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To Jesus Through Mary

Name _____ Per. _____ Date _____
Eighth Grade Religion Test: Chapters 1 and 2 Possible Written Questions

1. *What four conditions favored the rapid growth of the Christian movement during the first three centuries? Explain each.*

- A. The Peace of Rome (Pax Romana) which lasted about 200 years coincided with the birth of Jesus and the beginning of the Jesus movement. The 5 emperors of this period created a stable government which was able to maintain order, build good roads, fostering good commerce and a good economy. The single Roman law and common currency were factors contributing to a good economy. The Roman World stretching from the Mediterranean Sea to Britain was at peace with all of her neighbors.
- B. Cultural Unity through the use of Greek culture and the Greek language. Alexander the Great of Macedonia back in the 300's BC conquered much of the Mideast. He unified this vast empire through forcing Hellenism upon the conquered peoples. Part of this Hellenism included a simplified form of the Greek language. When the Romans conquered this area they added to this cultural unity by imposing a single law, Roman law, upon all.
- C. There was a Spiritual Hunger. Many people felt an emptiness in their lives. The old Roman and Greek religions of animal sacrifice to countless gods were no longer meaningful to most people. Worshipping the emperor as god also seemed senseless. Many were looking for a new religion which would touch and transform their lives.
- D. The example of how the early Christians actually lived their lives. Jesus offered a new commandment; to love another as He loved them. Christians were living lives of a better quality. The Roman world was violent and mean-spirited. The Christians formed communities where love of the other was of primary concern. These communities became loving and caring support communities in a very hostile world.

2. *The Council of Jerusalem*

A. *What events led up to this crisis in the early Church?*

The success of Paul's and Barnabas' first missionary journey to Cyprus and Asia Minor saw many Gentiles joining the Jesus movement. Many more Gentiles were actually joining compared to Jewish joiners. Some Jews for Jesus said the Gentiles must first become Jewish before becoming followers of Jesus, since Jesus was a Jew. This meant they would have to follow the Jewish dietary laws and be circumcised as well. The Gentiles were not interested in the Jewish dietary laws or the Jewish practice of circumcision. They sought only baptism.

B. *What was at the root of this crisis?*

The real issue here was what does it take to be a follower of Jesus; following the Jewish Law or having faith in Jesus?

C. *What four guidelines did the Council of Jerusalem proclaim?*

- do not eat the meat of animals sacrificed to the pagan gods
- do not drink the blood of animals sacrificed to the pagan gods
- do not eat the meat of strangled animals
- do not commit fornication

D. *How/why did the Council of Jerusalem help to widen the spread of the early Christian movement?*

Basically the Council decreed that all you needed to be a follower of Jesus was faith in Jesus. This opened the Jesus movement to the entire Gentile world. They were spiritually hungry for a new religion. For a better way of living and now they found it in the Jesus movement.

3. *Explain the five journeys of Paul. Where did he go? Who were his traveling companions? What problems did he have?*

First Journey

Paul's travelling companion was Barnabas. They journeyed to Cyprus and the southwestern coast of Asia Minor. They began by preaching about Jesus in the local synagogues, but most of the Diaspora Jews were not interested in a crucified messiah. So Paul and Barnabas turned next to the Gentiles. They were spiritually thirsting for a new way of living. They eagerly accepted Paul's and Barnabas' teachings about Jesus. This influx of Gentiles for Jesus led to the Council of Jerusalem.

Second Journey

Paul and Barnabas split up on the second journey over Mark, Barnabas' nephew. Since he got homesick on the first journey, Paul did not want to take him on this journey. Paul and Barnabas went their separate ways. Paul's new travelling companions were Silas, Timothy, and Luke. They journeyed to Macedonia. This is the first time the Jesus movement enters the European continent. They visit such cities as Philippi, Thessalonica, Athens and Corinth. Paul will spend about 2 ½ years in Corinth.

Third Journey

Paul's third journey is a revisiting of all the places and communities of his first two journeys. He visits these places to reaffirm that it is faith only in Jesus that is necessary to be part of the Jesus movement. A group known as the Judaizers has been causing trouble among the Gentile Christians, falsely claiming that they must first become Jews, follow the Jewish law and then become followers of Jesus. Paul will wind up in Ephesus, the capital of Asia Minor, for three years. There he begins his letter writing career. He writes to all of the communities that he has established giving them guidelines on how to live as followers of Jesus.

Fourth Journey

Paul's fourth journey brings him to Rome. He makes his way to Rome as a prisoner. During a visit to Jerusalem a riot broke out when some Jews from the Diaspora saw Paul at the Temple and thought he was mocking the Jewish Temple. When the riot broke out the Roman army intervened and arrested Paul. The Jewish leaders in Jerusalem wanted to put Paul to death for blasphemy. As a Roman citizen, Paul appealed that his case be heard by the Roman Emperor in Rome. So Paul was sent to Rome in chains and spent 2 years under house arrest. No Jewish leaders ever went to Rome to testify against Paul so after 2 years he was freed.

Fifth Journey

Once gaining his freedom, Paul once again revisited all of the communities he founded. In wound up back in Rome in the mid 60's. During this time the emperor Nero began to persecute the Christians in Rome. Both Peter, who by this time was also in Rome, and Paul were arrested. Peter was crucified upside down. Paul was beheaded.

4. *What are the 7 reasons why the Roman government persecuted the early Christians?*

- the Romans were suspicious of the Christians because of their secret meetings (gathering on Sundays for the breaking of the bread)
- the Romans accused them of being cannibals (rumors of eating the body and drinking the blood of this Jesus guy)
- the Christians didn't participate in the Roman free sexual practices
- the Christians believed in equality of all and the Romans freed this undermined their authority
- the Romans called the Christians atheists since they did not worship the Roman gods
- the Romans considered the Christians a threat to the stability of the Roman empire because they lived their lives differently
- the Romans accused the Christians of treason since they would not worship the emperor as a god

5. *List the books of the New Testament.*

The Gospels

Matthew
Mark
Luke
John

The Letters

Hebrews
James
1 Peter
2 Peter
1 John
2 John
3 John
Jude

Other Books

Acts of the Apostles
Revelation

The Letters of Paul

Romans
Galatians
Ephesians
1 Corinthians
2 Corinthians
1 Thessalonians
2 Thessalonians
Philippians
Colossians
1 Timothy
2 Timothy
Titus
Philemon