

# A BRIEF CHURCH HISTORY

## A GLIMPSE AT HOW WE GOT HERE

*"...mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them."*

*~ Romans 16:17*

### **1. Where Did We Come From?**

- a. Knowledge of church history is not knowledge of the Bible
- b. It is good to know where we came from, how did we get here, and why
- c. Mid-Acts Pauline dispensational right division did not come out of a vacuum
- d. Asking why the masses are not mid-Acts is like asking why everyone is not a pioneer
- e. Ignorance of doctrinal history prevents us from pressing on in the right direction

### **2. History and Division**

- a. The history of the church is a history of division, we must rightly divide
- b. "Historical Christianity" does not have a solid consensus
- c. Much disputing, no small dissension - Acts 15:1-2, 4-7
- d. Removed from ... the grace of Christ unto another gospel - Gal 1:6-8
- e. Preacheth another Jesus, another spirit, another gospel - 2 Cor 11:1-4
- f. The time will come .... 2 Tim 4:3 – 2 Tim 3:1-6
- g. Doctrinal separation is not a sign of weakness, but a choice to maintain purity
- h. Reading history you must know how/when to spit out the bones

### **3. Historical of Doctrine**

- a. 1-3<sup>rd</sup> century – the myth of the early church, persecution
- b. 4-7<sup>th</sup> c. – the rise of Christianity, councils, creeds, clergy (politics)
- c. 7-10<sup>th</sup> c. – Political establishment, the rise of the Pope
- d. 11-14<sup>th</sup> – Wars, crusades, monks, and inquisition
- e. 14-16<sup>th</sup> c. – The Protestant Reformation – The Bible returned
- f. 17-18<sup>th</sup> c. – Doctrinal freedom, personal Bible study, Evangelism
- g. 19<sup>th</sup> c. - Pauline distinctives: Israel/Church, Prophecy/Mystery
- h. 20<sup>th</sup> c. - The rise of the Evangelical and Pentecostal

### **4. What Right Looks Like**

- a. If a choice must be made, it is better to be Biblical than historical
- b. Bible Believers – literal interpretation - Pauline
- c. Nonconformist to the world – Col 2:8-9; Rom 12:2
- d. "His"-story is not a children's book – It is a spiritual battle for truth!
- e. All in Asia be turned away from me – 2 Tim 1:15
- f. When you are on the edge it is normal to feel lonely (colonies, Columbus, Acts 13)
- g. It can be lonely standing on the mountain peak, but you are on the top of history, and can see everyone that came before you