

[Type text]

Church History I

Study Pak

Dr. Phil Stringer

Dayspring Bible College & Seminary

Church History I BI110

Instructor: Dr. Phil Stringer

I. Course Description

Church History I is a comprehensive study of the Church, the Body and Bride of Christ, from its origin at Pentecost up through the modern age. It is not a standard look at the history of the “church” so called, as many church history courses tend to. Rather it is a study of those who have held to what is commonly called the “Baptist Distinctives”. Dr. Stringer does a masterful job of examining what doctrine the early Church held to, and tracing through history the churches that have continued to hold that doctrine.

II. Course Objectives

As a result of taking this class, the student should be able to:

- A. State the “Baptist Distinctives” and give a reasoned defense from Scripture
- B. Know the difference between the true Church of Jesus Christ, and what is commonly referred to as “the church”
- C. Appreciate the sacrifices made throughout the centuries to keep the Church pure

III. Course Requirements

A. Required Reading:

Church History I Study Pack

B. Recommended Reading:

History of the Donatists, David Benedict
History of the Baptists, John T. Christian
The Faithful Baptist Witness, Dr. Phil Stringer
Short History of the Baptists, H.C. Vedder
History of the Ancient Vallenses and Albigenses, Stanley Faber
The Waldenses Were Independent Baptists, Thomas Williamson
The Bible Makes Us Baptist, Mary E. Bamford

C. Class work:

Listen to the lectures, working through the Study Pack

D. Bible Study Projects:

E. Bible Memorization:

Scripture passages that must be memorized will be listed at the beginning of each study pack.

IV. Tests & Grading

Tests are graded on a percentage basis. A score of 80% or greater is required to pass. Scores lower than 80% will require that the student listen to the lectures pertaining to the lesson not passed. The tests and lessons correspond as follows:

- Lesson 1 – Test 1
- Lesson 2 – Test 2
- Lesson 3 – Test 3
- Lesson 4 – Test 4
- Lesson 5 – Test 5
- Lesson 6 – Test 6
- Lesson 7 – Test 7
- Lesson 8 – Test 8
- Lesson 9 – Test 9
- Lesson 10 – Test 10
- Lesson 11 – Test 11
- Lesson 12 – Test 12

Note of Encouragement:

This course will challenge you as you learn of Christians who, throughout history, have literally given all to maintain the purity of the Church. You will begin to see that in this day there is no excuse for compromising the doctrines and standards of Scripture.

CHURCH HISTORY I

Course Outline

STUDY PAK	TITLE	PAGE
1	What is a Baptist	3
2	Our Glorious Baptist Heritage	8
3	Were Early Churches Baptist?	19
4	Persecution, Heresy, and Purity	26
5	The Baptists in the Dark Ages	45
6	The Waldenses	63
7	Wycliffe, Lollards, and the English Baptists	71
8	The Reformation and the Anabaptists.....	81
9	Baptist Ideas Spread Throughout Europe	101
10	Baptists and the American Frontier	110
11	Baptists and the Modern Missionary Movement.....	124
12	Controversies Shape the Baptist Movement.....	130

STUDY PAK I

WHAT IS A BAPTIST?

I. WHY ARE BAPTISTS SO CONTROVERSIAL?

- A. “On April 11, 1612, Edward Wightman was burned at the stake in Litchfield, England for declaring that the baptism of infants was an abominable custom. His death was the last execution of someone in England for being a Baptist! He had been preceded by countless thousands over hundreds of years.
- B. What would cause so many Christians to be willing to sacrifice their lives for their convictions? What would cause so many kings, governors, rulers, and ecclesiastical bishops to hate those principles and the people who held them?”

II. A BAPTIST IS SOMEONE WHO HOLDS TO THE FOLLOWING SIX DOCTRINES KNOWN AS THE BAPTIST DISTINCTIVES.

- A. The Bible is the _____ for faith and practice.
- B. _____, _____ churches.
- C. Regenerated _____.
- D. Baptism by immersion of _____ and the _____ as the only _____.
- E. _____ of all believers and _____.
- F. _____ of church and state.

III. THREE DEFINITIONS OF THE TERM BAPTIST IN USE TODAY.

- A. Some use the term Baptist to describe those religious groups descended from the Swiss Anabaptists of the 16th Century.
- B. Some use the term to describe anyone with the name Baptist on their door.
- C. Some use the term Baptist to describe those throughout the centuries that hold to the _____ known as the _____.

