

# SUNDAY SESSIONS

## Church History 1

WEEK 3  
MEDIEVAL CHRISTIANITY  
591 A.D. → 1499 A.D.

**Introduction: How the end of the imperial age set the stage for the medieval period**

**Early Medieval Period (591 AD – 799 AD)**

Pope Gregory I

Political Situation

**Middle Medieval Period (800 AD – 1199 AD)**

Charlemagne

Cycles of Corruption and Reform

*Celibacy of Clergy:*

*Simony:*

*Civil Appointment to Church Authority:*

Political Situation

“I say it to those who are present. I command that it be said to those who are absent. Christ commands it. All who go thither and lose their lives, be it on the road or on the sea, or in the fight against the pagans, will be granted immediate forgiveness for their sins. This I grant to all who will march, by virtue of the great gift which God has given me.” -Pope Urban II calling the crusades

## **Late Medieval Period (1200 AD – 1499 AD)**

Pope Boniface VIII

“...But if the supreme spiritual authority strays, it can only be judged by God, and not humans. We further declare, affirm, and define that it is absolutely necessary for salvation that all human creatures be under the Roman pontiff.” – Pope Boniface VIII in a papal bull

Babylonian Captivity of the Church

Papal Schism

Stage was Set for Reformation

## **Conclusion**

### **Discussion Questions**

1. The corruption in the medieval church showed that the leaders of the church were not “walking the walk” of their faith. How do we walk the walk of our faith, and are there ways that we are not practicing what we preach?
2. Thomas Aquinas stood up and gave an answer to a new thought pattern that threatened the faith. What are some new societal ways of thinking that have challenged your faith, and how are you learning to answer them?
3. Corruption occurred when the church leaders started turning away from following the Bible and nobody knew better to stop them. Who are some of the influences that you listen to, and do you know what accountability those teachers have?

### **Useful Resources:**

- The Story of Christianity Volume I: The Early Church to the Dawn of the Reformation; by Justo Gonzalez
- Church History 101: The Highlights of Twenty Centuries; by Sinclair B. Ferguson, Joel R. Beeke, and Michael A. G. Haykin