

Church History 1

Apostles to Pre-Reformation

May 10, 2013 – Councils, Monks and Popes

Lakeside Institute of Theology
Ross Arnold, Spring 2013

Church History 1 (TH1)

1. Introduction to Church History
2. Apostles to Catholic Christianity
3. Persecution, Heresies & the Book
4. Emperors, Bishops, Saints & Intellectuals
5. Councils, Monks, Popes & Augustine
6. Schisms, Barbarians & Gregory the Great
7. Charlemagne, Cathedrals, Crusades & Scholastics
8. Poverty, Inquisition, Babylonian Captivity... & Final Exam

The Cult of the Martyrs

- With many Christians lapsing under persecutions of Decius and Valerian, those who died as martyrs under ALL persecutions came to be highly honored and revered.
- The cult of the martyrs (worship activities associated with martyrs and/or their remains) was influenced by the Greek hero cults and Greco-Roman funerary practices.
- Cyprian was the first to refer to the eucharist as an offering in memory of the martyrs.
- Christians started celebrating the date of death of martyrs as their “birthday” – the day they were “born” into eternal life.
- At first, prayers & memorial ceremonies were simply held in the tombs. Then came the idea that prayers were actually more effective when done in the presence of martyr remains. (Which led to the practice of removing remains of martyrs from tombs and placing them in churches, so there came to be a great demand for the remains of martyrs.)
- This then led to the idea that the departed martyrs and saints – being in the presence of God and free to speak directly to Him – could pray with and for living Christians: the intercession of the saints.

The Seven Ecumenical Councils

1. First Council of Nicaea (AD 325)
2. First Council of Constantinople (AD 381)
3. Council of Ephesus (AD 431)
4. Council of Chalcedon (AD 451)
5. Second Council of Constantinople (AD 553)
6. Third Council of Constantinople (AD 680)
7. Second Council of Nicaea (AD 787)

The Monastic Movement

The Monastic Movement was a reaction against the newly legalized “Imperial” Church.

- Anthony and Paul: Leaders of the anchorite (solitary) monastic movement in the Egyptian desert.
- Pachomius: Originator of the cenobitic (communal) monastic movement.