

**A History of Heresy:
The History of the Church from 50—500 AD
Summer 2023
Session One**

Introduction

Title for class from book by David Christie-Murray

Church History is easily told as a history of the church's response to heresy

- Seen clearly from 50—500 AD

Defining Heresy:

- Orthodoxy: *orthos + doxa* (from dokeo)
- Heresy: (h)airesis

A definition of heresy: _____

- Jude 3,4

I. The _____ for Heresy

a. The _____ of Satan

i. The _____ of the truth

1. Romans 1:16
2. John 8:32

ii. The _____ of lies

1. John 8:44
2. Genesis 2:16,17; 3:1,4,5

II. The _____ of Heresy

a. In the Old Testament

- i. Deuteronomy 13,18
- ii. Nehemiah 6:10
- iii. Jeremiah 14:13f; 28:1,2,12-17

b. Apostolic era (New Testament: 30—90 AD)

- i. Matthew 7:15-20
- ii. Acts 20:28-31
- iii. Romans 16:17,18
- iv. 1 Corinthians 15:12f
- v. 2 Corinthians 11:13-15
- vi. Galatians 1:6-9
- vii. Colossians 2:4,8,18f
- viii. 1 Timothy 1:3-7; 4:1-3
- ix. 2 Timothy 1:13,14; 2:16-18
- x. 2 Peter 2:1-3
- xi. 1 John 4:1-3
- xii. Jude 3,4

c. Early Church (90—500 AD)

d. Continues unabated to the present day

III. The _____ for Heresy

a. The _____ of God: Genesis 50:20

- i. Heretics come to distort and deceive—“to steal, kill and destroy...”
- ii. God uses the conflict to increase:
 - 1. _____
 - 2. _____
 - 3. _____

b. An ongoing series of heretics and heresies leading to faithful Christians who “contend for the faith” and clarify the truths of the gospel

c. Seen in First four ecumenical Church Councils

- i. Nicea 325
- ii. Constantinople 381
- iii. Ephesus 431
- iv. Chalcedon 451