This is our use of the term.

Here is a quote from the book History of Baptists in Michigan from 1909:

“The people known as Baptists have gone by other names according to the countries and centuries in which they lived, Baptists today (sic) are connected with them not so much by any common name as by the principles and practices maintained.”

IV. FUNDAMENTALISM.

- A. There are _____ main doctrines of fundamentalism.
1. The _____: God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, three and yet one, all fully God.
 2. The absolute _____, _____, and _____ of the Holy Scripture.
 3. The incarnation, _____, sinless life, death, burial, resurrection, and _____ of Jesus Christ.
 4. The _____ of those who put their _____ in the gospel of Christ.
 5. The reality of the _____, _____, and _____.
- B. Evangelicals believe in _____ through faith in _____.
- C. There are people who use the name Baptist without believing the Baptist Distinctives or without believing in the fundamentals of the Christian faith. They have no right to this term.
1. All true Baptists are _____ and _____.
 2. All fundamentalists and evangelicals are _____.

V. ARE THE BAPTIST DISTINCTIVES BIBLE DOCTRINES?

- A. The sole authority of Scripture.

1. Bible teaching.
 - a. II Timothy 3:16-17
 - b. I Peter 1:23-25
 - c. II Peter 1:20-21
 - d. II Timothy 2:15
2. What other authority is appealed to in the New Testament?
3. There is proper but limited human authority described in the Bible.
 - a. Pastors.
 - b. Family.
 - c. Civil Government.
 - d. Voluntary contractual authority.
 - e. All human authority is _____.
4. This _____ is why Baptists have _____.

B. Independent, autonomous church.

1. Whose church is it? —It belongs to Christ, Matt 16: 13-19.
2. Who is appealed to, to perfect the churches? —e.g. the Galatian heresy and the Corinthian carnality.
Obedience to the Scriptures is _____—there was no _____ to appeal to.
3. Authority in the church.
 - a. Titles.
 - 1) _____.
 - 2) _____.
 - 3) _____.
 - b. These three offices are _____.
 - c. These three offices correspond with the three-fold responsibility of the Pastor as seen in the following passages:
 1. I Peter 5:1-3
 2. Acts 20:28

3. Titus 1:6-9
 4. I Thessalonians 5:12-13
 5. Ephesians 4:11-16
4. What about church councils like the Jerusalem council in Acts 15?
The Jerusalem council had _____ anyone to obey its decision.
 5. All passages about the New Testament church refer _____.
 - a. Most passages refer to local functioning assemblies.
 - b. A few passages refer to all the New Testament saints gathered in Heaven - but this is still a local assembly, Hebrews 12:23.
 6. The Greek word for church refers to a _____.
 7. A New Testament church is _____ of _____.
They assemble for the purpose of _____, _____, and carrying out _____.

C. A regenerated church membership.

1. Only _____ are referred to as being _____, Acts 2:41-47.
2. All churches are appealed to as being composed of _____.
3. There is _____ of an unsaved church member.
4. The Bible warns about what happens when you don't practice regenerated church membership, Acts 20:29; II Peter 2:1; I John 2:19; I Timothy 4:1-2; Jude 4; Acts 20:29-30.

D. Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

1. The meaning of the Greek word for baptism is _____. All Bible baptisms require _____.
2. The picture of baptism is Jesus' _____, _____, and _____.
3. The authority for baptism is given to _____.
4. The Bible pattern is _____.

- a. John the Baptist.
 - b. Ethiopian Eunuch, Acts 8:36-38.
5. No single instance of _____ or _____
_____ in the Bible.
 6. The New Testament doctrine of the Lord's Supper, I Cor. 11:23-34.
 7. Paul gave all the ordinances, I Cor. 11:2.
- E. Priesthood of all Believers.
1. Bible teaching, Hebrews 10:19, 4:16; I Peter 2:5.
 2. Most religions are based on having _____
—your salvation is in their hands. We have _____ I Tim.
2:5.
- F. The separation of church and state.
1. The church _____ civil authority when civil authority
stepped out of its bounds, Acts 4:10-20, 5:29.
 2. According to the Bible, all human authority _____, Romans
13:1-3.
 3. Some things belong _____, Matthew 22:21.
Whose image is on your church?
 4. Where did Paul spend most of his time—in jail.