

Rise of Christianity: Acts to the Reformation (CH240)

Australian College of Theology name: *Rise of Christianity: Acts to the Reformation*

Unit Description

How did Christianity get from New Testament times to the English Reformation and become the foundation of Protestant beliefs today? Explore the development of Christianity from its earliest beginning until the Reformation, as the gospel spreads throughout the world despite opposition, misunderstanding and conflict.

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will:

A. *Know and understand:*

1. The major phases and developments in the history of Christianity up until and including the Reformation.
2. The life and thought of selected key figures in the history of Christianity

B. *Be able to:*

1. Describe the impact of the social, political and cultural context on Christian beliefs, practices and movements.
2. Use primary and secondary sources.
3. Present an evidence-based perspective or narrative.

Be in a position to:

1. Apply historical perspectives from these periods to their theological studies and in ministry contexts.

Content

Section A: The Early Church:

- (a) The Spread of Christianity to 312. (The Apologists)
- (b) The Challenge of Other Religions (Irenaeus)
- (c) Wrestling with the Faith (Arianism & Chalcedon)

Section B: Christendom:

- (a) The Conversion of Europe (600-900) (Boniface/Crediton/Alcuin of York)

(b) Byzantium, Islam and the Crusades

Section C: The Continental and English Reformations:

(a) The Continental Reformation (Luther and Calvin)

(b) The Counter Reformation

(c) The English & Scottish Reformation (Cranmer and Knox)