



## Syllabus

### **HIS 290: History of the Early Church** **Genesis Bible Institute**

#### *COURSE DESCRIPTION*

Millions of Christians gather each week to worship Jesus Christ. How did the Christian church grow from a small band of followers into a dominant worldwide presence? This course examines the beginning of the church and its growth from Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8). This course also emphasizes the expansion of the church through the work of the Holy Spirit and those who laid down their lives for Christ.

#### *LEARNING OUTCOMES*

Upon completion of this course, you will be able to:

- Explain the gospel message;
- Describe Paul's conversion and testimony;
- Compare Paul's mission/ministry to Jesus';
- Describe and compare the early martyrdoms found in Acts;
- Explain how the Holy Spirit empowered the apostles and the church;
- Summarize the conflicts between Jewish authorities and the early church;
- Make connections between Paul's epistles and events in Acts;
- Summarize Paul's strategies/arguments in defense of Jesus and the gospel;
- Analyze major events in Acts that served to grow the church and the opposition to it;
- Witness to skeptics and unbelievers;
- Evaluate the persecution of the apostles and describe its effect on you personally;
- Quote two Bible verses from memory: Acts 1:8 and Acts 4:12.

#### *REQUIRED READING*

- The Acts of the Apostles in one of the following translations: ESV, NASB, NIV, NKJV, NRSV, RSV
- Foxe, John; *Foxe's Book of Martyrs*. Ed. W. Grinton Berry. Grand Rapids: Spire, 1998. Print. (Note: You will only read pages 1-18. This excerpt is provided).

**ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING**

- *Study Guide Answers* (worth 60 points/60% of grade)  
The Study Guide consists of 6 units. You will examine issues related to the early church and reply to 10 questions in each unit for a total of 60 short-answer responses. Each answer is worth one point.
- *Assignment 1: A Glimpse of the Martyrs* (worth 10 points/10% of grade)  
Upon reading the excerpt from *Foxe’s Book of Martyrs*, you will consider the lives of ten apostles and create a chart that describes the people group/country to whom each apostle preached and how each was martyred.
- *Assignment 2: The Persecuted Apostles* (worth 20 points/20% of grade)  
Using *Foxe’s Book of Martyrs* (pp. 1-18) as your source, you will write a 5-paragraph essay that evaluates the persecution of the Apostles and describes its effect on you personally. There is no word length required for this paper.
- *Final Exam* (worth 10 points/10% of grade)  
You will be tested on the two verses you memorized in this course: Acts 1:8 and Acts 4:12.

<b>Summary of Assignments and Grading</b>		
Study Guide Answers	60 points	60%
A Glimpse of the Martyrs	10 points	10%
The Persecuted Apostles	20 points	20%
Scripture Memory Test	10 points	10%
Total:	100 points	100%