

THE EARLY CHURCH

- I. Major sources of our knowledge of the early Christian church
- II. Names and dates of the earliest Christian writings
- III. Differences of opinion in reconstructing the picture of the New Testament church - Acts not enough from a historical view - everything we used from a spiritual point, but not a historical -
- IV. The Acts of the Apostles--general background
 1. Date and authorship
 2. Luke as a writer
 3. Historicity
 4. The chief concerns of Acts
 - a. The church
 - b. Jerusalem
 - c. Rome
 5. The picture of the church in the book of Acts
- V. Major subjects in the book of Acts
 1. The ascension (Acts 1:1-11)
 2. The twelve (Acts 1:12-26)
 3. Pentecost (Acts 2)
 4. The early church (Acts 3-5)
 5. The seven (Acts 6)
 6. Philip (Acts 8)
 7. The conversion of Cornelius (Acts 10-11)
- VI. Life in the early church
 1. The spread of the church
 2. Gnosticism
 3. Places of worship
 4. Baptism and eucharist
 5. Sabbath and Sunday
 6. Church order
 7. Persecution
 - a. Jewish persecution
 - b. Roman persecution
 8. Why did anyone think of becoming a Christian at this time?