

Church History and the Search for Biblical Christianity

Course Syllabus

Bobby Harrington and David Young

Course Description: This course will survey church history with a focus on some of the ways the church fell short of simple biblical Christianity and efforts to rediscover it.

Course objectives:

- Learn the major periods of church history.
- Gain a love for biblical forms of Christianity.
- Acquire the ability to discern various expressions of Christianity.
- Learn about the American Restoration movement.
- Learn the problems of progressive forms of Christian faith.
- Gain a vision of what the church can be.

Lecture Series:

- Lesson One: Overview of Church History
- Lesson Two: The Catholic and Orthodox Churches before the Reformation
- Lesson Three: The Reformation and its Justifications
- Lesson Four: The Rise of the Denominations and the Great Awakenings
- Lesson Five: The American Restoration Movement
- Lesson Six: The Rise of Progressivism and the question “Where do we go from Here?”

Course requirements:

- Watch the course lectures (there are 6 course lectures)
- Attendance in cohort discussions
- Read the first 13 chapters of Louis Cochran, *The Fool of God* (College/Renew.org Press)
- Memorize ten verses
- Pass final exam

Memory Verses

- Matthew 7:21
- Acts 2:44-47
- 1 Timothy 3:15
- Romans 6:4
- 1 Peter 5:1-2
- 2 Timothy 2:15

Text book

Louis Cochran, *The Fool of God*. You can purchase this book on Amazon, or the audio version at Renew.org, <https://renew.org/product/the-fool-of-god/>

Digging Deeper--Recommended Readings:

- Sinclair Ferguson, et al., *Church History 101: The Highlights of Twenty Centuries*
- Everett Ferguson, *The Church of Christ: A Biblical Ecclesiology for Today*
- Douglas Sweeny, *The Evangelical Story: A History of the Movement*

- Bruce Shelley, *Church History in Plain Language*
- Kindle version of Philip Schaff, *Complete Works of the Church Fathers* (thirty-eight volumes for only \$2.99!!!)
- James McCarthy, *The Gospel According to Rome*
- James White, *The Roman Catholic Controversy*
- Leroy Garrett, *The Stone-Campbell Movement*

Digging Deeper--Recommended Videos:

- Philip Schaff, Church History, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xFIXMM1KWyc>
- Dr. Timothy George, Church History, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WhLKH9WkMyc&t=6068s>
- Rick Cherok, History of the Restoration Movement series, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=74qi3H2xJY8&list=PLAhFi-fpiI11yln449kE1qcwJw5G96fT>
- Bobby Harrington and David Young, The Restoration Movement, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=caeeZko-3Q> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bIGzSMYYjfl>
- Bobby Harrington, Restoration Movement Distinctives, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bIGzSMYYjfl>
- Renee Sproles and David Young, Your church may be progressive if ...” <https://renew.org/your-church-may-be-progressive-if-real-life-theology-with-renee-sproles/>
- Gavin Ortland, “Does Orthodoxy have the Fullness of Faith?” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EX7irbpchhU>
- Ortland, “Protestant Critique of Praying to the Saints,” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TQRQ-bbmVvl>
- Mike Winger, “Roman Catholicism: Contending for the Faith,” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7ZVHHmCOjOg>
- *Luther* (2003 movie)
- Stephen Nichols, “The History of John Calvin,” https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=john+calvin
- “Christian Denominations Family Tree,” https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=review+of+the+protestant+denominations
- Bobby Harrington, *What is the Church and How Important is it?* Ebook at Renew.org