

HISTORY OF THE CHURCH - LESSON 2

(A.D 325-1300)

INTRODUCTION

The next 1,000 years of church history saw the papacy become stronger as the Roman Empire became weaker. The West and East continued to grow further apart over doctrinal issues such as worshipping images. More doctrines not founded by Scripture began to be practiced. The rise of Islam that prompted the deadly Crusades were major events of this millennium.

I. THE POST-NICENE CHURCH (A.D.325-600)

A. Continued Nicene Controversy.

1. West and East divided politically and religiously.
 - a) Two of Constantine's sons were co-emperors.
 - b) West (Constantine) was in favor of Nicaea.
 - c) East (Constantius) in favor of Arius.
2. Council of Sardica (A.D. 343).
 - a) East outnumbered and did not attend.
 - b) Rule passed: If a bishop is deposed, he may appeal to the bishop of Rome for a retrial.
 - c) No successor could be appointed until Rome's decision.
3. Sirmium Synod (A.D. 361).
 - a) Effectively defeated the Nicene Creed by making "substance" forbidden in describing the connection of Jesus with the Father.
4. The Second General Council at Constantinople (A.D. 381).
 - a) The Original Nicene Creed approved: God is one substance in three persons.
 - b) Imperial interference: Emperor determined what was sound doctrine and generally regulated church administration.
 - c) Emperor Theodosius died in A.D. 395 - last ruler of united empire - Roman Empire falls A.D. 476.
 - (1) Roman bishop becomes more politically powerful.
5. Growth of Papacy
 - a) Position of Bishop of Rome strengthened as Western empire weakened.
 - (1) Innocent I (A.D. 402-417) claimed universal jurisdiction of the Roman Bishop. "From the beginning of his pontificate, Innocent often acted as head of the whole church, both East and West" (The Catholic Encyclopedia, Vol. VIII, p.11)

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- (1) Leo I (A.D. 440-461) obtained imperial decree that the Roman See (seat) has the primacy of Peter. Probably the first to be recognized as "pope" in the modern sense.
- (2) Boniface III, Bishop of Rome, became "Universal Bishop" in A.D. 606.

A. Other Developments:

1. The Latin Vulgate.
 - a) Late in the 4th. century, Jerome produced a translation of the Bible from Greek into Latin.
2. Lord's Supper controversy - a communion and a sacrifice.
 - a) West: interpreted Jesus' words "this is my body" meaning a sacrifice - literal body and blood.
 - b) East: considered it as a communion - a life giving mystery.
3. Veneration of relics and martyrs.
 - a) Before the end of the 4th. century, martyrs were viewed as intercessors with God, able to protect, and heal.
 - b) Mary blessed above all martyrs.
 - (1) Became the mediatrix between God and men.

B. Other controversies: Augustine (A.D. 354-430) vs. Palagius (came to Rome in A.D. 400).

1. Augustine articulated "Calvinism" long before Calvin - Original sin, Predestination, Grace, gift of perseverance, Sacraments.
2. Palagius "If I ought, I can." - denied original sin teaching of Augustine; said men have power not to sin; grace was remission of sins in baptism.
 - a) Western Emperor Honorius condemned Palagianism in A.D. 418, and ordered his disciples exiled.

I. THE MEDIEVAL AGE (A.D. 600-1300)

A. Part One: The church under domination of temporal powers A.D. 600-1050.

B. Part Two: Churches under papal hierarchy A.D. 1050-1300.

C. Rise of Islam.

1. By the mid-8th. century, about half of Christendom came under the influence of Arab Islam.

1. "In advance of Islam, Christianity suffered proportionately the greatest numerical losses in its history."

