

WHAT IS CHURCH?

GOD'S FAITHFULNESS & MAN'S SINFULNESS: *CHURCH HISTORY AT A GLANCE*

Introduction

- ❖ Why is church history important? – *Jude*
- ❖ God's promise to build the church – *Matthew 16*

I. The Apostolic Fathers (100 – 300 AD)

- ❖ Polycarp
- ❖ Ignatius – *1 John 1:1-3*
- ❖ Irenaeus – *Romans 5:12,17-18*
- ❖ Heresies introduced

II. The Roman Christian Empire (300 – 500 AD)

- ❖ Constantine
- ❖ Augustine – *Romans 13:13*
- ❖ Pope Leo I
 - Rejection by many of his propositions

III. Middle Ages (500 – 1500 AD)

- ❖ East vs West
- ❖ Distinctives:
 - 1) Pope Gregory the Great & the Papal System – *Mark 7:6-13*
 - 2) Rise of Islam
 - 3) Crusades
 - 4) Scholastic Theology

IV. Reformation (1300 – 1700 AD)

- ❖ John Wycliffe
- ❖ Martin Luther – *Romans 4:4-5*
- ❖ Protestantism

V. The American Church (1600 – present)

- ❖ The Puritans
- ❖ The Enlightenment
- ❖ Modernism, Postmodernism & Pluralistic Society – *Romans 12:2*

Conclusion

- 1) Praise God for His faithfulness in building His church
- 2) Look to Scripture, not tradition or man's opinions
- 3) You can trust a Christ-centered church

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