

Modern church: 1980
 Reformation (1577)
 Puritan (1689)
 Rational (to the present)

All such systems of periodization are subject to change without notice! But general observation of such should help you see where we are as we pass through the year. There will be plenty of items to fill each age.

Defining Church

Throughout this course, "church" is used in the sense of describing the professed company of persons presuming to know God through the instruction and work of the Lord Jesus. We make no distinction in "true" or "false", "visible" or "invisible", etc. These are important but must be learned in other areas and are not of great consequence in the study of church history. Thus the term is used in history in the broadest possible way and the student must adjust his/her thinking to see it in that light. It broadly defines all those who profess to hold to the system of truth revealed in the Bible as a whole.

This course in the Biblical Curriculum

There are three history courses in the Biblical MDiv program. This one is pre-reformation, Church History II is reformation and Europe to the present, while Church History III is American Church History and Modern Ecumenism. Together they supply the background for Missions and for understanding the development of theology and doctrine. They also provide the arena in which the efforts of persons are tested and thereby give considerable help to Practical Theology courses. For all of these, and any sort of mastery, history is a very necessary component. I am not sure what it does for the language courses save to help you translate the terms that show up in the theology texts and the commentaries!

In prospect:

Among all the other things we may hope to accomplish with our purposes of study and our objectives, the following items raised by LaTourette (A HISTORY OF THE EXPANSION OF CHRISTIANITY) in Vol. 1, pp x-xv are things about which we are particularly interested. LaTourette raises them as questions illustrative of