Biblical Theological Seminary
Outline Syllabus
CH621 -- Church History I
Revision of 1990
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I.   INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE IN GENERAL

I.1 Nature of   The Nature of the Course
    the course
                 This course is a survey of the growth of Chris-
             tianity and the development of Christian ideals,
             culture, and institutions before the Reformation. It
             concerns itself with development and expression and
             is, therefore, more a study of people, institutions,
             and movements than of doctrine or teachings although
             these do emerge in proper sequence but not in any
             detailed analysis. The course is a broad overview of
             the subject and from it a student with deeper interest
             will be able to select further fields of study for
             particular taste or concern.

             Due to the limitations of time, the course moves from
             the broadest expressions of Christian development in
             the earlier centuries to the more particular emphases
             in the ages of the Reformation. It becomes, sadly but
             necessarily, a course in "western church history".
             While this deprives the student of a certain amount of
             information that ought to be his, it tends to keep the
             thrust of the study relevant with regard to institu-
             tions and movements as we know them. This concentra-
             tion in the western world does not mean we deem those
             other areas and matters as unimportant, it is simply
             an end that is thrust upon us by the imposition of
             time.

             In the theological curriculum church history serves to
             remind us of the providences of God and to allow us to
             observe the dramatic fulfillment of the Lord's promise
             concerning the church in Matthew 16. It provides us
             with much that is practical and illustrative, and if
             one can view it in this way, it tends to lose the drab
             cloak in which history is so often clad...wrongfully,
             of course, by ill-informed personages!

I.2 Aims and   Aims and Objectives of this course
    Objectives
    of the   History, content-wise, is a combination of facts
    course   understandings, and interpretations. The particular
             objectives of this course are linked to the use of
             these and are summarized in the following seven
             statements: