

## INTRODUCTION

The New Testament Church begins with Christ's incarnation 2000 years ago. This course explores the Reformation of the church, between the years 1500 to 1650 AD and its impact on church and world history in the subsequent years. During the Reformation there were many important developments within the church; especially crucial was the church's growth in the understanding of her nature and mission.

This 150-year period was unique in the history of the church. During the Reformation, the church emerged from the 1000 years of what has been coined the Dark Ages into the light of the Gospel. In fact, the church grew more in this short period than it had in the almost 1200 years previous. During the Reformation the Protestant churches broke away from the Roman Catholic Church and tried to return to the simple Gospel of the New Testament Church as interpreted by the early church fathers. In this period, she recovered the simple truth of salvation by grace alone through faith alone. Huge progress was made in almost every area of theological understanding. The creed and confessions that the church drafted in this period remain unequalled. This theological awakening laid the foundation of the modern church today.

The motto of the reformation was *After Darkness, Light*, emphasizing the light that illuminates the church's path from then until today. Although the Reformation was a European phenomenon, the impact of these events influenced the church worldwide.

## COURSE CONTENT

The course is divided into eight lessons, beginning with the events of the pre-Reformation. It then follows the path of the Reformation country by country, beginning with Luther and the German Reformation, continuing with the Zwingli and Calvin in the Swiss Reformation, and the English and Scottish Reformations, after which the course looks at the Catholic Church's response to Reformation, the period of scholastic theology, and the English and American Puritan movements. Lesson Eight considers the some of the key implications of the Reformation.

## **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

To study the period known as Reformation of the church in Church History;  
To acquire a detailed knowledge of the history and development of the Church;  
To develop a deeper understanding of God's work in this world;  
To grow in knowledge of how God deals with His Church;

## **OUTLINE**

LESSON ONE: The Pre-Reformation ~  
The Church and Humanism

LESSON TWO: Martin Luther and the  
German Reformation (1483-1546)

LESSON THREE: The Swiss Reformation; Zwingli, Calvin  
and the Radical Reformers

LESSON FOUR: Major Theological Contributions I ~  
Scripture and Grace

LESSON FIVE: Major Theological Contributions II ~  
Church and Sacraments

LESSON SIX: The Reformation in English and Scotland  
The Roman Catholic Counter Reformation

LESSON SEVEN: The Reformation in France,  
Reformed Theology after Calvin,  
the Canons of Dordt and Socinianism

LESSON EIGHT: English and American Puritanism,  
the Spread of the Gospel from Europe

APPENDIX