

1) to understand certain basic facts fundamental to growth.

2) to understand the development and organization of the present religious system.

3) to gain lessons acquired by seeing good and evil at work in the world of men

4) to find some illustrative life lessons for personal courage and witness.

5) to learn to distinguish the relative importance of facts and movements.

6) to secure some very useful material for preaching and ministry.

7) to fulfill the objectives listed on page 2 of this syllabus..not the least of all these things and perhaps the most practical.

#### Periodization

For our purposes the periods are these:

- 1) the early church (to 476)
- 2) the medieval church (to 1500)
- 3) the modern church (to yesterday!)

Some more prosaic teachers see this:

- 1) the struggling church (313)
- 2) the imperial church (1054)
- 3) the groping church (1517)
- 4) the resurgent church (1914)
- 5) the bewildered church (to now)

But following our earlier note we divide the material like this:

Early church: Pentecost to 476  
Apostolic period (150)  
Pre-Nicene (325)  
Imperial (476)  
Medieval church: 476-1520  
Early (1000)  
Scholastic (1300)  
Later (1520)