

# **GENESIS OF CHURCH HISTORY**

## Church History 1, Outline 1

### **I. Introduction: Why Study Church History?**

A. Christianity is a historical religion.

B. To correct mistaken views about what has happened in history.

C. Understanding and evaluating competing theologies and ideologies and understanding our own.

D. Personal values: individual growth and dexterity; valuable teaching aid; good illustrations for sermons.

## **II. The three errors that drive us to church history**

A. Overcome the heresy of contemporaneity

B. Overcome the myth of self-sufficiency

C. Overcome the fallacy of uniformity

## **III. Influences on the Early Church**

A. Greek Influence over the Church

1. Greek philosophy

2. Greek language

## B. Roman Influence on the Church

1. Strong central government on an empire-wide basis had brought peace
2. Roman roads facilitated travel
3. Roman law provided some of the images for NT writers (Rome later became persecutor, and turned law against church)
4. Eventual universality of Latin over Greek provided the language of theology for over a millennium

## C. Jewish Influence on the church

1. Careful preservation of the Bible
2. Absolute monotheism
3. Conviction that man's relationship to God is personal, not exclusively national
4. Dispersion of the Jews inculcated a messianic consciousness. Synagogues provided gathering places for early Christians even in the Dispersion

*\* This material was developed by and is used with the consent of Dr. Chad Brand - SBTS, KY*