

Why Study Church History?

Course Outline

- I. The Bible and its Interpretation
- II. The History of Doctrine
- III. The Roots of Today's Church
 - a. In Worship
 - b. In the sacraments
 - c. In the confessions
 - d. In denominations
- IV. Guarding Against Error
- V. The Ancient Church
- VI. The Importance of Studying the Ancient Church
 - a. Doctrine and theological heresies
 - b. Roots of Roman Catholicism
 - c. Nature of church government
 - d. History of preaching
 - e. History of hermeneutics
 - f. History of allegorical interpretation
 - g. History of missionary endeavor
 - h. Understanding the Eastern Church
 - i. Creeds of the church
 - j. History of persecution

This course is offered through Our Daily Bread University. To learn more, visit us at odbu.org.

Course Outline

Philo Judeas (30/25 B.C. – 45/50 A.D.)

- I. Theology and Anthropology
 - a. The Old Testament fused with the best Greek Philosophy (i.e., Plato)
 - b. Allegorical interpretation
 - c. Denial of the Biblical nature of the fall
- II. The Problem of History
 - a. Creation of the world treat allegorically, i.e., not as a key event
 - b. Therefore Christ's incarnation, i.e., breaking into history, as impossible
- III. The Problem of Language
- IV. The Logos Doctrine: the Logos of God: Two Functions
 - a. Helps God in Creation
 - b. Helps us to approach God
- V. The Possibility of a Triad

The Philosophical Schools of the Apostolic Age

- I. Introduction: Exegetical methodology: literal, rational, allegorical
 - a. The allegorical method
 - b. Defense of the allegorical method
 - c. Rules for interpretation
 - i. Literal excluded when it contradicts or diminishes God
 - ii. Literal and allegorical side by side

This course is offered through Our Daily Bread University. To learn more, visit us at odbu.org.

Why Study Church History?

Course Outline

- iii. Allegorical meaning conveyed by particles, adverbs and prepositions
 - iv. Each word may have all its meaning apart from context
- II. The Stoics and Epicureans
 - a. Seneca (d. 65 A.D.)
 - i. Brotherhood of human beings
 - ii. Moral and ethical behavior
 - b. The connections between the two schools
 - i. Both searching for inner peace
 - ii. Both studying moral conduct
- III. The “Platonists”: Plutarch (100 A.D.) and Marcus Aurelius (121-180 A.D.)
- IV. Gnosticism
 - a. Themes that run through all the schools
 - i. Salvation brought through knowledge
 - ii. Antithesis between spirit and matter
 - iii. Delivery from the realm of matter into the spiritual realm by a savior
 - b. The different schools
 - c. The origins of Gnosticism

This course is offered through Our Daily Bread University. To learn more, visit us at odbu.org.