

CHURCH HISTORY

Lesson 17 – The Future?

Having traced the history of Christianity to the present, we turn our attention briefly to the future.

A. Given your study of Lessons 14 and 16, what future religious trends do you anticipate in the following areas?

1. Islam
2. Homosexuality
3. U.S. Government (e.g., laws, public schooling)
4. Use of social media and virtual services by congregations
5. "Christianity" overall in the U.S.
6. Non-institutional churches of Christ

B. Contrast Luke 18:8 and 1 Peter 1:22-23 regarding the future of New Testament Christianity.

C. Comment on the following based on the lessons in this series.

1. The importance of loving the Truth and having Bible authority (John 15:10; 2 Thes. 2:10; 1 John 5:3)
2. The danger of concentrated power (within a congregation, religious hierarchy, religious associations, church & state) (Acts 20:28-30; 1 Tim. 2:1-2; 3 John 9)
3. The likelihood of false doctrine, divisions, and falling away (Matt. 7:14; Acts 20:29; 1 Cor. 11:18-19; 1 Tim. 4:1)
4. Overcoming the challenge of finding a faithful congregation
5. Relative ignorance in the U.S. about the Bible and churches of Christ
6. The expectation of religious persecution (1 John 3:13; 1 Peter 4:12)
7. Temptations to give up, give in, go along (1 Kings 18-19; 1 Tim. 6:16; 1 Cor. 16:13)

D. What spiritual challenges do you see for yourself in the future? What can you do to overcome them?