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Church History



The textbook for this course is *Christian History Made Easy* by Timothy Paul Jones (Rose Publishing), available through Amazon and also christianbook.com.

Dr. Jones, the author, is a Southern Baptist seminary professor. While his personal bias is evident, he describes various sacramental views with understanding and respect, mindful that not all of his readers are sympathetic to his view.

Our course covers church history from the time of the Apostles through the period of the Protestant Reformation. You may learn more recent church history from the last two chapters of Dr. Jones' book, and also from our DeafPah! course on *Churches in America*.

Accompanying this course are 60 videos lesson in ASL, taught by Bob Lenderman. You will find links to these videos at the DeafPah! website: deafjesus.org/courses.

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Study Questions

CHAPTER 1

Lesson #1. Introduction - Persecution under Nero

1. Why is it important for even non-Christians to know and understand church history?

- 2. During the first years of the Christian church, during the time of the Apostles, Romans saw Christians as just a part of what other religious group?
- 3. Why did Emperor Nero persecute Christians?

Lesson #2. Those Strange and Dangerous Christians!

- 1. Describe four beliefs and practices that made Christian look strange and dangerous in Roman culture.
 - a)
 - b)
 - c)

 - d)

Lesson #3. Rome Crushes Israel

1. Why did the people of Israel rebel against their Roman rulers?

2. The Roman army destroyed the city of Jerusalem in what year?

3. What part of the temple in Jerusalem is still standing today?

4. What is Masada? What happened at Masada?

5. How did the Roman Emperor Nero die?

Lesson #4. "Curse Christ or Die!"

1. Emperor Domitian broke with Roman tradition, how?

- 2. Domitian made law that Christians and Jews refused to obey. What was that law?
- 3. What was Governor Pliny's plan for make Christians convert back to worshipping the Emperor and the Roman gods?

Lesson #5. Justin Martyr and the Apologists

- 1. What does the Greek word *apologia* mean?
- 2. How did Justin try to show that the Christian faith is true?
- 3. Why was the word *Martyr* added to Justin's name?

Lesson #6. What attracted Romans to Christ?

1. Why did many people in the Roman world trust Jesus Christ?

Lesson #7. The Martyrs of Lyon – They Died for a God Who is Real

- 1. Who was the Apostle John's assistant?
- 2. Where is the city of Lyon? (Roman times Lyon was called *Lugdunum*)
- 3. What gave the Martyrs of Lyon strength to endure terrible suffering?
- 4. How was Polycarp killed?
- 5. Why was Polycarp killed?

CHAPTER 2

Lesson #8. The Gnostic Search for "Secret Knowledge"

- 1. What does the word "heresy" mean?
- 2. What was the first strong heresy that the Apostles of Jesus had to fight?
- 3. What did the Gnostic religion teach?

- 4. Gnostics taught WHO made the world?
- 5. Gnostics rejected what Christians teachings about Jesus?

6. Gnosticism mixed with Christian teaching how?

Lesson #9. Gnosticism Infects the Church

1. What did Marcion teach about God in the Old Testament and God of Jesus Christ? Why Marcion think that the "God of the New Testament" is better than the "God of the Old Testament"?

2. What is Docetism?

- 3. What did Marcion teach about Jesus' resurrection from the dead? ...and the Bible's promise that on the Last Day all people will rise from the dead?
- 4. What did Marcion teach about marriage? Why?

5. How did Marcion and his followers celebrate the Lord's Supper? Why?

6. What New Testament books did Marcion accept?

7. What did the church in Rome do about Marcion?

8. What did Marcion do after that?

9. What did Origen teach about God creating the world?

10. What did Origen teach about Judgment Day? ...and about the Devil?

11. What did Origen and his followers teach about marriage and earthly pleasures?

12. How did Origin influence the way Christian teachers interpreted the Bible?

Lesson #10. Defense Against Gnosticism – God's Inspired Word

1. The early Christian Church accepted some writings as God's inspired Word, that today we call "The New Testament." What writings did they quickly accept?

- 2. What writings did the Church discuss, and take longer to accept?
- 3. What principles did the Church use to choose the writings for the New Testament?

