

# History of Christianity to 1600

SAH2420

Welcome to a study of Christian roots. These roots that go back to Jewish times when Jesus was inserted into history at Bethlehem and later sent the Spirit to guide Christians down through the corridors of time. Since then Christian spirituality, liturgy, parishes, educational and health-care services emerged in communities which subsequently sprang up around the Middle East, Mediterranean Sea, and Western Europe. By recovering these early roots and their organic development through the early, medieval, renaissance, and reformation periods, Christians rejuvenate the faith energies of their communities and regain the freedom to act decisively for the future.

## Source Materials: Books and Articles

### Textbooks:

- \* Fay, Terence J., ed. and comp. *History of Christianity to 1600: A Workbook*. Toronto: Canadian Scholar's Press, 2003.
- \* Bokenkotter, Thomas. *Concise History of the Catholic Church*. Revised and Expanded Edition. Toronto: Image, 1990.

### General Histories:

- \* Aubert, Roger, ed. *The Christian Centuries*, Vols. 1,3,5.
- \* Chadwick, Owen. *A History of Christianity*. NY: St Martin's Press, 1995
- \* Chichester, David. *Christianity: A Global History*. NY: HarperCollins, 2000.
- \* Kee, Howard Clark et al. *Christianity: A Social and Cultural History*. Toronto: Collier Macmillan Canada, 1991.
- \* Jedin, Hubert. *History of the Church*. 8 vols; also by John Dolan in 3 vols.
- \* *Penguin History of the Church*, 6 vols: Henry Chadwick, *The Early Church*; Richard W. Southern, *Western Society and the Church in the Middle Ages*; Owen Chadwick, *The Reformation*. New Catholic Encyclopedia (1967- ).

### Journals:

- \* American Catholic Historical Association *Catholic Historical Review*, 1919- .
- \* *Church History: Studies in Christianity and Culture*, 1932- .
- \* *Ecumenical Review*, 1948-.
- \* *Journal of Ecclesiastical History*, 1950-.
- \* ATLA (American Theological Library Association) Religion Database 1975-
- \* ATLA (American Theological Library Association) Ten Year Subset 1998-
- \* *Canadian Periodical Index*.
- \* *Catholic Periodical & Literature Index* (CD Rom).
- \* Bibliography of Canadian Religious History. Online, Canadian Catholic Historical Association web site.

## Course Outline by Lectures

- 1. Forming of Christian Communities and Cultures:** Thomas Bokenkotter, *Concise History of the Catholic Church* (TB), Chaps 2-3.
- 2. Establishing the Church**  
Old Israel and New Israel, in W. H. C. Frend's *The Early Church*, Chapt. 4
- 3. Constantine to Justinian: Structural Development:** TB, Chaps. 4 & 6  
Conversion of Constantine in A.H.M. Jones' *Constantine and the Conversion of Europe*, Chapt. 6  
From *Communio* to Leadership of the Whole Church, in Schatz's *Papal Primacy*, pp. 28-38.
- 4. Nicaea to Chalcedon: Doctrinal Development:** TB, Chaps. 5 & 9  
*Way to Nicea*, Bernard Lonergan, pp. 1-17  
*First Seven Ecumenical Councils*, Leo D. Davis, Chapt. 2
- 5. Structural and Doctrinal Pluralism:** TB, Chaps 13  
Seeds of Disunity in *Western Society and the Church in the Middle Ages*, R.W. Southern, pp. 53-67.  
Byzantium's Second Encounter with the West by Joseph Gill in **Byzantium**, pp. 113-33
- 6. Dominion of Devout Princes, 500-1050:** TB, Chapt. 10  
Diocesan Organization, in *History of the Church III*, ed. by Hubert Jedin and John Dolan, pp. 258-269
- 7. Papal Hegemony: Three Popes and Three Emperors:** TB, Chaps. 11-12  
Gregory VII Struggled with Henry IV, in *The Crisis of Church and State, 1050-1300*, Brian Tierney, pp. 45-73  
Innocent III and Frederick II, in *The Crisis*, Tierney, pp. 127-149
- 8. Evolution of Monasticism:** TB, Chapt. 14  
Second Benedict and his Progeny in *Western Monasticism*, Peter King, Chapt. 5  
Cloister and Community in *The Dissolution of the Monasteries*, G.W.D. Woodward, Chapt. 2
- 9. Medieval Parish Culture:** TB, Chapt. 18  
Inner Life of the Church in *History of the Church IV*, pp. 566-85  
Dissolution and Misinterpretation in *A Short History of Western Liturgy*, Theodor Klauser, pp. 94-116
- 10. Conciliar Movement versus Papal Autocracy:** TB, Chaps. 16-17  
Conciliar Theory Examined in *Council over Pope?* Francis Oakley, pp. 56-77  
Crisis of Primacy in the Late Middle Ages, in *Papal Primacy*, Klaus Schatz, pp. 100-123
- 11. Protestant Reformation:** TB, Chaps. 19-20  
The Saxon Hus in *Here I Stand: Life of Martin Luther*, Roland Bainton, (1950), pp. 102-20  
Germany in *Reformation in National Context*, edited by Bob Scribner *et al.* (1994), pp. 4-29
- 12. Early Modern Catholicism:** TB, Chapt. 21  
The Impact of the Catholic Reformation by Michael A. Mullett in *Catholic Reformation* (1999), pp. 142-74.  
The Historiography of the Society of Jesus by John W. O'Malley

