

ANCCI UNIVERSITY

CH 101 INTRODUCTION TO CHURCH HISTORY

RATIONALE

There is a clear indication that God wants us to study Church History. In Joshua 4:1-7 God commanded that a memorial be built to teach future generations the mighty works God had done when the Israelites crossed the Jordan. This served as a constant reminder of God's faithfulness. If God acted this way in the past; He will do the same today.

Therefore study of church history will help us to increase trust in God when we are faced with problems. We shall be able to understand today and face tomorrow with confidence.

OBJECTIVES

The aim of this course is to introduce the student to the study of the church in historical context. Being an introductory course, it forms the foundation of future study of Church History. The student will seek to understand the role of church history in formulation of doctrine, liturgy and pastoral practice. The timeframe of church history is more than two thousand years. The student will have to obtain a bird's eye of what is contained in the subject matter.

STRATEGY

1. The student will engage in thorough study of historical facts contained in the synoptic gospels and Acts of the Apostles.

This will include:

- The Greco-Roman world and the religious practice in Palestine prior to birth of Jesus.
- Birth of Jesus in approximately 4 B.C. in Bethlehem of Judea.
- Ministry of John the Baptist.
- Beginning of Jesus' public ministry.
- Jesus crucified and resurrected. (Emphasis of the death and resurrection of Christ as the means of salvation.)
- Pentecost with the impartation of the Holy Spirit.
- The conversion of the Apostle Paul from Judaism.
- Mission to the gentiles.

2. Writing of the New Testament including the Epistles (c.48-c.100), Synoptic Gospels (c. 45-70), and the writings of the apostle John (c.85-c.100).

3. Conflict with state and Judaism leading to Neronian persecutions due to blaming Christians for fires in Rome results in the death of thousands of Christians.

4. Destruction of the Jerusalem Temple by Emperor Titus as a result of a Jewish revolt resulted in redefining the structure of Judaism and Antioch becoming the center of Christianity.

REQUIRED TEXT BOOK

- New International Version of the Bible
- Justo L. Gonzales. The Story of Christianity: The Early Church to the dawn of Reformation Vol.1 (second edition). New York:
- Harper Collins Publishers,

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER READING

Henry Chadwick. The Early Church (The Penguin History of the Church) by). Penguin Putnam

EVALUATION

When the student is ready for the examination please contact the instructor at the above email address.

All Nations Christian Church International University system of grading will be employed.