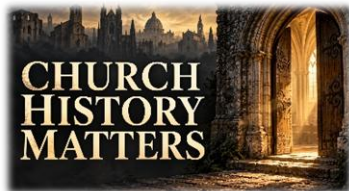


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Rev Dr Jack Sin: 91160948 (hp) / jacksin710@gmail.com
Eld Tan Yue Kay: 97450311 (hp) / tanyuekay@gmail.com

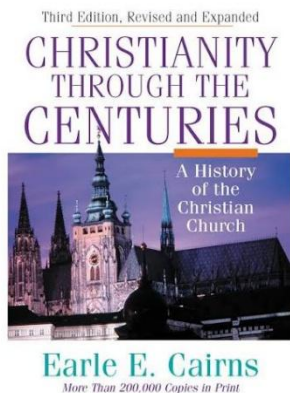
Why a Christian Should Know Church History



When one speaks of history, it conjures in the mind of the average listener, a boring and dry subject of many dates, personalities and events to memorise, somewhat irrelevant to us today. Actually, church history is a delightful and pertinent study of the account of God's intervention in the lives of men and the church throughout the ages and its meaning and relevance to regenerate men today. Historian Perry Miller said to the Puritans, ***"History is a memorial of the mercies of God so that posterity may know them, remember them and hymn His praises."***

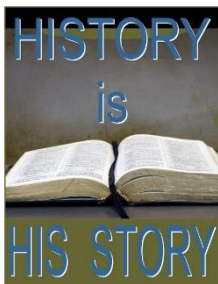
What is Church History?

Church history is but a record of the sovereignty of God in the lives of men down the centuries and believers should not be ignorant of it. Earle Cairns has said it well, *"Church history should be a matter of profound spiritual interest to the Christian who desire to be enlightened concerning his spiritual ancestry, to emulate*



the good examples of the past and to avoid errors that the church has frequently made." The study and knowledge of it should inspire us to greater faith and confidence in God. It is not just a meaningless accumulation of facts but the analytical interpretation of this information gives us a meaningful understanding of the past so that we will be better equipped to live in the present and be expectant for the future.

With this in mind, Church history can well be defined by Earl Cairns to be *"the interpreted record at the origins process and impact of Christianity on human society based on organised data gathered by the scientific method from archaeological, documentary or living sources."* (Cairns, Christianity through the Ages, Zondervan, Grand Rapids, 1996)

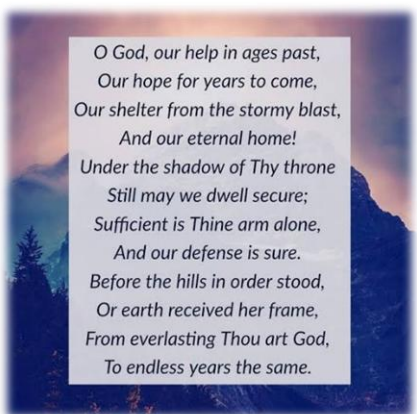


The work of the Holy Spirit and the Sovereignty of God impart a supernatural element in our understanding of Church history as opposed to the worldly teaching of secular history. God is in control of history and orders it according to His sovereign good pleasure. The student of history must be diligent, discipline, willing to read, investigate and remember important dates, events and persons in the full appreciation of the glorious occasions of the past. Develop a holy inquisitiveness to delve into the historic past and learn precious lessons from the "*textbook of time*" relevant for the day. **Remember that HISTORY is HIS STORY.**

Why Study Church History?

There are at least 7 reasons why believers should not be ignorant but should strive to have a thorough appreciation and profound knowledge of church history. They are as follow:

1. Church history is an integral part of world history, and we ought to know what is happening to us.
2. **Knowledge of Church history gives us a warning and an understanding of the present state of Christianity.** Our past affects our present and probably the future.
3. **Church history serves also as a good commentary on the Scriptures.** It is a factual elaboration of what God has done in times past and is ever a rich resource for historic and contemporary sermons.
4. Church history is actually the outworking of the sovereign acts of God in the lives of men and nations.
5. We do well to study the characters in Church history and learn from the illustrious lives. Let the lives of John Calvin, Jonathan Edwards, George Whitefield, William Carey and others enthuse and stimulate you to greater love for God and His kingdom.
6. **Church history provides a large resource of examples and anecdotes for preaching and teaching.** There is not a more profound place to find illustrations and examples than our historical accounts of the Church and its events and actors in history (ie Revival, Renaissance, Reformation, crusades, martyrdom, missions, etc).
7. The Lord is interested and deeply involved in the historic life of the Church, so should every child of God be.