- 4. Why did the Church not include "The Shepherd" and other good Christian writings in the New Testament?
- 5. How does the Bible help us defend false teaching?

Lesson #11. Defense Against Gnosticism – The Rule of Faith

1. How does a new adult believer in Christ prepare for baptism?

2. What was the first short statement of faith that new believers said in their baptism service:

- 3. Marcion and the Gnostics taught that God the Father of Jesus Christ did not make the world. They said a lower evil god made the physical world. The early church added a sentence in the baptism statement of faith to answer that false teaching. What was that sentence?
- 4. Marcion and the Gnostic taught that Jesus Christ did not become a human. The early church added a sentence in the baptism statement of faith to answer that false teaching. What was that sentence?
- 5. Marcion and the Gnostic taught that Jesus Christ did not physically rise from the dead. And they taught that in the future no one will bodily rise from the dead. The early church added sentences in the baptism statement of faith to answer that false teaching. What were those sentences?

- 6. The early church called this baptism statement "The Rule of Faith." What does the word "Rule" mean in this title?
- 7. How does this Rule of Faith help the church defend against false teachers?
- 8. Today we call this Rule of Faith what?

Lesson #12. Defense Against Gnosticism – Church Leaders

1. What were various titles for church leaders?

2. How did the church leaders defend the church against false teachers?

3. Where and how did the authority of some church leaders increase?

4. What does the Latin title "Pope" mean?

Lesson #13. East vs West – Division Begins

1. Why did the power of the bishop in Rome increase?

- 2. Eastern Churches and Western Churches disagreed about what?
- 3. Who was the Western church leader that condemned the Eastern churches about this issue?

Lesson #14. Montanists – The New Prophets

1. What did Montanists teach?

2. Why did most Christian leaders reject Montanists as false prophets?

CHAPTER 3

Lesson #15. Traitors to the Faith

1. Why did Emperor Decius persecute Christians?

2. Why did many Christian people offer sacrifices to Roman gods?

3. What did the Donatists teach?

4. What did Cyprian teach?

Lesson #16. Constantine Becomes Emperor

- 1. Why did Galerius persecute Christians?
- 2. Whom did Constantine battle for power to rule as Emperor?

3. What did Constantine see in a vision the day before his battle?

Lesson #17. Peace from Constantine – Trouble from Arius

- 1. What was the Edict of Milan?
- 2. Montanists asked Constantine to settle their argument against people who wanted to come back to the church. What was Constantine's decision?
- 3. Describe Arius' teaching.

Lesson #18. The Council of Nicaea

- 1. Where was the city of Nicaea?
- 2. Who called together the church leaders in Nicaea?
- 3. Why did he call church leaders together?
- 4. What year did they meet in Nicaea?

- 5. What was the decision of the Council of Nicaea?
- 6. What was the statement of faith that the Council of Nicaea wrote?

Lesson #19. Constantine vs Athanasias

1. How did the Emperor Constantine try to cancel the decision of the Council of Nicaea?

2. What did Constantine do to Athanasias for refusing Constantine's order?

Lesson #20. Emperor Julian vs Athanasias

- 1. Why was Julian against the Christian faith?
- 2. Why did Julian want to arrest Athanasias?
- 3. Why did Athanasias call church leaders together to the Synod of Alexandria?
- 4. What did the Synod of Alexandria decide?

Lesson #21. Monks, Nuns, and the Great Cappadocians

- 1. Athanasias wrote a popular story about who?
- 2. The person in Athanasias' story lived where?
- 3. Why did some Christian people go out to live in the desert?
- 4. From whom did Christians get the idea that they should reject marriage?

5. Men who live this way were called	
•	

6. When they live in groups, that place is called a ______

7. Women who live this way are called ______

8. When they live in groups, that place is called a ______

9. Who were the Great Cappadocians?

10. Macrina and Basil established what?

Lesson #22. Jerome

1. Jerome translated the Bible into what language?

- 2. Who supported and helped Jerome with his translation project?
- 3. Jerome finished translating the Bible in what year?
- 4. Today what do we call Jerome's translation of the Bible?
- 5. Many people did not like Jerome's translation of the Bible. Why? (2 reasons)
 - a)
 - b)
- CHAPTER 4

Lesson #23. Emperor Theodosius vs Bishop Ambrose (part 1)

1. List five reasons that the Roman Empire began to decline.

- a) b)
- c)
- d)
- e)

2. Theodosius became emperor over which part of the Empire?

3. Emperor Theodosius negotiated peace with what nation of people?

4. Theodosius decreed that the Empire will accept only one religion – what religion?

- 5. Theodosius lost a conflict with church leaders about what issue?
- 6. Before for Ambrose was chosen as Bishop, he was governor of which city in Italy?
- 7. Ambrose fought against which false teaching?

