1. What is the role of missionaries in initiating social reform on the field?

## Lessons From Church History: Session Eleven

# The Century of the Holy Spirit 1900-2000

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### Backdrop: A Century of Despair

1. Two century-opening events symbolized how much Judeo-Christian \_\_\_\_\_ had eroded in the West: the death of Friedrich Nietzsche, and the printing of Sigmund Freud's *Interpretation of Dreams*.
  - Nietzsche's pronouncement, "God is dead," became an apt and oft-repeated catchword for an era that saw more widespread destruction than any previous century.
  - Freud's work contributed significantly to the rejection of traditional morality and the increase of a rationalistic view of life.
2. From such an ominous beginning the century produced the carnage of two world wars and countless other lesser wars. The century also produced some of the great despots of history in Hitler, Stalin, Mao, Pol Pot and Idi Amin—and some of the great calamities of history in the October Revolution, Hiroshima, Auschwitz, and Tiananmen Square. But against this backdrop of crime and murder, a great world-wide awakening began that would shake the traditional church and change the face of Christianity forever.

### The Welsh Revival and Its World-Wide Results

1. The Welsh Revival began as a local revival in \_\_\_\_\_, moved through the whole nation by the end of the year, and eventually affected a large portion of the world.
2. The leader of the Welsh Revival was a twenty-six year old former coal miner named Evan \_\_\_\_\_ (1878-1951). Prayer, spontaneous praise, testimonies, and public confession of sin by sinners and saints characterized his meetings.
3. In Wales, over \_\_\_\_\_ people were converted during the two-year revival. Drunkenness was cut in half and many taverns went bankrupt. The police were unemployed in many districts and thousands of newly converted people paid outstanding debts.

### Azusa Street and the Rise of Pentecostalism

1. Charles \_\_\_\_\_ (1873-1929), founder of the Apostolic Faith Movement, is the first person in the modern age to identify speaking in tongues as the evidence of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit.

*"Parham's doctrine of tongues as the 'Bible evidence' of the baptism of the Holy Spirit would directly lead to the Azusa Street revival of 1906 and the creation of the world Pentecostal movement."*<sup>8</sup>

Vincent Synan

2. In 1906, William \_\_\_\_\_ began a series of meetings at an abandoned AME church at 312 Azusa Street in Los Angeles.

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<sup>8</sup> Vincent Synan, *The Century of the Holy Spirit*, p. 42

3. The Azusa Street Revival continued for \_\_\_\_\_ years (three meetings a day, seven days a week), birthing numerous Pentecostal Denominations, and sending revival shock waves across the world.
4. Some of the more notable ministries associated with the Pentecostal Movement of the first half of the twentieth century were:
  - John G. \_\_\_\_\_ (1870-1935) is called the “Apostle to Africa.” He went there in 1908, and in five years won 1,000,000 converts, started 625 new churches, and trained 1,250 preachers. He later established a ministry in Spokane, Washington which resulted in no less than 100,000 astounding miracles of healing within the space of five or six years.
  - Smith \_\_\_\_\_ (1859-1946) is called the “Apostle of Faith.” He preached faith and healing all over the world, and raised twenty-three people from the dead.
  - Aimee Semple \_\_\_\_\_ (1890-1944) was one of the most influential women of the early twentieth century. She founded and presided over the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel, today one of the largest Pentecostal denominations in the world.

### **The Healing Revival (1947-1958)**

1. By 1947, much of Pentecostalism had become mired in doctrinal division and religious tradition and many thought the age of miracles was over.
2. William \_\_\_\_\_ (1906-1965), a seer with an uncanny gift of the word of knowledge and healing, was the primary catalyst for the Healing Revival.
  - In 1955, after nearly a decade of popularity and successful crusades, Branham’s teaching ministry came under severe attack from several Pentecostal denominations. Ten years later, he died in a tragic car accident.
3. The most well known of the Healing Evangelists was Oral \_\_\_\_\_ (1918-2009). He survived the demise of the Revival and re-invented himself to a new audience.
4. While the healing evangelists were prospering, Billy Graham (1918-present) began his international ministry with his famous Los Angeles Crusade in 1949. Since then Graham has preached in person in more than eighty countries to over 110 million people, more than any other individual in history. Hundreds of millions more have heard him through television, radio, and film.

