

Tree of Life School

*"Wisdom is a tree of life to those who embrace her."
Proverbs 3:18*



Church History

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Introduction

This course is a brief account of the history of the Christian church from the time of the Apostles to the present day. Many history books present information chronologically with little to no reference of the importance of God's Hand in all the events mentioned. When the history of His Church is mentioned it is often lost to the student just how important it is within the whole scope of human activity. The truth is that most Christians in our day are woefully ill informed about their spiritual heritage. In fact a refusal to study the history of Christ's Church is pure arrogance and is partly responsible for the sorry state of Christianity in our culture. It is hoped that this course will place the student within the class of Christians that know the comfort and encouragement of seeing God's Covenant care for His Church over the past 2,000 years.

How to Work Through The Course

The student will notice that the course has been divided into a **140 day schedule**. This will allow him to follow a **four-day school week** and still complete the course in a normal academic year. The **fifth day** of each week can be used to **catch up on assignments**, do **extra reading**, or simply **take the day off** from the course. If, however, a five-day school week is more desirable, the student is encouraged to pursue this course and will be rewarded by early completion of the material. Care has been taken to provide specific instructions for each day's work. Therefore, **all work is to be completed in the order presented in the daily schedule**. You will notice that the text is divided into seven sections, each covering material for a particular time period. You are required to read and study each section, **taking notes as you go**. Take care to look over the appropriate "Part" (or Unit) before you read the section. The information at the first of each part will guide you in the **material you will need to know for the test that will be done at the end of each Unit**. The questions in the "Assignments" section are your choices for the **two written assignments that will need to be done for each section**.

When you have read through a Part/Unit, taken notes, and studied, select the appropriate test from the Tree of Life website. See the Tree of Life Student Handbook for how to access and submit assignments/tests online.

Before you move to the next unit, select, from among the assignment choices for each section, two written assignments that you will complete for the unit. It is suggested that you do some outside reading on the topic to further supplement what you have read in the textbook. Follow the directions for the chosen assignment and write a complete answer. The assignments can also be found on the Tree of Life website, labeled with the appropriate Unit and Assignment number. All the options will be in the document, so just choose one. Pay attention to the normal conventions of writing (ex. sentence and paragraph development, documentation of references where necessary, spelling, grammar, etc.) **Also make sure your assignment is clearly labeled with your name, the course, the unit, and the date.**

Finally, you will be required to write **two essays** during this course. **One will be written after Test 4 and the other after Test 7.** For these you will be required to do extensive research on the topic and organize your information into proper format (title page, introduction, body, conclusion, footnotes, and bibliography). See the Tree of Life Student Handbook for instructions on completing essays.

Calculating Your Final Grade

Your final mark for this course will be determined based on the following percentages:

Tests 40%

Assignments 40%

Essays 20%

Daily Schedule

Part I - The Early Church to the Rise of Islam

DAY 1: Read the first section of Unit 1, pages 9 – 14, taking notes as you go. Pay particular attention to the reasons historians give for the persecution of Christians.

DAY 2: Read the second section, pages 14 – 20. Make a note of the most famous martyrs.

DAY 3: Read the third section, pages 20 – 23. Think about how Constantine’s support of Christianity was a mixed blessing. Write your thoughts in your notebook.

DAY 4: Read the fourth section, pages 23 – 27, paying careful attention to the Palagian heresy.

DAY 5: Read the fifth section, pages 27 – 30. Take note of the three main orders of monks and also record the definition of Monasticism.

DAY 6: Read the sixth section, pages 31 – 34. Take note of the steps in the decline of the Church at that time.

DAY 7: Read the seventh section, pages 34 – 38. Make note of the five tenets of Islam.

DAY 8: Use your notes from each section to study for your test. After studying, you should be familiar with the characters and concepts of the following themes: *persecution and heresy in the early church, monasticism, the beginning of the papacy, and the Islamic religion.*

DAY 9: Select your first test from the website, write it, and send it in. Make sure you label it properly, according to the instructions on page 7.

DAYS 10 – 13: Choose your first assignment from the list below. As mentioned, use the document labeled Unit 1_Assignment 1. All the choices will be listed. Pick one and take these four days to complete it. Send it in. Make sure you label it correctly (Name_Course_Unit_Assignment)

DAYS 14 – 17: Choose your second assignment from the list below. Repeat process for first assignment. Take these four days to complete it. Make sure you label it correctly (Name_Course_Unit_Assignment)

Assignment Choices for Part I

Choose two assignments from below:

1. The Apostles Creed has one statement concerning the Father, one concerning the Spirit and many concerning Christ. Write a paragraph describing what this says about heresy in the early Church.
2. Write a paragraph explaining the difference between the Apostolic Fathers and the

Church Fathers.

3. Write a paragraph explaining the problems and benefits brought about by the rise of the monastic movement.
4. In one paragraph explain the events that led to the breaking of the early church into the Roman Catholic and Greek Orthodox factions?
5. In one paragraph explain three signs of apostasy evident in the growth of the papacy.
6. In one paragraph explain why each of the five tenets of Islam is wrong in its assumption. According to the author, why did Islam begin and why does it continue to flourish today?

Part II - The Dark and Middle Ages to the Height of Papal Authority

DAY 18: Read the first section of Unit II, pages 39 – 42. Make a note of the first Christian missionaries to the British Isles.

DAY 19: Read the second section, pages 43 – 47. Take note of how Alfred the Great benefited England through his reign.

DAY 20: Read the third section, pages 48 – 50. Take note of each the early missionaries mentioned.

DAY 21: Read the fourth section, pages 51 – 53. Take a moment to think about and sum up the different views of pope and emperor. Also define Simony and explain why it is a dangerous practice.

DAY 22: Read the fifth section, pages 54 – 56. Record the causes and results of the Crusades.

DAY 23: Read the sixth section, pages 57 – 61. Pay particular attention to the doctrine of purgatory.

DAY 24: Take a day to study for your test, using your notes from this Unit. Before taking your test, you should be familiar with the characters and concepts of the following themes: *the spread of the gospel and early missionary activity, the rise of the papacy and its relation to the state, and the Crusades.*

DAY 25: Write the test using the correct process outlined in the first Unit.

DAYS 26 – 29: Choose your first assignment for this Unit from the list below. Spend these four days writing it. Send it in, using the correct process mentioned in the first Unit.

DAYS 30 – 33: Choose your second assignment for this Unit from the list below. Spend these four days writing it. Send it in using the correct process.

Tree of Life School

Church History

Assignment	Test	Description	Mark
	1		
1		Part 1, Assignment 1	
2		Part 1, Assignment 2	
	2		
3		Part 2, Assignment 1	
4		Part 2, Assignment 2	
	3		
5		Part 3, Assignment 1	
6		Part 3, Assignment 2	
	4		
7		Essay 1	
8		Part 4, Assignment 1	
9		Part 4, Assignment 2	
	5		
10		Part 5, Assignment 1	
11		Part 5, Assignment 2	
	6		
12		Part 6, Assignment 1	
13		Part 6, Assignment 2	
	7		
14		Part 7, Assignment 1	
15		Part 7, Assignment 2	
16		Essay 2	
		Tests (40%)	
		Assignments (40%)	
		Final Mark	