

The Church in Historical-Theological Perspective

III. The Early Church (second message)

A. Some details

- 1. Review of subject and plan of study
- 2. The Early Church:
 - a. Time Period: Acts to 312 AD
 - b. Essential Scriptures: Acts 2:41-47, 20:17-32; the Timothy letters. 1 Corinthians 12

*John
Peter
Thomas
Paul
Andrew*

B. The Spread of Christianity

- 1. Apostolic movement
- 2. Population (demographic) changes
- 3. Limitations by virtue of a lack of world surface!

C. Development of church practices:

- 1. The Bishopric and subsequent offices and orders
- 2. The liturgy (the Didache, etc.)
- 3. The early creeds: Thomas, Paul
- 4. Religious literature
- 5. Development of the "fathers" why no "mothers?"

*John 20:28
1 Tim 3:16
1 Cor 8:6*

D. Problems:

- 1. External: Persecution
 - a. Sanhedrin
 - b. Roman ideology
 - Nero
 - Decius Trajan
 - Diocletian
 - c. Philosophical (Gnosticism, Neo Platonism)
 - d. Societal
- 2. Internal:
 - a. New Testament warnings
 - b. Schism, moral breaks, personal issues
 - c. Doctrinal error

*Acts 5:17-18 (Gonathiel)
6:9
250 -
300 -
Therapy
Acts 20, Jude, 2 Peter
Doubtful Council
1770s*

E. The Edict of Milan --312 AD

- 1. Politics: Constantine and Licinius
- 2. Results: Christianity legalized
- 3. Evaluation

Lessons in Endurance, Indulgence, and the need of the essential.

Emyring

*Proteomorphosis
by fancy "Narrative"
False Gospels*

John 5:15

*John (Adoration)
- skills, Patmos*

*The second
council*

*#1 (for Christ)
Great enemies are
internal*

*Stand
Together*