

Week 2 The Early Church Era

1. Overview

- 1) The Early Church Era spans from the ascension of Jesus Christ through the apostolic age and early church fathers.
 - 2) It is a foundational period in which the church was established and the gospel began to spread throughout the world.
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2. Learning Objectives

- 1) Understand the formation and development of the early church.
 - 2) Identify the core teachings of the apostles.
 - 3) Analyze the growth of the church under persecution.
 - 4) Understand early heresies and the church's response.
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3. Key Contents

1) The Birth of the Church

- (1) Pentecost (Acts 2)
 - (2) Formation of the Christian community
 - (3) Apostolic authority and ministry
 - (4) Key Feature: Spirit-centered, Word-centered, Community-centered
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2) Expansion of the Gospel

- (1) Jerusalem → Judea → Samaria → Ends of the earth (Acts 1:8)
 - (2) Beginning of Gentile missions
 - (3) Missionary journeys of Paul
 - (4) Key Theme: Universality of the Gospel
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3) Persecution and Growth

- (1) Jewish persecution
 - (2) Roman persecution
 - (3) Faith of martyrs
 - (4) Result: The church expanded through scattering
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4) Faith and Life of the Early Church

- (1) Apostles' teaching

- (2) Fellowship and sharing
 - (3) Prayer and worship
 - (4) Essence: Word + Spirit + Community
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5) Early Heresies and Response

- (1) Gnosticism
 - (2) Legalism
 - (3) Need for doctrinal clarity
 - (4) Result: Establishment of orthodox faith
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4. Theological Summary

- 1) The church began by the Holy Spirit
 - 2) The gospel is for all nations
 - 3) Suffering is part of church growth
 - 4) Truth must be defended against distortion
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5. Application & Discussion

- 1) What challenges does the early church present to modern churches?
 - 2) How can we participate in spreading the gospel today?
 - 3) Is the modern church maintaining the essence of the early church?
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6. Conclusion

- 1) The Early Church is not merely history but a model for today's church.
- 2) A Spirit-led and gospel-centered life remains essential in every age.