



GULF SHORES
CHURCH OF CHRIST

Tuesday Men's Bible Class
by Ray Reynolds

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AN INTRODUCTION TO CHURCH HISTORY

VIDEO SERIES WITH C. WAYNE KILPATRICK

Tuesday Men's Bible Class by Ray Reynolds (9-19-17)

Introduction: We are beginning a study of church history on Tuesday mornings. We can see that the church has one identify, but several names: the body of Christ (**Ephesians 1:22-23; Colossians 1:18, 24**), bride of Christ (**Ephesians 5:22-32; Revelation 3:12; 19:6-9; 21:2, 9**), kingdom of Christ (**Colossians 1:13**), temple of God (**I Corinthians 3:16**), house of God (**I Timothy 3:15**), church of the firstborn (**Hebrews 12:23**), church of the Lord (**Acts 20:28**), church of God (**I Corinthians 1:2**), and simply the church (**Ephesians 3:10**). However, they were collectively called the churches of Christ (**Romans 16:16**). There are some preliminary things we should probably notice before studying church history as it begins in **Acts 2**. Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. The Coming of Christ & His Church

A. The coming of Christ was carefully planned by God.

- Jesus came at just the right time (**Galatians 4:3-5, Ephesians 1:9-12**).
- Jesus came in just the right way (**I Timothy 2:5-6, Titus 1:2-3**).
- Jesus came into just the right environment (**Romans 1:18-22, 2:12-13**).

B. The coming of Christ's church was carefully planned by God.

- The church came at just the right time (**Acts 17:21, Malachi 4:5-6, John 1:21**).
- The church came in just the right way (**Matthew 16:14, Luke 2:25-26, 3:15**).
- The church came into the right environment (**Matthew 15:3, Galatians 4:4-5**).

II. The Words of Jesus

A. Jesus pointed to the near future (**Matthew 16:18-19**).

B. Jesus promised many of His disciples would see it (**Mark 9:1**).

C. Jesus proclaimed that His disciples would be a part of it (**Luke 24:46-49**).

D. Jesus prophesied that that the disciples would do amazing things (**John 17**).

E. Jesus promoted Peter by giving him the keys to the kingdom (**Matthew 16:18-19**).

III. The Prophecy of Daniel (Daniel 2:31-45)

A. The Babylonian Kingdom - **Daniel 2:31-32, 38**

DATE: 626-536 BC

B. The Medo-Persian Kingdom - **Daniel 2:32, 39**

DATE: 536-332 BC

C. The Grecian Kingdom - **Daniel 2:32, 39**

DATE: 332-63 BC

D. The Roman Kingdom - **Daniel 2:33, 40**

DATE: 63 BC - 476 AD

E. The Eternal Kingdom - **Daniel 2:44-45**

DATE: 33 AD - Present

IV. *The Prophecy of Isaiah (Isaiah 2:2-4)*

- A. The kingdom would come in the last days.
- B. There would be many nations coming to it.
- C. The kingdom would begin near the Temple at Mt. Zion.
- D. The teachings of the Lord will go out from Jerusalem.

V. *The Prophecy of Micah (Micah 4:1-5)*

- A. The kingdom would come in the last days.
- B. There would be many nations coming to it.
- C. The kingdom would begin near the Temple at Mt. Zion.
- D. The teachings of the Lord will go out from Jerusalem.

VI. *The Prophecy of Joel (Joel 2:28-32)*

- A. The Holy Spirit would be poured out on many nations.
- B. Sons and daughters will prophesy.
- C. Old men will dream dreams and young men will have visions.
- D. Slave and free will all enjoy the spiritual blessings.
- E. Miracles will be evident in the heavens and the earth.
- F. The kingdom would begin near the Temple at Mt. Zion.
- G. The teachings of the Lord will go out from Jerusalem.

VII. *The Church Would Face Major Problems*

A. The Church Faced Intellectual Problems

- Docetism = the belief that Jesus was a phantom, only appeared to suffer and die
- Dualism = the belief that Jesus only appeared to be human, could not be human
- Asceticism = the belief that one must practice self-denial, fasting, suffering, etc.
- Antinomianism = the belief that it was senseless to deny the flesh
- Gnosticism = the belief in salvation by supernatural knowledge
- Judaizers = a sect of people that rejected Christ as the Messiah

B. The Church Faced Cultural Problems

- The relationship between church and state
- The division of racial and social structures
- The issues of slavery and owning property
- The inward strife of the fellowship of the believers
- The relentless attacks of Satan and his demons
- The unlawful marriages and unlawful divorces

C. The Church Faced Religious Problems

- The Jewish faith was divided already
- The universality of the nations into the faith
- The holidays and practices of the Jews
- The problems of Hellenism in their culture
- The pagan worship in their cities, including the worship of the Roman emperor

D. The Church Faced Practical Problems

- The persecution of the opposing forces
- The issue of group assembly and fellowship
- The financial support of missions, local work, missionaries, preachers, and elders

VIII. The Church Grew Quickly in the New Testament

A. Individual Congregations

- Antioch, Pisidia: **Acts 13:14, Galatians 1:2**
- Antioch, Syria: **Acts 11:26**
- Athens: **Acts 17:34**
- Babylon: **I Peter 5:13**
- Berea: **Acts 17:11**
- Caesarea: **Acts 10:1,48**
- Cenchrea: **Romans 16:1**
- Colossae: **Colossians 1:2**
- Corinth: **Acts 18:1**
- Crete: **Acts 2:11, Titus 1:5**
- Cyrene: **Acts 2:10, 11:20**
- Damascus: **Acts 9:19**
- Derbe: **Acts 14:20, Galatians 1:2**
- Ephesus: **Acts 18:19**
- Hierapolis: **Colossians 4:13**
- Iconium: **Acts 14:1, Galatians 1:2**
- Jerusalem: **Acts 2:5**
- Joppa: **Acts 9:36-38**
- Laodicea: **Revelation 1:11, Colossians 4:15**
- Lydda: **Acts 9:32**
- Lystra: **Acts 14:6, Galatians 1:2**
- Pergamum: **Revelation 1:11**
- Philadelphia: **Revelation 1:11**
- Philippi: **Acts 16:12**
- Puteoli, Italy: **Acts 28:13-14**
- Rome: **Acts 2:10, Romans 1:7**
- Sardis: **Revelation 1:11**
- Sharon: **Acts 9:35**
- Smyrna: **Revelation 1:11**
- Tarsus: **Acts 9:30**
- Thessalonica: **Acts 17:1**
- Thyatira: **Revelation 1:11, Acts 16:14**
- Troas: **Acts 20:6-7**

B. Regional Listings of Congregations

- Churches of Judea: **Acts 2:9, Galatians 1:22**
- Churches of Phoenicia: **Acts 11:19**
- Churches of Samaria: **Acts 8:14, 25**
- Churches of Galatia: **Galatians 1:2**
- Churches of Asia: **I Corinthians 16:19**
- Churches of Macedonia: **II Corinthians 8:1**

Conclusion: History reveals the wisdom and providence of God. We should seek to be a part of the spread and progress of His earthly kingdom, the church. It is my prayer that this series on Church History will bless all of us.