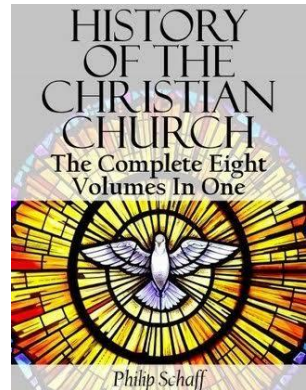
O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home!
Under the shadow of Thy throne
Still may we dwell secure;
Sufficient is Thine arm alone,
And our defense is sure.
Before the hills in order stood,
Or earth received her frame,
From everlasting Thou art God,
To endless years the same.

Concerning the nature of Church History, know that history has 2 sides, divine and human:

- On the part of God, it is His revelation in the order of time (as the creation in His revelation in the order of space), and the successive unfolding of a plan of infinite wisdom, justice, and mercy, looking to His glory and the eternal happiness of mankind.
- On the part of man, history is the biography of the human race, and the gradual development; both normal and abnormal, of all its physical, intellectual, and moral forces to the final consummation at the general judgment, with its eternal rewards and punishments.

The idea of universal history presupposes the Christian idea of the unity of God and the unity and common destiny of men and was unknown to ancient Greece and Rome. **A view of history, which overlooks or undervalues the divine factor start from deism and consistently runs into atheism; while the opposite view, which overlooks the free agency of man and his moral responsibility and guilt, is essentially fatalistic and pantheistic. This is the objective conception of Church history.**

In the subjective sense of the word, considered as theological science and art, Church history is the faithful and life-like description of the origin and progress of this heavenly kingdom. It aims to reproduce in thought and to embody in language its outward and inward development down to the present time. It is a continuous commentary on the Lord's twin parables of the mustard seed and of the leaven. It shows at once how Christianity spreads over the world, and how it penetrates, transforms, and sanctifies the individual and all the departments and institutions of social life. It, thus, embraces the external fortunes of Christendom, but more especially her inward experience, her religious life, her mental and moral activity, her conflicts with the ungodly world, her sorrows and sufferings, her joys and her triumphs over sin and error. It records the deeds of those heroes of faith *"who subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, obtained promises, stopped the mouth of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to fight the armies of aliens."* (cf Philip Schaff, **History of the Christian Church**, Vol 1, 2-5, 1994).



There are enriching and insightful chronicles of God's goodness and faithfulness and the church struggles and ought to be learnt and indelibly marked in our minds for the spiritual benefit of the believer and the church.

Church history has immense practical value for every Christian and a storehouse of warning, encouragement of consolation and counsel. It is a philosophy of facts. It is Christianity in living examples. As Diodorus calls it, "It is the handmaid of providence, priestess of truth, the mother of wisdom.

The Branches of Church History

Church history had various departments or branches. Philp Schaff says that principally they can be divided into 6 categories, and each has its appropriate emphasis. (Schaff, History of the Christian Church, Eerdmans: Grand Rapids, Vol 1, 1994)

1. The history of Missions or the history of the expansion of the Church.
2. The history of Persecution by hostile powers - especially of Christian martyrdom in the first 4 centuries and the Middle Ages
3. The history of Church Government and Discipline. A study of church polity and governance.
4. The history of Worship or divine service, of how worship evolves or changes over the years in the Church.
5. The history of Christian life or Practical Religion.
6. The history of Theology or of Christian learning and literature (or historical theology).

Each one of them gives a certain dimension of the total picture of Church history. This is more devotional or inside story of the lives of the saints; eg the early church fathers, the Puritans, Pietists, Reformers or the Covenanters and their fruitful walk with God despite their long suffering and struggles in their times.

Conclusion

Give attendance to reading and meditating the Bible, Christian books and other edifying historical articles and ancient literature that are relevant to the understanding of the workings of God through the ages. **We are not ready for the future unless we know our past.** Believers should be unmindful of God's dealings with the Church in the past and be equipped to live the present with knowledge and practical wisdom and warnings and lessons of the past and not to repeat the same errors but learn from them. **The precious, positive models of godly men and noteworthy events of the church in history continue to intrigue and enthuse us to serve the Lord greater fervour and zeal.**

Jack Sin

SOVEREIGN HOPE
bible presbyterian church

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WHY STUDY CHURCH HISTORY?

*"Remember the days of old;
consider the years of many generations."*

— Deuteronomy 32:7

Church history is not our authority,
but it is a valuable servant that helps us
understand how God has faithfully preserved
His truth throughout the centuries.

1

IT REVEALS GOD'S FAITHFULNESS



Despite persecution, heresy, and corruption, Christ has continually preserved His people and His gospel. Every generation testifies that God's promises never fail.

2

IT PROTECTS US FROM ERROR



Many false teachings today are not new. By studying how faithful believers defended biblical truth, we are better equipped to recognize and refute error.

3

IT DEEPENS OUR UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE



Church history helps us see how God's people have interpreted Scripture across the centuries and reminds us we are not the first to wrestle with difficult doctrines.

4

IT ENCOURAGES PERSEVERANCE



The stories of faithful believers who endured persecution, suffering, and even martyrdom inspire us to remain steadfast in following Christ.

