

Church History II

Study Pak

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CHURCH HISTORY LECTURES

By Dr. Phil Stringer

This is a series of lectures on important issues in the Church History
– not an exhaustive survey of this vast topic.

CHURCH HISTORY II

Course Outline

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STUDY PAK I

FUNDAMENTAL LESSONS OF CHURCH HISTORY

“I would like to lay it down as a principle that there is great value in the reading of Church history and a study of the past, and nothing surely is more important for us at this present time than to read the history of the past and to discover its message...It is very foolish to ignore the past. The man who does ignore it and assumes that our problems are quite new, and that therefore the past has nothing at all to teach us, is a man who is not only grossly ignorant of the Scriptures, he is equally ignorant of some of the greatest lessons even in secular history.”

~~Martyn Lloyd-Jones~~

I. WHY SHOULD WE STUDY CHURCH HISTORY?

- A. God uses history _____ (much of the Bible is history)!
- B. History is full of lessons about how God deals with _____ and _____.
- C. History reveals the fulfillment of Bible prophecy.
- D. Important issues are often seen more clearly _____.
- E. The power and judgment of God are seen throughout history.

II. LESSONS LEARNED THROUGHOUT THE STUDY OF CHURCH HISTORY

- A. The love of money is the root of _____, I Timothy 6:10.
- B. Movements change. Theological movements are dramatically different at their _____ then they were at their _____.
- C. Most men value _____ more than they do _____.
- D. Movements are given influence by the leadership of dynamic men. Charisma usually means more than truth.
- E. Terms must be defined before proper debate or teaching can take place.
- F. There is always another false teacher around the corner.
- G. Lies, slanders and false accusations are often the most effective weapons used against Christians.

H. Those who practice infiltration instead of separation always end up being just like those they are trying to change by infiltration.

III. DEFINITION OF CHURCH HISTORY

“Church history is the interpreted record of the origin, progress and impact of Christianity upon human society, based upon organized data gathered by scientific method from archaeological, documentary or living sources.”

~~Earle Cairns, *Christianity Through the Centuries*, p. 19~~

“Those who are most concerned about the future are those who study the past.”

~~R.J. Rushdoony~~

IV. THE DANGER OF COMPROMISE

Dr. John Whitcomb has said it this way:

“The only possible way to perpetuate His truth is to separate it from all forms of error and compromise. A refusal to recognize this fundamental fact is the fatal blunder of modern ecclesiastical ecumenism in all its forms, including evangelical ecumenism. *Truth cannot be perpetuated through compromise and compromise cannot be avoided without separation.* This is a formula which God’s people have discovered through centuries of sad experience with the weakness of fallen human nature in the presence of “the god of this world,” and especially through the direct teachings of God’s Word (*Christ, Our Pattern and Plan*, p. 14).”

F. B. Meyer has said

“There is not a single hero or saint, whose name sparkles on the inspired page, who moved his times from within: All, without exception, have raised the cry, “Let us go forth without the camp”; and have joined the constant stream of martyrs, confessors, prophets, and saints, of which the world was not worthy, but who can trace their kinship to Him of whom it is written, “He suffered without the gate.” “

Dr. G. Campbell Morgan also spoke of the urgent need for separation:

“There is a toleration which is treachery. There is a peace that issues in paralysis. There are hours when the church must say NO to those who should ask communion with her, in the doing of her work, upon the basis of compromise. Such standing aloof may produce ostracism and persecution; but it will maintain power and influence. If the Church of God in the cities of today were aloof from the maxims of the age, separated from the materialistic philosophies of the schools, bearing her witness alone to the all-sufficiency of Christ, and the perfection of His salvation, even though persecuted and ostracized and bruised, it would be to her that men would look in the hour of their heartbreak and sorrow and national need. The reason why men do not look to the church today is that she has destroyed her own influence by compromise.”