

CH 201: “I Will Build My Church” / A Survey of 2000+ Years of Church History

Session #1 of 9 Sessions: October 16, 2016 / Today’s Agenda:

I. Session #1: Lecture Topics:

- A. Toward a Biblical View of History:
- B. The Importance of History in General / Importance of Church History in Particular
aka Why Study History? / Why Study Church History? / Why History Matters
- C. The Relationship between Church History & Historical Theology
- D. The Relationship between Systematic Theology, Biblical Exegetical Studies & Historical Theology
- E. *Church History in Plain Language : Fourth Edition* by Bruce Shelley (Revised by R. L. Hatchett)
 1. Forward / Highlights Reviewed (See Separate Handout)
 2. Prologue / Highlights Reviewed (See Separate Handout)
 3. Introduction to Section 1: The Age of Jesus and the Apostles 6 B.C. – A.D. 70
Chapter 1: Away with the King: The Jesus Movement / Highlights Reviewed (See Handout)
 4. Chapter 47: Shift to Global South: What Is the New Christianity? / Highlights Reviewed
Emphasis: The Foundational Importance of the Biblical Historical Books. (See Handout)

II. Session #1: Discussion Question:

Do “great men” make or change history or do certain historical, cultural, political, religious, and / or economic circumstances make it inevitable that “great men” will emerge to “seize the day” and shape historical outcomes?

Quote: “Men are God’s method. The Church is looking for better methods; God is looking for better men.”
E.M. Bounds (1835 -1913; American Author of 11 Books - 9 on Prayer; Attorney & Methodist Episcopal Clergy.)

Quote: “History is nothing but the biography of the Great Man.” Thomas Carlyle (1795 – 1891) from his book, *On Heroes, Hero-Worship, and the Heroic in History.*

Helpful Definitions:

- *Zeitgeist*: Literally the “spirit of the time.” The spirit characteristic of an age or generation. Zeitgeist is the general trend of thought or feeling characteristic of a particular period. The dominant set of ideals and beliefs that motivate the actions of the members of a society in a particular period in time. The general intellectual & moral state or temper characteristic of any period of time. which shapes art, culture, religion and events. Georg Friedrich Hegel said, “no man can surpass his own time, for the spirit of his time is also his own spirit.” The concept of “Zeitgeist” contrasts with “the Great Man theory” of history popularized by Thomas Carlyle, which sees history as the result of the actions of heroes and geniuses. (Zeitgeist is somewhat similar to World View in English, Milieu in French or Weltanschauung in German.)

- *Milieu*: Social or cultural surroundings. Milieu is French for “in the midst of our environment.” In literature and the humanities “milieu” is the cultural environment that an individual lives in. It includes: culture, religion, the arts, educational philosophies and institutions, political climate and the economic systems in which the individual lives.

III. Explanation: CH 202: “ ... of Whom the World Was Not Worthy” / 100+ Saints Everyone Should Know

IV. CH 201: Explanation of Grading: Three Components

- **Class Attendance:** 10 Pts for Each of the Nine (9) Sessions Attended: (Must Attend Entire Session) 10 Pt. Bonus for Perfect Attendance. **(100 Points Possible)** (Must Attend Entire Session)
- **Identifications:** 5 Points Each for Best 20 of 24 Identifications. (3 / Session) **(100 Points Possible)**
Identifications are aka I.D.s. I.D.s consist of historically important persons, places or events. For each ID question, the student will answer in a maximum of 4 sentences in one paragraph. A good identification addresses: Who, What, Where, When and So What. Each ID is worth 5 points. Approximately .5 to .75 points for each Identification of Who, What, Where and When. (Maximum 2.5 to 3 Pts.) Two to Three points for the So What.

This old-fashioned, tried and true method helps developing historians understand the causalities and antecedents in history. It takes historical studies out of the boring and makes it exciting. Many modern minds do not see the importance of historical and biographical studies. This approach focuses on the relevance of people, places and events by answering the “so what?” question.

In the early sessions of the class, some sample identifications may be provided. Some sample ID’s may be taken from the audio lectures. Most sample ID’s will be provided by Greg. Some may be provided by students.

- **Discussion Participation, Punctuality, Attentiveness:** (50 Points Possible)
 - Including Attending, Listening or Participating at CH 202 Sessions (Not Required)
- **Grading Scale: 250 Points Possible**
175 Points (70%): Earns a Framed “Certificate of Completion”
225 Points (90%): Earns a Framed “Certificate of Completion – *Cum Laude*”

V. CH 202: Explanation of Grading:

- **Presentations:** 15 Points Each for Eight (8) Biographical Presentations. **(120 Points Possible)**
Presentations will be evaluated by five subjective criteria, including:
 - Staying within the Allotted Time;
 - “Making the Case” Why is this person important then & now? (Hebrews 11:4)
 - Use of Visual or Audio Reinforcements, such as PowerPoints or Handouts;
 - Command of Material;
 - Speaking Style: Clarity, Professionalism, Entertaining?
- **Grading Scale: 120 Points Possible**
72 Points (62%): Earns a Framed “Certificate of Completion”
90 Points (75%): Earns a Framed “Certificate of Completion – *Cum Laude*”

Teaser: Fall 2018 to Spring 2020. CH 203: “Clarifying Orthodoxy” / Introduction to Historical Theology

Text: *The Story of Christian Theology: Twenty Centuries of Tradition and Reform* by Roger E. Olson

This class will be added in the second running of the GCF Church History class. Based on 1 Corinthians 11:19; CH 203 will examine the challenges to the Church that arose from heresies and the subsequent clarifying of the Canon, Creeds and Orthodox Theology including: the Trinity, Christology, Ecclesiology, etc.