## Important Information

- Seminar Report:** The student will prepare a Seminar Report from the assigned readings for each session and hand it in to the instructor at the end of the class period.
- Research Paper:** An essay of 12-pages double-spaced (12 point font) is required on an historical event in church history. He/she should establish a theme, three points, conclusion, and include pagination, indent paragraphs, footnotes (I don't read endnotes), and bibliography. Papers will be due at the third meeting, November 25. Some topics are listed below.

**Collaborative Recapitulation:** In a three-page type-written essay, the student reviews the highlights of the course, and then, presents it orally during the classroom exam. This is a comprehensive display of what students learned during the term and includes a main theme, three points, a conclusion, and is due on Exam Day, December 9.

### Possible Essay Topics

1. What were the characteristics of the **early Christians** and their communities? See Rodney Stark, *The Rise of Christianity* (1996), James T. Burtchaell, *From Synagogue to Church* (1992), Wayne Meeks, *The First Urban Christians* (1983), Paul McKechnie, *The First Christian Centuries* (2001), and Aaron Milavec, *The Didache: the Early Christian Communities, 50-70* (2003).
2. **Constantine**, authoritarianism, and Arians vs the Conciliar system guided by the Holy Spirit. See Arnold Jones, *Constantine and the Conversion of Europe*; Elizabeth Digeser, *The Making of a Christian Empire* (2000); Leo D. Davis, *The First Seven Ecumenical Councils* (1990).
3. Was **monasticism** or mysticism an escape from real life, or was it a powerful statement of Christian witness? See David Knowles, *Christian Monasticism and The Middle Ages* (1969), Peter King, *Western Monasticism*; George Zarnecki, *The Monastic Achievement* (1972).
4. **Crusades** to Free the Holy Places: Macolm Billings, *The Crusades* (1996); Penny J. Cole, *Preaching the Crusades to the Holy Land* (1991); Christopher Maier, *Crusade Propaganda and Ideology* (2000).
4. Describe some of the components of **parish life** in the Middle Ages. See Richard Southern, *The Making of the Middle Ages*; Maureen C. Miller, *The Bishop's Palace* (2000); Howard Clark Kee et al., *Christianity: A Social and Cultural History* (1991).
5. How **Muslims, Jews, and Christians** related in the Middle Ages and modern times. Ovey N. Mohammed SJ, *Muslim-Christian Relations* (1999); Neusner, Jacob, ed. *Religious Foundations of Western Civilization: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam*. (2006); Chazan, Robert. *God, Humanity, and History: The Hebrew First Crusade Narratives*. Berkeley: U. of California, 2000; Cohen, Jeremy. *Living Letters of the Law: Ideas of the Jew in Medieval Christianity*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1999. Jonathan Riley-Smith, *Jihad Crusaders: What an Osama bin Laden means by "crusade"* (2003); James Bill and J. A. Williams, *Roman Catholics and Shi'i Muslims: Prayer, Passion, and Politics* (2002).
6. Investigate the truth of the **Inquisition**. See Edward Peters, *Inquisition*. Berkeley: U. of California Press, 1989, Henry Kamen, *Inquisition and Society in Spain in the 16C and 17C* (Bloomington, 1985), and Adriano Prospero, *Tribunals of Conscience* (1996).
7. **The Council of Constance (1414) or the Papacy** directing the church? See Brian Tierney, *Foundations of Conciliar Theory* (1965) and Francis Oakley, *Council Over the Pope?*
8. What motivated the **Protestant reformers**? See Jared Wicks, Roman Reactions to Luther, *Catholic Historical Review* 69 (October 1993): 521-62, Lewis W. Spitz, *The Reformation*, and Bob Scribner et al., *The Reformation in National Context*.
9. What motivated the **Catholic reformers**? See Michael A. Mullett, *The Catholic Reformation* and David M. Luebke, ed., *The Counter-Reformation*.
10. **Missions in 16C England**: Scarisbrick, J. J. *The Reformation and the English People* (1984) and *The Jesuits and the Catholic Reformation* (1988); *The Hunted Priest : Autobiography of John Gerard*, translated by Philip Caraman, introduction by Graham Greene (1959).

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