Lesson #24. Emperor Theodosius vs Bishop Ambrose (part 2)

- 1. How did Ambrose force the Emperor obey him?
- 2. What group of non-Christians did Emperor Theodosius defend?
- 3. What group of non-Christians did Emperor Theodosius oppose?
- 4. Who was the last person to serve as Emperor over the whole Roman Empire both East and West?

Lesson #25. Olympias & Chrysostom

- 1. Who was Olympias? ...and why did so many men want to marry her?
- 2. What did Olympias do with her family wealth?
- 3. What does the name "Chrysostom" mean?

4. How was John Chrysostom's preaching different than other preachers of his time?

5. What did the Emperor's wife punish Olympias and Chrysostom?

Lesson #26A. Augustine: A Mother's Prayer

- 1. In what part of the world was Augustine's home?
- 2. Where did Augustine attend university?
- 3. What was Monica's #1 prayer for her son?
- 4. How old was Augustine when he finally trusted Christ?
- 5. Augustine became the overseer (bishop) of the church in what African city?

Lesson #26B. Pelagius, the Deaf, and the City of God

- 1. What did Pelagius teach?
- 2. How did Augustine respond to Pelagius' teaching?

- 3. Augustine felt a deep concern about Deaf people. Why?
- 4. Why did Augustine write his book about "The City of God"?

Lesson #27. Nestorius, The Council of Chalcedon, & The Two Natures of Christ

- 1. What does the Latin word "Theotokos" mean?
- 2. Why didn't Nestorius calling Mary "the Mother of God"?
- 3. People misunderstood Nestorius. They thought that Nestorius said that Jesus Christ was what?
- 4. The Council of Chalcedon affirmed that Jesus Christ was one person who had two natures. What are those two natures?

Lesson #28. Rome's Last Emperor and First Pope

- 1. What two things did Leo do that won respect for him as a church and community leader?
 - a)
 - b)

- 2. Vandals were from what country?
- 3. Leo convinced the Vandals to not kill or rape the Roman people. What did the Vandals do instead?
- 4. Who was Rome's last Emperor?
- 5. Odovacer named himself King of what?
- 6. The Roman Empire fell and that began what period of time in European world history?
- 7. What does the word "pope" mean?

Lesson #29. Benedict & Gregory

- 1. In the year 520AD, Benedict tore down a pagan altar in Italy, and in its place Benedict built what?
- 2. That name of Benedict's sister is _____
- 3. She established what?
- 4. Benedict wrote "rules" for what?
- 5. Describe some of his rules:

6. Why did Benedict and his monks move into the city of Rome?

7. Benedict's "Rule" impressed who?

8. Gregory sent a group of Benedict's monks as Christian missionaries to what country?

9. What city became the important Christian center in England?

10. What did Gregory emphasize for church worship?

11. Describe doctrines and practices that Gregory officially established for the Roman church.

Lesson #30. Saint Patrick & The Celtic Church

- 1. Patrick was born and grew up in what country?
- 2. When Patrick was 16 years old, he moved to Ireland. Why?
- 3. What work did young Patrick do in Ireland?
- 4. What change happened in Patrick's mind and heart during that time?
- 5. After Patrick escaped and went back home, God gave Patrick a dream telling him to go tell people about Jesus where?

