

Passing the Torch

A Journey through Church History

Passing the Torch: A Journey through Church History

I. Introduction

- A. How do you kill a fly with your bare hands?
- B. The transference of knowledge
- C. 2 Tim. 2:1-2

II. Why Church History?

- A. How would you answer that?
- B. As an extra-Biblical testimony of God's sovereign power and processes
 - 1. John 5:17
- C. As an "enfleshment" of Christ's promise
 - 1. Matt. 16:15-20
 - 2. Acts 20:29-31

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II. Why Study Church History?

- B. As an extra-Biblical testimony of God's sovereign power and processes
- C. As an "enfleshment" of Christ's promise
- D. As an expansion of the "great cloud of witnesses"
 - 1. Heb. 12:1-2
- E. As a chronicle of the Great Commission
 - 1. Matt. 28:19-20
- F. To help us understand how the doctrines we hold today were discovered and defined
- G. To help us see how God works through His people despite their moral failings and misunderstandings
- H. To sharpen our commitment to the truth as we see it pitted against error in successive generations

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III. The “Shape” of this Course

A. Linear approach

1. The early Church (with a focus on “the fathers”)
2. The Reformation
3. The Church in America
4. Modern Movements

B. Not just “men with strange names”

1. Historical context
2. Elements of faith and practice
3. Key councils and decisions
4. Political figures who impacted the course of church history

C. Not just an assimilation of facts, but a launchpad for discussion