

5-3-1 Chapter 1

QUESTIONS

- 1.) What produced some of the earliest theological works of Christianity?
- 2.) What was the strongest argument for Christianity and had the most impact on Christian theology?
- 3.) What was the most important heresy?
- 4.) What was the purpose of the Apostle's Creed?
- 5.) What were the central acts of Christian worship during its early years?

ANSWERS:

- 1.) *Apologists whom attempted to defend the Christian faith against accusations against it.*
- 2.) *According to Justin Martyr, the Logos or the Word of God that illumines all who come to this world.*
- 3.) *The heresy of Gnosticism.*
- 4.) *The purpose was to reject and counteract the teachings of Gnosticism and of Marcion.*
- 5.) *Communion and baptism were the main practices of worship.*

TERMS:

- 1.) **Hellenism:** a combination of Greek culture brought in by Alexander the Great and his followers along with the ancient cultures in which he had conquered.
- 2.) **Apostolic Fathers:** ancient Christian books consisting the life and teachings of Christians after the close of the New Testament
- 3.) **Heresy:** doctrine which threaten the very core of the Christian message

SUMMARY

The first chapter of *Church History* covers the ancient church and the formative years of Christianity. After undergoing heavy persecution, Christian martyrs and apologists appear to defend the faith against heresies and conflicts with the state and Greco-Roman culture. As a result, the early church produced the canon of the New Testament, the Apostle's Creed, and the doctrine of apostolic succession.