

In studying the Lausanne videos on *Turning Point*, the narrator discusses the history of the church from its inception on the day of Pentecost in Jerusalem to Edinburgh. There are a number of interesting observations I have made. I am impressed by the way the narrator is able to present the history of the period under discussion in such clear, enlightening, and condensed format. The church, from the formation has experienced persecution from the Jews and the Roman Empire which sought to destroy Christianity. But, despite all these efforts to destroy, Christianity after three hundred years Christianity is still the most popular religion and has become the official religion of the Roman Empire. Also interesting is the narrator's statement deism was the cause of the French Revolution in 1789. From my studies I understand that food shortages, taxation and the estate system were the causes for the revolution. With every periodic rise of severe persecution on the church, the narrator frequently repeated that many of the people were certain that "it was the end o the world."

It is significant to note that the church would for centuries enter countries which had their own particular customs and rituals, and did not expect that the way the indigenous people have been living would not be impacted. What might be considered sinful by the church was a way life for the indigenous people.

For me, it is meaningful to note that the early threat to Christianity came not from without the church but from within. The church, even as early as in the time of the apostles, had to address false prophets, a counterfeit gospel, schisms, and heresies which had begun to infiltrate the church. These false prophets, teachers, and their teachings were addressed by competent and capable church fathers who led the church in defining its beliefs and in finalizing the canon. Every generation believes that it will be the last one, however only one will experience it.