



Church History

God Encouraged Study of History

- Moses encouraged parents to tell their children about the past.
 - **Exo. 10:1-2; 12:26-27; 13:8, 14-15; Deut. 4:9; 6:20-25; Psalm 44:1-2**
- Many books of the Bible are history books
 - **Genesis; 12 books of history in O.T.; Psalm 78; 105; Gospels & Acts**
- Epistles to primarily Gentile churches drew lessons from O.T. history. **(cf. 1 Corinthians 10)**
- God established memorials.
 - **Passover, Lord's Supper, etc.**

History Did Not End with Close of N.T.

Inspired history ended – all that follows is uninspired!

Inspired History

- Absolutely accurate.
- Reflects truthfulness of God.
- Includes every important detail.
- Includes seemingly unimportant people and events.

Uninspired History

- May be honestly incorrect.
- Reflects the ignorance and biases of the historian.
- May miss most important details.
- Includes only important people and events that seem important to historian.

“For what is exalted among men is an abomination in the sight of God!” (Luke 16:15)

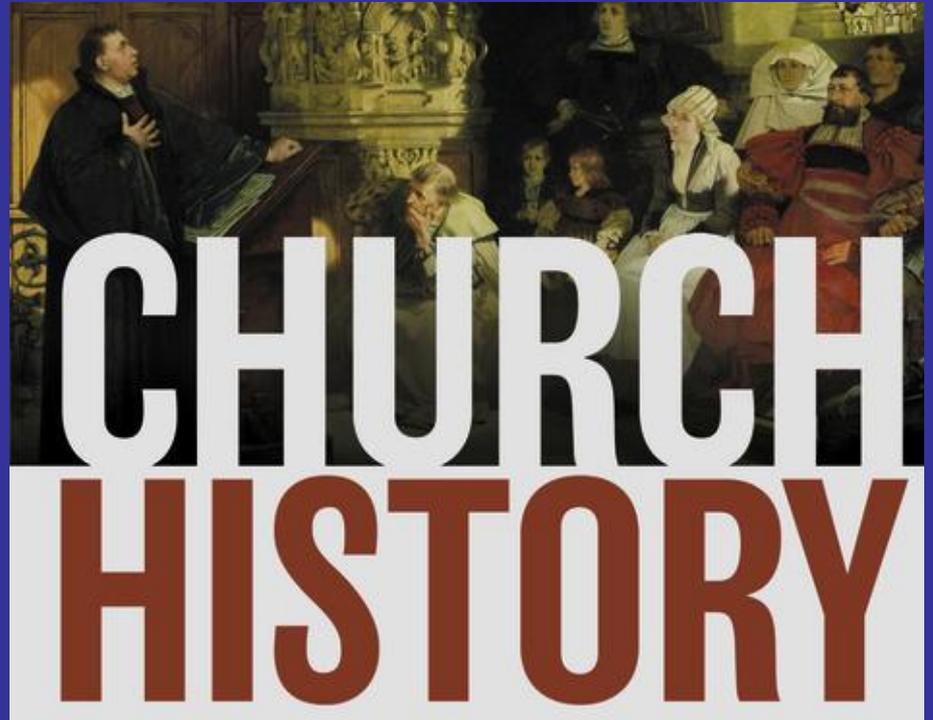
The Value of Studying Uninspired History

- See N.T. Prophecy fulfilled. (Matt. 24; 1 Tim. 4:1-5; Rev.)
- Find an explanation for many things practiced in religion that are not in scripture.
- Learn the origin of where the denominations.
- Learn the dangers of deviation from God's plan.
- Learn the benefits of faithfulness to God's plan.

One lesson to be learned from both inspired and uninspired history – peace, prosperity & popularity tend to produce apostasy!

Periods of Church history

1. **First Century**
2. **Falling Away**
3. **Dark Ages**
4. **Reformation**
5. **Restoration**
 - **Primitivism**
 - **Replication**
 - **Replanting**



“On this rock I will build my church.”

Matthew 16:18

- This “*church*” is a body whose membership consists of all saved people of all time.
- God determined that those saints who were alive on earth at any given time, and who lived near one another, should band together in smaller groups, each of which would also be known as a “*church*”.
- Characteristics of those local congregations:
 - Independent
 - Autonomous under Christ
 - Sufficient to do all required

The Universal Church



People!

Local Churches

God intended
local churches
to be:
Independent
Autonomous
Sufficient



Two Words With the Same Meaning

- Synagogue

- Jewish word meaning “assembly, congregation”.
- *“For if a man wearing a gold ring comes into your assembly ...” (James 2:2)*

- Church

- Greek = EKKLESIA, meaning “assembly”.
- *“And when he had said these things, he dismissed the assembly.” (Acts 19:41)*

What Was a Synagogue?

- The origin of the synagogue system is disputed.
 - Babylon? Maccabean rebellion?
- What we know about 1st century synagogues.
 - Ten Jewish families could build a synagogue anywhere.
 - They were totally independent, therefore differing (some more liberal than others).
 - Officers:
 - Elders? (Luke 7:3)
 - Deacons? (Luke 4:20)

Differences – Synagogue & Temple

Synagogue

- In various localities
- No clergy/laity distinction
- No special dress
- No animal sacrifices
- No incense
- No holy water
- Sermons
- Singing without instruments
- Relatively plain buildings

Temple

- Only in Jerusalem
- Priests & people
- Priests had special garments
- Sacrifices featured
- Incense
- Holy water
- Sermons
- Various musical instruments
- Ornate buildings

Temple – All these things are *typical* and were intended to pass away! (John 4:19-24; Hebrews 8:2; 9:24)

No Instrumental Music in the Synagogue

- “It was in the synagogue, however, that music continued to flourish and serve as an emotional and didactic aid to the maintenance of Judaism. The Levitical guilds were now gone and instrumental music was forbidden in the synagogue, leaving vocal music to evolve in a new way. Thus the writers of the NT and the founders of the new Christian movement very likely adopted what they knew of synagogue music to their own worship. That would explain why Paul, who is familiar with musical instruments, considered them ‘lifeless’ (1 Cor 14:7–8) and promoted worship in the form of ‘psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord’ (Eph 5:19).”

(Victor H. Matthews, The Anchor Yale Bible Dictionary, 1992, 4, 934)

No Instrumental Music in the Synagogue

- “The synagogue emphasized teaching and did not have instrumental music. The temple emphasized ritual, and it did have instrumental music. Further, in Christian history, where edification has been central, instrumental music has been left aside, but where ritual has been in the forefront, then the instrument has been prominent.”

**Everett Ferguson, *A Cappella Music in the Public Worship of the Church*,
Fourth Edition., (Abilene, TX: Desert Willow Publishing, 2013), 106**

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Tendency to leave the right way:

- **In the Old Testament**
 - Adam & Eve
 - Tower of Babel after flood
 - Golden calf at Sinai
 - 1 Kings 11:4-6
- **Predictions in the New Testament that some would leave the right way**
 - Acts 20:29-32
 - 2 Thessalonians 2:1-4
 - 1 Timothy 4:1-3
 - 2 Timothy 4:1-4



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