

Formation Toward Christian Ministry (FTCM)

Church History 1

Session 1 – Make Up

Name: _____

Location Registered: _____

Date of Original Class: _____

I have personally read all of the required reading, viewed the make-up video, and completed the following worksheets.

Signature _____

Date _____

Church History 1 – Lesson 1 – Worksheet 1

What has been your previous experience with reading or studying about Church History? What questions do you have as you begin our course??

Write about a paragraph.

Church History 1 – Lesson 1 – Worksheet 2

With reference to *The Catholic Church Through the Ages: A History* - Sections entitled "Jewish Sources", "Roman Sources", "Influence of Jewish and Roman Sources on Christianity" pp. 1-9 (1-11)¹

- (a) What are some of the key traits of Judaism inherited by Christianity? What is their significance?
- (b) What was the Jewish Diaspora? In what ways was the Diaspora critical to the early spread of Christianity?
- (c) What was the *Pax Romana*? What were some of its features that were critical to the early spread of Christianity?
- (d) What socio-cultural aspects of the Roman empire assisted in the spread of Christianity among the Gentiles?

¹ Here and throughout the handouts, the pagination is given first for the first edition of the book, published in 2005, and then, in parentheses, for the second edition of the book, published in 2015

Church History 1 – Lesson 1 – Worksheet 3

With reference to *The Catholic Church Through the Ages* – Section entitled “Paul” pp. 20-24 (22-27)²

- (a) Why is Paul, who never knew the historical Jesus, nonetheless regarded as one of the most important figures in the history of the early Church?
- (b) What was at stake in the question of whether Gentiles who wished to be Christian needed to become Jews first?
- (c) Where did Paul come down on the question of Gentile converts?
- (d) What role did Paul take in the ultimate decision regarding Gentile Christians? What were some of the implications and ramifications of that decision?

² Here and throughout the handouts, the pagination is given first for the first edition of the book, published in 2005, and then, in parentheses, for the second edition of the book, published in 2015

Church History 1 – Lesson 1 – Worksheet 4

With reference to *The Catholic Church Through the Ages* – Section entitled “Attacks on Christianity” pp. 25-31(27-33)³

- (a) What were some of the main causes of Roman persecution of Christians? What accusations were laid against the Christians by Roman society and authorities?
- (b) How would the Roman persecutions of Christianity before the year 250 best be characterized?
- (c) What caused a shift in the nature, duration, and extent of Roman persecutions of Christians around the year 250? How would these persecutions best be characterized?
- (d) Who were the *lapsi*? What were the different approaches toward them advocated by various groups? What decision ultimately prevailed?

³ Here and throughout the handouts, the pagination is given first for the first edition of the book, published in 2005, and then, in parentheses, for the second edition of the book, published in 2015

Church History 1 – Lesson 1 – Worksheet 5

With reference to *The Catholic Church Through the Ages* – Section entitled “Rival Religions”
pp. 31-36 (34-39)⁴

- (a) What were mystery religions? What common characteristics did most of them share? How were they similar to or different from Christianity?

- (b) What is Gnosticism? What second century figure was a key person in the development of a Christian form of Gnosticism?

- (c) What was Montanism? Who founded this movement? What were some distinctive elements of it? What major historical figure was attracted to it?

- (d) What was an apologist? What attitude and approach did the apologists take toward Greek philosophy?

- (e) What led to the creation of a scriptural canon? What criteria came to be determinative regarding inclusion in the canon?

⁴ Here and throughout the handouts, the pagination is given first for the first edition of the book, published in 2005, and then, in parentheses, for the second edition of the book, published in 2015

Church History 1 – Lesson 1 – Worksheet 6

With reference to *The Catholic Church Through the Ages* –
Section entitled “The Life of the Early Church” pp. 36-42 (39-44)⁵

- (a) In what ways did the developing Christian liturgies borrow from both Jewish religious practice and Greco-Roman religious and cultural practice?
- (b) How was leadership in the early Church structured?
- (c) What is meant by the term “apostolic succession”? What role did this play in the early Church?
- (d) To what extent did the bishop of Rome enjoy some sort of primacy in the early Church? What reasons existed for this?

⁵ Here and throughout the handouts, the pagination is given first for the first edition of the book, published in 2005, and then, in parentheses, for the second edition of the book, published in 2015

Church History 1 – Lesson 1 – Worksheet 7

What are the 3 most important events in the history of the Church from the time of Pentecost until 330?

Church History 1 – Lesson 1 – Worksheet 8

Write about a paragraph answer to at least one of the following questions:

1. The early Christian community struggled to find the balance between holding people accountable for their actions and calling them to live moral lives on the one hand and the desire to be merciful and compassionate, especially to those who buckled under intense pressure, on the other. How well do we negotiate this issue today? Are there tensions that we experience on this topic as well?
2. Christians in the United States are generally pretty free from overt persecution because of their Christian faith. That is very much not true in other parts of the world today. What actions have you taken, or ought you to take, on behalf of persecuted Christians around the world?