

1.
Def: The Church is the Body of Christ - it is the way God planned to reveal Him + His Plan to the World. It is also the way in which God has planned for us to relate + grow in Christ -

That's why we are going to study church history - our brothers + sisters in the Body of Christ for the past 2000 yrs. can speak to us - the same problems confronted them that confront us - the same heresies - the same

30 A.D. - 500 A.D.

1. Apostolic Age 70 yrs. 30-100 A.D.
2. Post-apostolic Age 100-312 A.D.
3. Church-State Combination 312-500 A.D.

1. Apostolic Age - the apostles set about fulfilling the Great Commission. These were just common ordinary men, like Peter - just like you + I. In their lifetimes they went out + started fulfilling the Great Commission - they, in the Power of the H.S., undertook the task of reaching the World for Christ. What faith that took - they were only a handful - but how God used them.

They established a beach head

1. The first thing they had to do was break away from Judaism. God had to convince the Jews that

the church is a part of the
way that planned to have the
in the world. It is about the way in which
they have planned for a future generation

that when we are going to
our own nations + nations in the world
for the next 3000 years. We can
begin to see the same problems
repeated themselves from that time
the same things
the same

1940 - 1900 A.D.
A part of the 20th
1900 - 1940 A.D.
1940 - 1900 A.D.

1. People are born - they are
born in the world
but they are not born in the
same way as we are. In the
past they were out of the world
and they were not born in the
same way as we are. They were
born in the world. What for?
They were born in the world
but they were not born in the
same way as we are. They were
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same way as we are. They were
born in the world. What for?

2. Christianity spread to the Gentiles - by 80 A.D. the Gentiles were being evangelized at a fantastic rate - thanks to Paul primarily

3. The Apostles were the 'authorities'. If someone came by preaching something a little weird the church would either send for an apostle or write a letter to one of them & check out the preacher's message

It was mainly a lower class movement - God usually works that way - He works through the common people & not from the top down. That is ~~is~~ very easily explained - those on top are usually too selfish - too rich - too dictatorial because they have their own kingdom & are their own god - they don't care about bowing down & worshipping the real God - or following Him anywhere in the world

There was some persecution - Nero lighted his night parties using Christians as torches - he blamed them for burning Rome

Then something happened: the apostles died. It's very clear that they believed Christ would return in their lifetime - and there's nothing wrong with that - Paul called it a living hope 'maranatha' all Christians should live as though Christ is coming back today!

In AD 62-64 Paul & Peter were killed. The others were scattered over the world - John died in AD 95

Christianity spread to the British Isles
from the continent. The first missionaries
were sent by the Pope in the year 431.

The Apostles were the 'authenticity'
of the Christian faith. Their teachings
were the foundation of the Church.

It was necessary to have a common
faith. The words of the Apostles
were the basis of the Christian religion.

There was a common faith in
the words of the Apostles. This was
the foundation of the Christian religion.

The words of the Apostles were
the foundation of the Christian religion.
This was the basis of the Christian faith.

Christianity is coming back today.
The words of the Apostles are still
the foundation of the Christian religion.

3

Now there were no more apostles - no living authorities.

The key word for this era is Pressure — Persecution + Heresy were the 2 things that confronted the church - It is a miracle that it survived

Emperors - Trajan - Maximinus Marcus Aurelius made it their business to stamp out Christianity. They felt that if they could restore the state religion the Roman empire might survive - it was on its way down. Christianity was growing so fast that emperor-worship was not popular - & emperors couldn't command the undying devotion they had when they were worshipped. So they made it mandatory to go & worship in pagan temples - got stamps & if you didn't they killed you. This is the great period of Christian martyrdom - there was constant persecution for 250 yrs. in some part of the Roman empire

People really knew which side they were on - there were no lukewarm Christians - people paid for their faith with their blood. There are accounts of Roman colosseums 6" deep in Christian blood - they used every means available to kill them - gladiators, lions, crucifixion - it was horrible. 10,000 ^{killed} at one afternoon's entertainment

and there was no more competition
 having established
 the way back for this area is
 necessary. Business & therapy
 was the 2 things that complicated
 the chart. It is a matter that is
 important - Japan - Japan - Japan
 How can we make it then business to stay
 on Christianity - they felt that if they
 could make the state religion the
 Japanese might accept - it was
 the way for Christianity was
 growing so fast that people wanted to
 look for it in - engineers etc. that would
 the way of doing things but when they were
 made - 2 things, 1 was to make
 to be a religion - people wanted to get
 things if you didn't they didn't
 get. It is in the great part of
 the world - there was
 a lot of competition for 20 years
 to get part of the world again
 people really found which side
 they were on - there was no
 Christian - people go for the fact
 that when they see
 of them - deep in water
 they want every man available
 all that - they are
 out very little - 10,000 of one of them
 an important

4 Those Christians really had to look to the Lord for their food, their jobs, their very lives
Christianity became the scape-goat for every problem the Roman empire had

Tertullian, a great Christian 200 A.D.

"If the Tiber reaches the walls, if the Nile does not rise, if there is a plague, or if there is famine the cry is at once Christians to the lions" - they were the scape-goats

There is an account of a fellowship in Leon, France - where every single Christian in the city was killed; the last one being a 15 yr. old boy who was tortured to make him deny Christ - and he would not.

What was the result of all this Persecution? Growth - fantastic growth

This is the Principle down through all of Church History: -

The more it is Persecuted + Crushed the more it Grows through

One of the main ~~ways~~ ~~to~~ which it spread was - guess what - the Roman Army
It was sent to crush Christianity + instead the soldiers became convinced that Jesus was Lord - probably as they arrested the Christians + saw their loving reaction to persecution. So Christianity spread from Britain to India - all around the Mediterranean.

The Christian is not to look for
 a sign for every day, but for every
 Christian there is a sign for every
 problem. The Roman Empire had
 its sign, a great Christian sign
 of the Bible, the walls of the Bible.
 When we see a sign of the Bible
 or of the Bible in the Bible, the
 Christian is to be there. They have
 the sign of the Bible.

There is one account of a fall
 of the Bible, a sign of the Bible.
 The sign of the Bible is the Bible.
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