

**ADVENTURES IN CHURCH HISTORY**  
with Tom Taylor  
at  
Wilmington Bible Chapel, Wilmington, North Carolina  
on  
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I. General Introduction

A. The Nature of our Study

History is the record of things done. It does not necessarily condemn, vindicate or even evaluate the events. It tells what happened. Historiography is the writing of history with the intended understanding, interpretation and application. If one wonders why these things are mentioned it is because our forays will enter both areas and it must be remembered that historical reference to a fact is one thing while societal understanding of the fact or its implications is something else. The first is an obvious matter, the second may be an assertion, an opinion, or a guess. This may seem confusing but if it were not necessary it would not be here! Too often too many people overlook the fact as they hunt for an interpretation.

In this short series we will draw on the data and make some applications but not try to present a complete history of the church! To do so would have some value but would mostly leave us with a high degree of confusion on most issues. We will touch on relevant periods and some key personnel and movements while reminding ourselves that the study of history *tells us what happened yesterday, guides us in understanding today, and prepares us in part for tomorrow.* It is a vastly important study and the significance of it is easily seen in Romans 15:4 and 1 Corinthians 10.

During our time together I will take relevant questions at any time...during our talks when we are "free". No arguments, please, I am not in a polemical mood. But note this: when we use the word "church" we are not using it in the New Testament sense but in the social sense of a committed religious community. In this regard we speak of the church as a body politic, not a spiritual company. The body politic we can comprehend, the spiritual company is known only to the Lord in specifics.