

THE IMPORTANCE OF CHURCH HISTORY

1. History: THE RECORD OF MAN'S PAST

- a) real events involving real people
- b) accurate records of the events
- c) researchers collect the evidence and describe it

2. The Church History: THE RECORD OF THE PAST OF THE CHURCH

- a) real events involving:
 - * real dates
 - * real names
 - * available directly or indirectly
- b) real records of events
 - * archeological records
 - * written records
- c) researchers have collected the evidence and described it throughout the centuries (such as **Eusebius of Caesarea**)

3. The IMPLICATIONS of Church History

- a) a historical Church proclaims a HISTORICAL JESUS
- b) the history of the Church helps us see THE EFFECTS OF THE CHURCH IN THE SOCIETY
 - * was it "the salt of the earth"?
 - * did it transform the pagan world?
 - * there is great value in learning about past experiences as we deal with similar present issues
- c) the history can trace how they continued (see Acts 2, 42)
 - * the Apostles' doctrine
 - * the Apostles' fellowship in the breaking of bread
 - * the Apostles' Prayers

4. Ancient understanding of THE CHURCH

- a) "EKKLESIA": the Body of believers who were:
 - * called
 - * enrolled in Discipleship
 - * sent to call
 - * see **John 17, 9-11 & 20-21**

b) **The Mystical BODY OF CHRIST**

- * the **fallen humanity** of believers
is grafted unto
- * **Christ's RESTORED humanity**
through the Holy Spirit
- * as we read in Ephesians 4, 4-6

c) **the pretaste of heaven**

- * God is the King for the believers
- * the believers advertise God through their lives
- * Christ's heavenly life is experienced by believers

d) the Church **must be traceable in history**

- * authentic, unchanged **doctrine, fellowship in breaking the bread and Prayers** continue in the Church
- * individual INNOVATIONS, ADDITIONS and SUBTRACTIONS from **the doctrine, the fellowship and the Prayers** produces THE HERESIES, the break-aways from the Church

e) the Church is **not perfect**, while still in this

- * God's people in the Old Testament (the good and bad)
- * God's people in the New Testament (the good and bad)

5. **Invisible Oneness of visibly divided groups?**a) The Bible talks about the "**new people of God**"

- * the "**New Israel**"
 - descendants of the 12 Apostles
 - circumcised at heart
 - see **1 Peter 2, 9-10**

b) The Bible talks about the "**New Vineyard of God**"

- * The old vineyard: **Israel**
 - see **Isaiah 5**
 - Israel was a **historical** people
 - remained one because of:
 - + "**the hedge**": the Mosaic Teaching
 - + "**the tower**": the Jewish Authority
 - + "**the wine vat**": the Mosaic Worship

- * The new vineyard: **The Church**
 - see **Mark 12, 1-11**
 - the Church is a historical body of people
 - remained one because of:
 - + "**the hedge**": the Apostles' Doctrine
 - + "**the tower**": the Apostolic Authority
 - + "**the wine vat**": the Apostolic Worship

c) The Bible talks about **the Vine** and **the Branches**

- * see **John 15, 1-11**
 - one **root**: The Holy Trinity
 - one **Vine**: the Son of God Incarnate
 - united **Branches**: the people of the Church
 - one **Sap**: the grace of the Holy Spirit

d) The Bible talks about **the Groom** and **the Bride**

- * One "Bride": Israel
 - see **Isaiah 62, 5**
 - see the **Song of Songs**
- * one "Bride": the New Israel, the Church
 - see **Ephesians 5, 22-33**
 - God's family with:
 - + one way of life
 - + one table

e) The Bible talks about **the Shepherd** and **the Flock**

- * **One Shepherd**
 - with **one voice**
 - showing **one way**
- * **One Flock**
 - which knows the voice
 - follow the way
 - **goats go their own way**
- * see **John 10, 14-16**

f) The Bible talks about **One Temple** and **One Cornerstone**

- * His Body: **the New Temple**
 - see **Matthew 12, 6**
 - see **John 2, 19-21**
- * Believers are called to be "**temple**"
 - see **1 Corinthians 3, 16**
 - see **1 Corinthians 6, 19**

- * The Church is **the Temple built on Cornerstone**
 - see **Ephesians 2, 17-22**
 - it implies:
 - + interaction
 - + continuity
 - + interdependency

g) The Bible talks about **One Body** and **One Head**

- * see **Ephesians 1, 22-23 & 4, 15-16**
- * see **Romans 12, 4-5**
- * see **Colossians 1, 18 & 2, 19**
- * **it implies:**
 - interaction
 - continuity
 - interdependency