**The Bitterroot Collegium**

*“Where Faith Seeks Understanding”*

Fall/Winter 2018

***“A Very Merry Medieval Christmas”***

Historical Theology: *The Medieval Church*

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The purpose of “The Bitterroot Collegium” is to provide a comprehensive program of Christian education that furthers the vision, values & mission of Mosaic Church, by equipping both the hearts and minds of Christian men and women to be more faithful and fruitful followers of the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Program Details**

Classes will meet for 1 hour per week and will generally continue from 4-8 weeks depending upon the topic. Topics/themes will draw from the 4 theological “food groups” including:

1. Biblical Theology
2. Historical Theology
3. Systematic Theology
4. Practical Theology

Classes will alternate between the “food groups,” while topics will be chosen based on the needs, interests & vision of the church.

**The Medieval & Reformation Church**

 While many evangelical Protestant Christians have a solid grasp of Biblical & Practical Theology, few have any real knowledge of their Christian heritage and how the Spirit of God has moved in the life of Christ’s church. This early winter, we are pleased to offer a course entitled, *A Very Merry Medieval Christmas* which will help us to understand Christian life, the development of Ecclesiology and key figures of Christian history from AD 1000-1500. Each session will include video and/or sound clips, as well as medieval Christmas seasonal emphases. Students may engage in three different ways. The *first* is simply to come to each class. The *second* is to complete the assigned readings from the class text (Justo Gonzalez, *The Story of Christianity, Vol. 1/2*. Peabody, MA Prince Press, 2010), prior to each class. The *third* is to complete the readings *and* the focus questions prior to each class.

**Course Syllabus**

25 Nov– **The Early Middle Ages (500-1000)**

 Reading: Gonzalez, Chapters 25-28

 Focus Questions: 1) What happened to the Roman Empire in the West? Why?

 2) In what new position did the Church at Rome find itself? What of the Church in the

 East?

 3) Who was the “founder” of Western monasticism. What is significant about

 his monastic rule?

 4) Who was Charlemagne and how did he later stabilize the West?

2 Dec – **The High Middle Ages (1000-1300)**

 Reading: Gonzalez, Chapters 29-31

 Focus Questions: 1) Compare & Contrast the Early & High Medieval periods.

 2) What were some of the various reasons that the Crusades were launched?

 3) Why was Pope Innocent III so significant?

 4) What are the origins of the modern university?

9 Dec – **The Late Middle Ages (1300-1500)**

 Reading: Gonzalez, Chapters 32-33

 Focus Questions: 1) Compare & Contrast the Late Medieval period with the Early & High

 Medieval periods.

 2) Why was nationalism so important?

 3) What was the Avignon papacy?

 4) Why was the Conciliar movement so important & also so difficult?

16 Dec – **The Renaissance & Humanism (1500’s)**

 Reading: Gonzalez, Chapter 34 & **Vol. 2,** Chapter 1 (2nd portion of the book).

 Focus Questions: 1) What was the “Renaissance?” Where did it receive its “inspiration?”

 2) What was/is “Humanism?” Where did it receive its “inspiration?”

 3) Why did the Renaissance popes create such a “stir?”

 4) Discuss early calls for reformation and early figures associated with it.

23 Dec – **The Spanish & Portuguese Empires (1500’s)**

 Reading: Gonzalez, Chapter 35-36

 Focus Questions: 1) Who was Christopher Columbus? Why did the Spanish conquistadors and the

 Spanish crown frequently clash regarding possessions in the New World.

 2) What was the role of Catholic priests in the conversion of the natives (Indians) in

 the Caribbean and South America?

 3) How was Portuguese expansion different from the Spanish? Where were their territories?

 4) Who were some notable Portuguese missionaries. Discuss their evangelistic

methods. Why were the Jesuit priests so important in the evangelization of people in

South America and the Far East?