

Church History 1 & 2- Preview Sheet

Jesus is the key, the focal point and the goal of all human history (Vatican II: Gaudium et Spes, 10,3).

To understand the history of the Church, it is important to remember that Jesus promised he would always be with the Church (Mt 28:20). This is a powerful sign of God's love for the Church! St. Paul also speaks of Christ's love for the Church in his letter to the Ephesians:

Christ loved the church and handed himself over for her, cleansing her by the bath of water with the word, that he might present to himself the church in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish (Eph 5:25-27).

Though we will see the need for sanctification in the Church's history, we must not lose sight of the fact that at the very same time, the Church is united to Christ and made holy by Christ.

For this reason, we will also see the Holy Spirit always at work throughout history, renewing the Church in preparation for the fullness of the Kingdom of God:

Sacred Scripture calls this mysterious renewal, which will transform humanity and the world, "[a] new heavens and a new earth". It will be the definitive realization of God's plan to bring under a single head "all things in Christ, things in heaven and on earth". (CCC, 1044).

It is in this way we see that *Jesus is the key, the focal point and goal of all human history!*

Suggested preparation for this class is to read pages 182-199 in *The Compact History of the Catholic Church*.

I look forward to our time together! Please keep me in prayer, and know that you are in mine.

Peace in Christ,

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