

# Church History

## Leading to the Reformation

# Scholasticism in Middle Ages

- Two aims:
  - Reconcile Christian thought and human reason.
  - Arrange the teachings of the church in an orderly system.
- A free search for the truth was never in view since chief doctrines of the Christian were regarded as fixed.
- Hallmark of the period: “Living religiously in a studious manner.”
- Curriculum, of the cathedral school was limited to grammar, rhetoric, logic, arithmetic, geometry, music and astronomy – the seven liberal arts. So called because in ancient Rome the study of these was reserved for “Liberi” – freemen.

# Universities

- Peter Abelard – “The first key to wisdom is assiduous and frequent questioning. For by doubting we come to inquiry, and by inquiry we arrive at truth.”
- So, primary method of teaching in the universities was lecture and disputation.
- The focus of the university was the study of Roman Civil Law and Canon Law.
  - In 1140, Gratian, a monk, published “Harmony of Discordant Canons” – an authoritative body of laws to control and direct the lives of men. It was eventually revised in 1918.
  - Canon law touched every aspect of church and human life.

# Canon Law

- When Innocent III became pope, he quoted Jer. 1:10, “*See, today I appoint you over nations and kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant.*” He declared himself to be the Vicar of Christ.
- Thomas Aquinas – Summa Theological (a summation of theological law) Salvation is through the sacraments. Submission to the pope was necessary for salvation.
- “The pope and his priests not only mediate the grace of God on earth, but by the miracle of the Blessed Sacrifice and by the prayers for the dead, they reach beyond the grave to minister to suffering souls.”
- Innocent III – “the pope is the judge of the world – set in the midst between God and man, below God but above man.”

# Moving toward reformation

- Growing numbers of laymen, instead of relying on the prayers of monks and bishops, read the Bible in their own languages.
- Many began to remember or learn, “There is one mediator between God and man, the man Jesus Christ.” (1Tim. 2:5)
- Inquisition – “a pure church was the will of God”
  - Inquisitor – subject only to pope, witness not necessary, torture
- Christian Empire

# Moving toward reformation

- Edward I in England and Philip the Fair in France – tax clergy.
- Boniface VIII threatened excommunication for any lay ruler who taxed the clergy and any churchman who paid such taxes.
- Edward – strip clergy of legal protection and take their lands
- Philip – complete embargo of gold, silver and jewels from his domain
- Boniface – it is necessary for every human to be subject to the Roman Pontiff.

# Moving toward reformation

- Clement and six other popes moved to Avignon in France instead of staying in Rome.
- Pope Gregory moved back to Rome.
- Urban became pope then rejected by French majority – another group of cardinals chosen and selected another pope. One was in Rome and the other in Avignon. They both excommunicated each other.
- Then a conference selected a third pope.
- Men began to think in terms of “national churches”.

# Moving toward reformation

- Protestor – Protestant
- John Wyclif
  - “Preaching is of more value than the administration of any sacrament.”
  - “The testimony of any man or any saint should only be accepted on the basis of Scripture.”
  - He denied transubstantiation.
  - He called for and provided the Bible in the language of craftsmen and peasants.

# Moving toward reformation

- John Hus
  - Paintings inspired by Wyclif
  - Preaching truth
  - Council of Constance – imprisoned – burned at the stake
  - “O most holy Christ, draw me, weak as I am, after Thyself, for if Thou dost not draw us we cannot follow Thee. Strengthen my spirit, that it may be willing. If the flesh is weak, let Thy grace precede us; come between and follow, for without Thee we cannot go for Thy sake to cruel death. Give me a fearless heart, a right faith, a firm hope, a perfect love, that for Thy sake I may lay down my life with patience and joy. Amen.”