

e. Religion

f. Doctrine

3. Purposes in our Study

a. Negative purposes: We do not study church history to learn these things:

- (1) to learn Divine Truth
- (2) to see models to copy
- (3) to learn specifics of God's will
- (4) to defend ourselves apologetically
- (5) to learn what is correct in the appropriation of Scripture to the life of the church.

b. Positive purposes: good reasons for our study and there are probably several more:

- (1) to see basic facts fundamental to church growth and health.
- (2) to gain lessons by seeing good and evil in the world of men.
- (3) to understand the development and organization of the present religious system.
- (4) to find some illustrative life lessons for personal courage and witness.
- (5) to secure some very useful material for preaching and ministry.
- (6) to learn to distinguish the relative importance of facts and movements.
- (7) to fulfill the objects listed in the formal course syllabus..and if we added any more reason we would need Occam's razor to find our way out.