

YESTERDAY'S TOMORROW
Session One
Class Leadership Instructions

Introduction Notes

[Begin this class by allowing the members to introduce themselves if they do not already know one another. It may be helpful for you to ask each person why they are taking the class. After your preliminaries, start the tape, "According to The Holy Spirit" which is about 35 minutes long.]

I. Preliminary notes.

A. The purpose of this class is to view contemporary issues of doctrine, life, and ministry through the perspective of the history of the Bible Fellowship Church.

B. The approach to these classes will not be lecture but rather interaction of class members.

1. History is people and issues, not dates and places.
 - a. Many of those who dislike history think of history as dates and places to be memorized.
 - b. We will seek to meet the people and wrestle with the issues which they faced and which we share.
2. Most of your information will come from the reading which is listed on the syllabus.
 - a. Primarily, Dr. Harold Shelly's book, The Bible Fellowship Church, will provide the story of our church.
 - b. Lecture will be minimized in favor of interaction
 - c. A brief introduction will begin each class.
3. The first class will be the only lecture in order to show you the roots of the church in the Reformation.

II. The Background.

A. Before the Reformation.

1. The Catholic Church knew consecration and corruption.
2. The Catholic Church, not a monolithic organization, saw sporadic and small attempts at reform.
3. In the 1400's, corruption was winning over consecration.

B. The Reformation.

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1. The Reformation was born in the rediscovery of the Bible.
 - a. The Catholic Church put great emphasis on its decrees and councils.
 - b. People were to accept those councils and what the church taught about the Bible.
 - c. Men studying the Scriptures began to see a large gap between biblical truth and church practice.
2. This gap gave rise to the reformers.
 - a. Martin Luther was the first to come to prominence.
 - b. Others rose up and went beyond Luther.
 - i. John Calvin and Ulrich Zwingli followed the trail which Luther opened.
 - ii. The movement could be traced through the sacraments.

	Catholicism	Luther	Calvin	Zwingli
Baptism	washes sin away	enrolls you in heaven	makes you a covenant child	questions at first, later like Calvin
Communion	delivers grace because it is really the body and blood of Jesus	strengthens you because Jesus is really present	nurtures your faith because Jesus has commanded it	a memorial, a way to be reminded of what Jesus did

- c. Our roots go to the group of people called anabaptists who were disciplined by Zwingli.
3. The anabaptists were born in a moment.
 - a. The moment was in the midst of a dispute concerning baptism.
 - b. Zwingli thought the town council ought to decide but his followers refused their authority.
4. The anabaptists began as a scattered band of cell groups which later became identified as Mennonites.
5. The Mennonites came to America during the late 1600's.

C. Revival during the 1850's.

1. Mennonites became very rigid and in grown.
2. Progressive ideas led John Oberholzter to split with the old Mennonites.
3. A controversy over protracted meetings led William Gehman to begin a group known as the Evangelical Mennonites.

D. From the Evangelical Mennonites, later the Mennonite Brethren in Christ Church, came the Bible Fellowship Church.