D. East - West disintegration.

1. The Iconoclastic (image -breaking) controversy (A.D. 726-843).
 - a) Eastern Emperor Leo III (717-740) forbade the use of Icons in worship in A.D.725.
 - b) Resistance in the West among the monks and common people.
 - c) Council of Nicaea in A.D. 787 approved the use of Icons.
 - (1) Veneration vs. adoration.
2. Latin priests were celibate and ordained by a bishop. Greek priests were married and ordained by a fellow-priest.
3. Formal separation A.D. 1054.
 - a) Pope Leo IX excommunicated Michael Celularius, patriarch of Constantinople. He in turn excommunicated the papal representatives.
 - b) The Eastern church became divided administratively into Greek Orthodox (Turkish Sultan) and Russian Orthodox (Russian Zsar).

E. The investiture Controversy (The conferring of the symbols of ecclesiastical office < bishop's staff and ring> by secular rulers.

1. Roman Synod A.D.1059 forbade lay investiture under any circumstances.
2. In 1075, Hildebrand (Gregory VII, 1073-1085) renewed the decree against lay investiture.
3. In January 1076 King Henry IV (1056-1106) appointed the Archbishop of Milan, thus asserting his right to continue the practice of lay investiture.
 - a) February 22, Hildebrand excommunicated Henry, renouncing his authority, and releasing all his subjects of their oath allegiance.
 - b) Henry seeks audience with Hildebrand - released from excommunication on January 28, 1077.
 - c) March, 1080, Hildebrand excommunicates Henry - Henry in turn deposed Hildebrand and appoints another Pope - Clement III.
4. Concordat of Worms in A.D. 1122 - Compromise reached: Lay investiture was relinquished, but rulers still had an influence in choosing prelates - but only in Germany, not Italy.

F. Pope Innocent III (1198 - 1216)

1. The papacy reached the peak of its political life in Europe
2. Innocent said, " Christ left to Peter the governance not of the church only, but of the whole world."
3. Fourth Lateran Council A.D. 1215 - Transubstantiation was approved.

G. The Crusades - Military expedition against enemies of the church.

1. First (A.D. 1070-1099) - Proclaimed by Pope Urban II.
 - a) Liberated Nicaea 1097, Antioch 1098, and Jerusalem 1099.
2. Second (A.D. 1147-1148) - failed.
3. Third (A.D. 1189-1192) - Jerusalem remained Moslem.
4. Fourth (A.D. 1202 -1204)
 - a) An economic-religious crusade
 - (1) Constantinople plundered and its treasures.
 - (2) Relics sent to the West.
5. The Children's Crusade (A.D. 1212)
 - a) Shipwreck - many sold into slavery.
6. Fifth (A.D.1218-1221)
7. Sixth (A.D. 1228-1229)
 - a) by treaty, Jerusalem, Bethlehem and Nazareth were secured.
8. Other unsuccessful crusades:
 - a) Louis IX of France (A.D. 1248-1250)
 - b) Prince Edward of England (A.D. 1271-1272)
9. Consequence of crusades - Renaissance.
 - a) Exposure to the East helped to an intellectual awakening.
 - b) Importance of the people - Magna Charta A.D. 1215.

H. Scholasticism.

1. With the Renaissance, came an interest in harmonizing Scripture with philosophy and reason.
 - a) Anselm (A.D. 1024-1109).
 - b) Abelard (A.D. 1079-1142).
 - c) Thomas Aquinas (A.D. 1224-1274).

- (1) Natural theology plus Scripture.
- 1. Opposition Followed.
 - a) William of Occam (A.D. 1280-1349).
 - (1) Theological doctrines are to be accepted on authority of Scripture.

I. Early Cries of Reformation:

- 1. The Cathari, or Albigenses in the 12th. century.
 - a) Ascetic and criticized the wealth of Rome
 - b) Translated Scripture into their own language, making it available to the people.
 - c) Pope Innocent III organized a crusade against them (A.D. 1209-1221) to stamp out their influence.
- 2. Peter Waldo of Lyon, France - The Waldenses
 - a) Defended "lay" preaching by men and women.
 - b) Emphases on Bible as the ultimate authority was fundamental to the coming Reformation.
 - c) Synod of Toulouse A.D. 1229 - forbade the laity to have the Scriptures, except short selections -foundation for Inquisition.