### **Discussion Question:**

1. What is the most important thing we can learn from these spiritual leaders about the power of God and revival?

## Lessons From Church History: Session Twelve

# The Century of the Holy Spirit 1900-2000 cont.

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### Other Revivals of the Twentieth Century

1. In the summer of 1949, American healing evangelist Tommy \_\_\_\_\_ held a record-breaking series of meetings in Argentina. The revival began when President Peron was healed of eczema and granted Hicks permission to use Huracan Stadium, which held 180,000 people. The aggregate attendance for the meetings was over 2,000,000.

*“The lame walked, the paralyzed set free, the blind saw and stretcher cases were healed. The stadium filled to overflowing and for blocks loudspeakers broadcast the meetings to those who could not get in. A million chains were broken and the ‘strong man’ of Argentina was bound.”*

Dr. R. Edward Miller

- The Argentina Revival is just one example of the growth of the Church in Latin America. Protestants (mostly Pentecostal) have grown from 50,000 at the beginning of the century to approximately 50 million today. Four thousand people give their lives to Christ every day and two churches are established every hour.
2. A wave of revival visited the island of \_\_\_\_\_ in southeastern Indonesia In 1960. Over 200,000 people were converted in three years, and nearly every type of New Testament miracle was witnessed.
  3. The twentieth century assault of the Communist regime in \_\_\_\_\_ on Christianity has been one of the most systematic persecutions in history. By the end of Mao’s Cultural Revolution in 1976, almost all apparent evidence of religion was obliterated from the nation.
    - But in spite of government attacks, the Church has not only survived in China, but grown at an amazing rate. The most radical result of the persecution has been the emergence of an indigenous Chinese Church no longer led by foreign missionaries.
  4. Christianity flourished in South \_\_\_\_\_ during the twentieth century. The Korean Protestant community nearly doubled in size during each decade between 1940 and 1970, and tripled during the 1970s. By 1993, South Korea boasted twelve million active Christians in a population of 43 million.
    - Korea International Missions, founded in 1968, is a leader in Third World missions and now supports about 2,800 missionaries. The country has over a hundred Protestant colleges, universities, Bible Schools, and seminaries.

### The Roman Catholic Church and Modernity

1. During the nineteenth century, the Roman Catholic Church attempted to \_\_\_\_\_ its authority through a series of decisive declarations aimed at defining doctrine and papal power. In 1854, Pope Pius IX issued a decree declaring that Mary was preserved from the effects of original sin and therefore sinless (called the Immaculate Conception).

2. In 1870, during \_\_\_\_\_ Council I, they declared the pope had jurisdictional primacy over the entire Church and that, under specific conditions, God endows him with infallibility in teaching faith and morals (papal infallibility).
3. Nearly a hundred years later the \_\_\_\_\_ Vatican Council (1962-1965) was called to meet the challenge of modernity and rapidly changing times. Although the Council avowed papal infallibility and the equality of Scripture and Church tradition as sources of authority for Catholics, it also tried to accommodate its practices to changing times.
4. The Council made optional traditional expressions of Catholicism: Latin in the liturgy, meatless Fridays, Lenten fastings and abstinence, the cult of the saints, and the regular practice of confession to the priest. Vatican II thus removed many of the cultural distinctives of Catholicism making it more palatable to a larger worldwide audience.

## **The Charismatic Movement**

1. The Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church defines The Charismatic Movement as a “loosely-structured, predominantly lay movement dating from the 1960’s in mainline Protestant denominations and emphasizing group worship, the spiritual gifts, divine healing, and glossolalia.”<sup>9</sup>
2. Many of these “Neo-Pentecostals,” not welcomed in their denomination, began their own independent churches and apostolic teams.
3. The following is a partial list of influential leaders: Demos Shakarian, David du Plessis, Dennis Bennet, Ralph Wilkerson, Jamie Buckingham, Ern Baxter, Derek Prince, and Pat Robertson.

## **Discussion Question:**

1. What is the single most important lesson you have learned from our study of Church History?

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<sup>9</sup> The Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church, p. 321