



## **CHURCH HISTORY SURVEY**

**COURSE MANUAL**  
**No. 9**

(From p. 8 in Manual #9)

**Course 9**

**CHURCH HISTORY SURVEY**

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**Syllabus**

**Course Description:**

This course is designed to introduce pastors and church leaders to the principal people; the major political, historical, and cultural developments; the main religious movements; and the doctrinal issues which have influenced and shaped the Christian church throughout its 2000 year history.

**Course Goals:**

1. To teach pastors and church leaders the primary facts, significant events, and main movements which have impacted the Christian church in history.
2. To acquaint pastors and church leaders with the key figures of church history whose lives have influenced the church.
3. To instruct pastors and church leaders in the biblical principles by which the church should have operated over the centuries.
4. To lead pastors and church leaders to an awareness of both the triumphs and failures of the church in history.
5. To encourage pastors and church leaders to learn from the lessons of church history what the church should and should not do.
6. To re-emphasize to pastors and church leaders the need for the church to maintain pure doctrine and practice.
7. To enable pastors and church leaders to gain a proper historical perspective on the church today in order to understand its present condition and challenge.

**\* Missions is the mission of the church.\***

**\*Failure to obey the “Great Commission” to make disciples of all nations has been the “Great Failing” of the church in history.\***

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(From p. 12 in Manual #9)

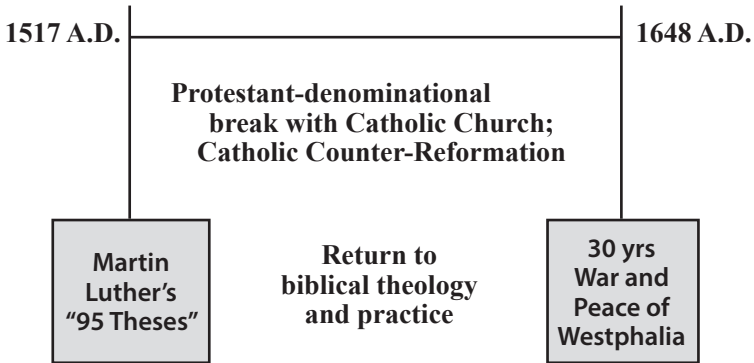
**Course Outline**

**Church History Survey**

<b>I. Introduction</b>		(pp. 14–16)
A. Approach of this course		
B. Purpose of this course		
<b>II. Review of the Book of Acts</b>		(pp. 16–27)
<b>III. Time periods of Church History</b>		(pp. 28–321)
• Time line of Church History		p. 28
• The twelve eras of Church History		
1. Era of the Gospel	4 B.C.–33 A.D.	p. 29
2. Era of the New Testament	33–100 A.D.	p. 39
• Early Apostolic 33 -70		
• Late Apostolic 70 -100		
3. Era of the Universal “Catholic” Church	100–312 A.D.	p. 53
4. Era of the “Christian” Roman Empire	312–590 A.D.	p. 71
5. Era of the Medieval Church	590–800 A.D.	p. 91
6. Era of the Holy Roman Empire	800–1054 A.D.	p. 107
7. Era of the Crusades	1054–1305 A.D.	p. 117
8. Era of the Renaissance and Rise of Nation-States	1305–1517 A.D.	p. 137
9. Era of the Reformation	1517–1648 A.D.	p. 155
10. Era of Rationalism and Revival	1648–1789 A.D.	p. 215
11. Era of Liberalism, Progress, and Missions	1789–1914 A.D.	p. 241
12. Era of Modern Ideologies, Secularism, and Humanism	1914 A.D.–present	p. 273
<b>IV. Thirteen Lessons From Church History</b>		(pp. 322–3
<b>V. Condition And Challenge Of The Church</b>		(p. 325)

(From pp. 155–157 in Manual #9)

9. ERA OF THE REFORMATION



- Protestant break with the Roman Catholic Church
- Denominationalism
- Protestant evangelical theology—justification by faith
- Religious “civil” wars
- Catholic Counter-reformation
- Jesuit Society
- Christianity in America
- Sale of indulgences—Martin Luther’s “Ninety-Five Theses”
- “Sola Scriptura”; “Sola Fide”
- Return to study of Scriptures
- Zwingli
- Calvin
- “Reformed faith”
- Anabaptists
- Anglicans
- Radical Reformers
- Puritan and Separatists Reform
- Early Christianity in America
- Early Colonization
- Inquisitions and the Index
- Catholic vs. Protestant wars

**Key Background Scriptures**

**Mk. 7:1-13**

**Ro. 1:16-17**

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9. **Era of the Reformation** 1517–1648 A.D.

The era of the **Reformation** would forever change the face of Christianity in the world and profoundly impact the Church.

The Reformation brought:

- a major schism and breaking away from the Roman Catholic Church by Protestants.
- the formation of four major new religious traditions of Protestantism—**Lutheran, Reformed, Anabaptist and Anglican**.
- the development of evangelical, orthodox Protestant theology.
- bloody religious/civil wars between Catholic powers and Protestant princes.
- the emergence of Spain, France and England as major national powers.
- a “Counter-reformation” or revival within the Roman Catholic Church led by the Jesuit Society.
- a permanent division of Catholic and Protestant religious traditions.
- the beginning of denominational churches.
- the founding of Christianity in America.

Major factors contributing to the Reformation

While the immediate precipitating cause of the start of the Reformation was religious (Luther’s protest over the Roman Church’s sale of indulgence) many other factors contributed to this remarkable period of breaking away from the Roman Catholic Church and the forming of four major new religious traditions.

**Political factors**

- the new rising national powers of Europe bitterly opposed the claims of the Roman Church to have universal authority over both religious and civil matters and perhaps saw in the Reformation an opportunity to break free of the “civil power” of the Roman Church.

(From p. 11 in Manual #9)

**Suggestions For Teaching Course 9**

**CHURCH HISTORY SURVEY**

**Pages:** 320                      **Hours required:** 60                      **Class sessions:** 30  
**Pace and schedule:**                      about 10-1/2 pages per 2 hour class session,  
adjusted for natural divisions in the material.

A better approach to teaching Church History may be to divide the course up into a certain number of class sessions per Era of church history. Here is a suggested schedule:

- **Era 1-8, 2 sessions each;**
- **Era 9, 6 sessions;**
- **Era 10, 2 sessions;**
- **Era 11-12, 3 sessions each**

Thus the teacher will concentrate on summarizing the Era and focusing on important aspects, not covering a particular number of pages.

Hints and approach

- Church History is different from all the other course manuals and is probably the least familiar subject for most teachers. Therefore, it will take more preparation time than normal to read and become comfortable with the material.
- Church History has more text and fewer Bible references than any other manual.
- Reading time for students will be greater.
- Focus on the syllabus and course objectives, emphasizing both positive and negative aspects of each Era and its impact on the church.
- Use the summary chart (*Time Line of Church History*) on page 28 to introduce and summarize the course. Put this chart back up on the screen at the start of each day so the students will know where they are in the course. The front page for each Era matches the corresponding section on the Summary chart and will serve to highlight that Era.
- In each Era cover at least in summary each of the 5 main common areas discussed.
- In teaching Church History be sensitive and tolerant of church traditions and teachings which have had negative impact on the church, e.g. Roman Catholicism, etc.
- Try to help students see where the church is today and why.
- Challenge students to avoid and not repeat the mistakes of Church History.
- In a sense Church History is a negative course, pointing out how the church has gone wrong through the centuries. Course 10 will re-emphasize the positive aspects.