6. Patrick used the shamrock to teach about what?

7. Church leaders in England did not support Patrick's work, why?

8. Patrick died on what date?

CHAPTER 5

Lesson #31. The Rise of Feudalism in the West

1. What are the "Middle Ages" or "Medieval Period"?

2. Why do we call this time in history the "Dark Ages"?

3. What do these words mean?

Lord (not as a religious word)

Manor

Peasant

Vassal

Knight

4. Describe church life during the Middle Ages.

Lesson #32. The Rise of Islam in the East

- 1. Muhammad lived in what city and country?
- 2. Muhammad said that someone told him to preach Allah's message. That someone was who?
- 3. That happened in what year?
- 4. What was Muhammad's message?
- 5. Muhammad called his followers what?
- 6. What does *Islam* mean?
- 7. In the years after Muhammad died, Islam spread to what countries?
- 8. How did Islam spread?

Lesson #33. The Battle Over Icons

- 1. What is a church icon?
- 2. Who were ICONODULES?
- 3. Who were ICONOCLASTS?
- 4. The Second Council of Nicaea decided which group was right? Explain their decision.

Lesson #34. Charlemagne & The Holy Roman Empire

- 1. Who were the Franks?
- 2. Today what country gets it name from the Franks?
- 3. Which Frankish King became a Christian and he encouraged all his people to trust Christ?
- 4. Which Frankish King tried to force people to become baptized?
- 5. What did Pope Leo III do for King Charles?
- 6. What does the French name "Charlemagne" mean?
- 7. Charles' kingdom was called what?

Lesson #35. Church Corruption & Division

- 1. Who was Marozia?
- 2. Who was Pope John 12th? ...and why is he famous?
- 3. This lesson describes one Latin word that the Western (Roman) Church added to the Nicene Creed. That word was *"filioque"*. What does that word mean?
- 4. That word was inserted into what part of the creed?
- 5. The Eastern Church rejected that change in the creed, why?

6. The Western Pope offered to remove that word from the creed. Eastern head bishop Photius rejected that offer, why?

Lesson #36. Pope Leo IX and the Great Schism

"Schism" means "division."

- 1. What was Pope Leo IX(9th)'s real name?
- 2. Pope Leo IX enacted a new law for the church to reduce corruption and stop politicians from using the church to gain power and wealth. What was that new law?
- 3. Humbert wrote a letter to the Eastern Christians in the Pope's name. Humbert accused the Eastern Church of three things:
 - a) b) c)
- 4. Were those three accusations true?
 - a) b)
 - c)

Lesson #37. The First Crusade

1. What is a religious *pilgrimage?*

2. Muslims made it difficult for Christians to travel to Jerusalem, how?

3. What was the goal of the Crusades?

- 4. The followers of Peter the Hermit caused trouble in Constantinople. What did they do?
- 5. When the Crusaders took control of Jerusalem, what did they do to Muslims and Jews?

Lesson #38. Pope Innocent III, part 1 – The Fourth Crusade

- 1. Pope Innocent III wanted the 4th Crusade to go where?
- 2. But instead the crusaders went where? Why?
- 3. Did Pope Innocent III support that change in plans?
- 4. What did the crusaders do to the people and churches of Constantinople?
- 5. The crusaders ruled over Constantinople how many years?
- 6. What effect did the 4th Crusade have on the relationship between the Eastern and Roman churches?

Lesson #39. Pope Innocent III, part 2 – The Fourth Lateran Council

1. The word "catholic" means what?

2. The word "orthodox" means what?

3. The Roman Catholic Church believes that they are the true Christian church, why?

4. The Eastern Orthodox Church believes that they are the true Christian church, why?

5. What are some differences between the Roman and Eastern Orthodox churches?

- 6. How are the Roman and Eastern Orthodox churches similar?
- 7. Today the city of Constantinople has a different name. What?
- 8. What two important decisions came from the 4th Lateran Council?
 - a)
 - b)

CHAPTER 6

Lesson #40. Boniface – Missionary to Germany

Boniface went as a missionary to German FROM which country?

Boniface started to chop down one of the Germans' holy oak tree. What happened? How did the people respond?

Who brought a team of monks and nuns to help Boniface?

Boniface was killed by robbers as he was trying to bring the Gospel to what country?

Lesson #41. Monastic Reform: Cluny

Note: Chapter 6 in the book, page 81, has a typographical error. The monastery at Cluny was established by Duke William I of Aquitaine, not William III.

