

I. Intro.

A. 1. We study history to determine the background and development of present day institutions and their contemporary relevance.

2. The vital question of church history is the study of the people and their relationship to God.

B. Church History in General

1. The history of the church is not infallible and the doctrines of the Christian faith do not stand thereon.

2. The "church" is seen as all those who have belonged to the Lord since Eden.

C. Church History Special -- The study of the organized church since the Lord's time.

Chapter I -- Hist. of Church up to 170 A.D.

A. The World Into Which Christianity Came -- The Lord came "in the fullness of time", a transition period between the Roman Republic and the totalitarian Empire.

1. The political organization of the R. Empire contributed to the "fullness of time".

a. Travel under the Romans was simplified

(1) Peace reigned under one world power

(2) There was little regulation of the individuals traveling from place to place

(3) Roman roads

b. A concept of Law was vital within the Empire so that even the emperor followed the form of the law. This meant administrators were responsible for their rule and their arbitrary power curtailed.

c. Under the Romans banditry was virtually eliminated. Peace reigned in Pal. for first time in the hist. of the land and the population moved from walled hill cities to more accessible sites.

2. Wide dispersion of the Greek language and culture.

a. Hellenistic culture prevailed throughout the R. world.

b. The expressive, adaptive Greek language was known throughout the world.

c. The speculative attitude of the Gr. had encouraged examination of ideas and beliefs.