5

IT CULTIVATES HUMILITY



Studying church history reminds us that we stand on the shoulders of those who came before us. We did not discover the gospel or invent biblical doctrine.

6

IT STRENGTHENS OUR CONFIDENCE IN THE GOSPEL



The same gospel preached by the apostles has been proclaimed through every century. The doctrines of grace are not new—they have been confirmed and defended by faithful Christians throughout church history.



7

IT HELPS US WORSHIP GOD

Church history magnifies God's sovereign providence. Every revival, missionary movement, reformation, and faithful church demonstrates that Christ continues to fulfill His promise to build His church. The focus of church history is not ultimately great men but a great Savior.

*To God
be the
Glory!*

SO THEN, MY BELOVED BRETHREN, BE STEADFAST, IMMOVABLE, ALWAYS ABUNDING
IN THE WORK OF THE LORD, KNOWING THAT YOUR LABOR IS NOT IN VAIN IN THE LORD.

— 1 CORINTHIANS 15:58



Good evening, Dr. Jack

The worship service was truly a great blessing to me. Both the sermon and Bible lesson spoke deeply to my heart. On our way back, we continued discussing what we had learned. We were both so blessed by the worship, warm welcome, and wonderful fellowship. Thank you also for the generous love gifts, books, and prayers. We both had a good, delicious lunch.

It was my first time experiencing this order of worship, and I truly appreciated the beautiful hymns and biblical teaching. I look forward to joining you again before I leave Singapore. May God continue to bless you and your church abundantly in your ministry!

Boisy

Bible college student Assam

27 Sep 2026



The Bible My Sacred Companion



The Bible's my companion and ever my light,
To guide and direct through the darkest night,
The Word of Life exudes with fragrance new,
That blesses the soul with its spiritual brew.

That precious Book that's worth a gem,
Life-giving Words that speak of a Lamb,
Who took our place at Calvary's Cross,
That we who believe will never be lost,

Every Word's pure and inspired from above,
If only we heed it and do it in love,
Our lives transform and our mind's renew,
Through these sacred pages that ever reveal.

Cherished and relished by sinners and saints,
Though others tried to destroy but in vain,
Dynasties have risen, kingdoms have fallen,
But still the Bible remains unshaken.

Thank God for writing a Book so grand,
In it is conceived a wondrous plan,
That we can go to that heavenly Land,
If only we believe, receive and repent.

Jack Sin

Memory Verse

2Tim 1:9 Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,

Announcements

1. Welcome to our Worship Service! If you are here for the first time, do leave us your contact numbers in our guest book before you leave. Those who share the church vision to acquire a place of worship in due time, may designate your offerings to the SHBPC Church Building Fund.
2. Pastor brings us God's Word this morning on "***How am I Saved & Safe? (2Tim 1:8-12)***", commencing a quarterly series on "***Apostolic Admonitions for Finishing Well in Life - the Epistle of 2 Timothy***",
3. Next Sunday. Rev Daniel Gan will preach on "***Holding On to Sound Words (2Tim 1:13-18)***".
4. Sunday School classes after the worship service are:
 - Walk Thru the Old Testament (Pastor)
 - Studies in Revelation (Dr Kwong Leen)
5. Chinese Fellowship meets every Sunday night at 7pm via Zoom. [Zoom ID:883 9662 4157 Passcode: 218178]. Join us for time of learning on the Book of Hosea (Thirdmill video lessons) and Heroes of the Faith (messages).
6. **Reformation Seminar on Sat 17 Oct 2026, 3pm** on "***The Theological Significance & Implications of the Nicene Creed***" by Pastor Jack. See details on page 4. Come and learn! Invite a friend or family member too!
7. The Mission Team to Myanmar would like to bring Children's Christian Books for Preacher Myitta's ministry. Contact Dn Paul (hp:97314733) by 31 Oct if you would like to contribute.
8. Do send your prayer items to Pastor and join us for Church Prayer Meeting on Wed at 8pm via Zoom. The prayer list is available in church. [Zoom ID:863 7527 5431 Passcode: 625551].
9. Pray for:
 - **Reformation Seminar on Sat 17 Oct.**
 - **Myanmar Mission Trip Preparations [10-17 Nov]** – Pastor, Angie, Dn Paul, Deborah
 - **Medical: Simon** [continued recovery at home], **Kin Hoong's daughter Joyce** [chemotherapy], **Ps Babu's father-in-law** [treatment options for pancreatic cancer]
 - **Joseph & Rachel:** Gospel Peace Station and void deck outreaches
 - **Lily Almon** [citizenship application]
10. Love gifts, Offering and Tithes to the Lord can be given in the following ways:
 - **Cheque** payable to **Sovereign Hope Bible Presbyterian Church**
 - **Fund transfer** to Church **UOB** Account **392-308-825-1**
 - **PayNow** to Church UEN: **T19SS0116FSOV**

Kindly indicate "**Church Building Fund**" if you would like to designate towards this cause.