1. What were three purposes for monasteries:

a)

- b)
- c)

2. Whom did Duke William recruit to help establish the monastery at Cluny?

3. What does ABBEY mean?

4. What does ABBOT mean?

Lesson #42. John of Damascus

- 1. The city of Damascus is in what country?
- 2. The Emperor of Eastern Empire and John of Damascus disagreed about what issue? Why?
- 3. The Emperor used a fake letter to convict John of Damascus. What did the letter say?

The Emperor gave the letter to whom?

4. How did the rulers of Damascus punish John?

Lesson #43. Mission to Moravia and Bulgaria

- 1. The king of Moravia asked the bishop of Constantinople to send a Christian missionary to his country. The bishop chose Cyril, why?
- 2. The Moravian people did not have a written alphabet, so Cyril invented one for them, based on what well-known language alphabet?
- 3. Why did the Roman church missionary criticize Cyril's work?

- 4. Who gave Cyril permission to translate the Bible into the Moravian language?
- 5. After Cyril died, who continued his work?
- 6. After armies from Hungary invaded Moravia, the Christian missionaries escaped to where?
- 7. The alphabet that Eastern European Slavic countries use today to write their language is called what?

Lesson #44. Saint Bernard of Clairvaux

- 1. Why did a group of monks quit the Cluny monastery in 1098 AD?
- 2. These monks want to follow whose rules for monastic life?
- 3. Today this community of monks is called what?
- 4. What did Bernard emphasize in his teaching?
- 5. This style of teaching is called what?
- 7. What impact did Bernard's teaching have on church art?

Lesson #45. Peter Waldo

- 1. Peter Waldo was a rich merchant who lived in what city & country?
- 2. Waldo gave up his business and used his wealth to do what?
- 3. As Waldo studied the Bible, he rejected two important doctrines of the Catholic church:
- 4. Waldo and his followers called themselves what?
- 5. Today we call Waldo's followers what?
- 6. What did church leaders do about Waldo and his followers?

Lesson #46. Francis of Assisi

- 1. Where is the city of Assisi?
- 2. At age 22 Francis had what experience that changed his life?
- 3. Francis gave up his father's wealth and business to do what?

- 4. Today Francis' follower are called what?
- 5. Francis' followers owned what?
- 6. What is the name of the nun who followed Francis and copied his lifestyle.
- 7. What is the name her community of nuns?

Lesson #47. Scholastics: Anselm & Aquinas

1. Describe differences between Christian Mystics and Scholastics?

- 2. Who was "the Father of Scholasticism"?
- 3. He was archbishop in what city?
- 4. Thomas Aquinas taught theology in what university?
- 5. Aquinas combined his understanding of Biblical teaching with ideas of a Greek philosopher named, who?
- 6. What was the name of the book that Aquinas wrote, but never finished?

CHAPTER 7

Lesson #48. Chaos and Corruption

1. Describe the political corruption that infected the church.

2. What was the Babylonian Captivity of the Church?

- 3. What was the name of the disease that killed almost 1/3 of the people in Europe?
- 4. At that time people did not know the cause of the disease or how it spread. Now do your own research and describe what caused the disease and how it spread.

5. England and France were at war with each other for how many years?

Lesson #49. One Pope? Two Popes? Three Popes?

1. Lists these people in their order of authority in the Roman Catholic Church:

priests	Archbishops
monks, nuns, deacons	Bishops
Роре	Cardinals



2. Who supervises Catholic Church Diocese?

3. In the Roman Catholic Church, who chooses the person to be Pope over the church?

4. For 31 years the Church had two popes ruling in what two cities?

5. Why?

6. In 1409 AD both Italian and French cardinals met in what city to elect a new pope to replace the other two popes?

7. Why didn't their plan work.

Lesson #50. John Wycliffe

- 1. John Wycliffe lived in what country?
- 2. Wycliffe translated the Bible from ______ to _____ (what language) to ______ (what language)
- 3. Wycliffe saw that the word CHURCH can have two different meanings. What?
 - a)
 - b)
- 4. According to Wycliffe, what is the only way people can be eternally saved?

Lesson #51. Jan Hus

- 1. Jan Hus lived in which country?
- 2. The Council of Constance condemned Hus as a heretic. Why?

