

Church History - Week 2

313 AD - 1517 AD

Hebrews 13:7 (NIV) - "Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith."

1. Before 313 - Justin martyr from Rome 155 AD "church apology section 67 "
 - Leadership & Baptism
2. Constantine - 272-337 AD.
 - 312 / 313 - Edict of Milan - Freedom of religion and Christianity no longer illegal (380 AD Christianity became the one state religion ...other religions then were persecuted)
 - Christendom initiated - He is a hero for eastern christians. Roman Catholic vs Greek Orthodox split over time until great schism of **1054**

Changes that resulted...

- Diocese / Bishop / Governor - Church and state became melded - Papacy not formalised till later.
 - Buildings, robes, priests (presbuteros), clergy tax exempt and war exempt as a privileged class. Christmas, Easter. Sundays observed as a holiday. Crucifixion abolished. Gladiator games stopped
 - 6 million christians just before Constantine. 34 million by 350 AD. City of Rome 30,000 to 300,000 christians before and after Constantine.
3. Over the following centuries...
 - Free open debate about theology -
 - Dark ages -
 - Monasteries -
 - Some light - Free church / dissenters
 - Voluntary church membership vs parish
 - Adult baptism
 - Separation from world and culture
 - Separation of church and state
 - Simplicity in structure and worship and against hierarchy and icons
 - Pictures, statues idols - 754 Constantinople iconoclasts & 787 nicea council
 - Knights Templar , crusades (1096-1291)
 - Just before reformation
 - Saints and praying to them
 - Papal decrees only infallible in 1800's but councils etc were same as scripture
 - Services in Latin and using pictures mainly
 - Everyone "saved"
 - Buying indulgences - relics of castle church in wittenberg - 1,902,202 years 270 days off
 - Penance a sacrament since 1215 - paying for sins by suffering
 - Purgatory - since 600 AD

4. Questions

- a. What can we learn from this dark era of Christian history?
- b. Could we revert to some of their errors today? What should protect us?