

Sermon Title: History is “His Story”

I love a good story! A good story can captivate us, it can affect us emotionally and the very best stories stick with us for a long time.

I believe that is why Jesus chose to teach his Disciples through stories from time to time, he just called them Parables.

How many of you can quote verses from 1 Kings? Stories stick with us a lot more than dates, facts, or information does.

This year we will be studying the History of the Church, and we will be looking at it over the last 2000 years as something very specific, and that is His Story. His being God.

But Pastor Jay, why are we studying Church History?

- 1) There are some questions that the Bible cannot answer without a knowledge of the History of the Church. And even though the History we will be studying is not the same thing as Scripture, it doesn't mean that we shouldn't study it.
- 2) The Bible itself tells us to know and study our history.
 - a. **Daniel 2:20-23**
 - b. **Deuteronomy 32:7-8:** “Remember the days of old; consider the years of many generations; ask your father, and he will show you, your elders, and they will tell you. 8 When the Most High gave to the nations their inheritance, when he divided mankind, he fixed the borders of the peoples according to the number of the sons of God.”
 - c. **Job 8:8b-10:** “For inquire, please, of bygone ages, and consider what the fathers have searched out. 9 For we are but of yesterday and know nothing, for our days on earth are a shadow. 10 Will they not teach you and tell you and utter words out of their understanding?”

How will we be studying Church History? My goal is to tell the story of how God's people the Church have moved and acted throughout history.

- You will see that there were times in which the Church interacted well with the world, and there were times in which they did a very poor job.
- **Christendom** - An empire like the Roman Empire that covered the whole world but with Jesus Christ as the Spiritual head.

Some stories from Church History that will show us how God has chosen to work in our world:

- St. Anthony – God's power shown as he was out for a walk.
- Boniface – Missionary to the Barbarians that God helped chop down a tree.

Some other reasons that you may want to take this class:

- If you grew up Roman Catholic and you don't know why they believe some of the things that they believe.
- If someone has asked you “why do Christians believe what they believe?”
- If you know the Bible History, and you know what has happened in your lifetime, but in between those is a large gap.

Challenges:

- 1) **Attend** this class either in person or online and join a small group to discuss what is being taught.
- 2) **Do your best not to romanticize the past** and **do your best not to judge the past.**
 - a. Ecclesiastes 7:10 says in the NLT “Don't long for “the good old days.” This is not wise.”

I hope the stories I shared with you this morning taught you a little something about how **God didn't stop working in the world at the end of the Bible.**

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Scripture passages to go up on the Screen:

Daniel 2:20-23 NLT: “Praise the name of God forever and ever, for he has all wisdom and power. ²¹ He controls the course of world events; he removes kings and sets up other kings. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the scholars. ²² He reveals deep and mysterious things and knows what lies hidden in darkness, though he is surrounded by light. ²³ I thank and praise you, God of my ancestors, for you have given me wisdom and strength. You have told me what we asked of you and revealed to us what the king demanded.”

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