3. How did Hus die?

- 4. As Hus was dying, what prediction did he make?
- 5. What other problem did the Council of Constance try to solve?

Lesson #52. Mysticism, Politics, & Reformation

- 1. Thomas A'Kempis was a monk in what country?
- 2. What is the name of the book that Thomas A'Kempis wrote?
- 3. What is the message of that book?
- 4. Joan of Arc lived in what country?
- 5. Joan visions said that France will win its war against which country?
- 6. How and why did Joan of Arc die?
- 7. Savonarola lived in what country?
- 8. Who's book inspired Savonarola?

9. Savonarola fought for government reforms in what city?

10. How and why did Savonarola die?

Lesson #53. Fuel for Renaissance & Reform

- 1. Johannes Gutenberg lived in what country?
- 2. What did Gutenberg invent?
- 3. How did his invention change the world?

- 4. What important book did Gutenberg print?
- 5. In the year 1453 Muslims conquered what important city?
- 6. How did that event help western Christians?

- 7. Erasmus lived in what country?
- 8. Erasmus published what important book?

CHAPTER 8

Lesson #54. Martin Luther – a troubled monk finds peace

1. Why did Martin Luthera quit the university and become a monk?

2, Did Luther's plan work? Why or why not?

3. Who helped Martin Luther learn about Christ's love? How did he help Luther?

4. At which university did Luther teach?

Lesson #55. Martin Luther on trial

1. What is an *indulgence*?

- 2. What happened on October 31, 1517?
- 3. Martin Luther's 95 Theses complained about what?

- 4. Martin Luther's trial for heresy happened in what German city?
- 5. The Emperor and church leaders could not kill Martin Luther, why?

Lesson #56. Luther part 3 – Reformation Spreads

1. Luther and his friends helped 12 nuns escape from their convent, how?

- 2. What is the name of the woman that Martin Luther married?
- 3. Who was Ulrich Zwingli?
- 4. Zwingli and Luther met to unite their reformation efforts. What was the one thing that they could not agree about? Why?

Lesson #57. John Calvin

- 1. John Calvin was from what country?
- 2. Calvin became a reformation leader in what city?

3. What is the name of Calvin's book that explains his doctrine?

4. Who were the **Huguenots**?

[The next two questions are from the video lesson, not the book.]

5. Calvin's and Luther's teaching agree about what doctrines?

6. Calvin's and Luther's teaching disagree about what doctrines?

Lesson #58. Anabaptists: Felix Manz & Menno Simons

- 1. The name "anabaptist" means what?
- 2. Anabaptists rejected what church practice?

3. The government of Zurich, Switzerland, punished anabaptist preacher Felix Manz how?

4. What did Calvin say the government should do to anabaptists?

- 5. What did Erasmus say the government should do to anabaptists?
- 6. Menno Simons was an anabaptist preacher in what country?
- 7. Followers of Menno Simons are called what?

Lesson #59. Reformation in Great Britain: Tyndale & Knox

1. Why did King Henry VIII (8th) break England away from the Roman Catholic Church and name himself the head of the Church of England?

2. The Church of England in America is called what?

3. William Tyndale was executed (killed) for what "crime"?

[The next two questions are from the video lesson, not the book.]

- 4. John Knox was a Reformation leader in what country?
- 5. Followers of John Knox are called what?

Lesson #60. Catholic Reformation: Trent & the Jesuits

1. In the year 1545 Catholic Church leaders met in what city for a council to affirm Catholic doctrine against the Protestant Reformation?

2. Who was Ignatius Loyola? What group did he establish in the Catholic Church?

- 3. What is the short name for that group?
- 4. Loyola was influenced by who writings?
- 5. Who was Francis Xavier?

[The last questions are from the video; also the book, chapter 12.]

1. The Second Vatican Council, meeting in 1962, made what changes in Catholic traditions?

2. What Catholic doctrines and practices did not change?

This is the end of the DeafPah course on Church History. You can continue to learn about church history after the time of the Reformation by studying chapters 9 & 10 of the book and answering the Learning Activity questions in the back of the book. We also recommend the DeafPah course on Churches in America. See **deafjesus.org/courses**.