



# CH101 THE HISTORY OF CHRISTIANITY I: FROM JERUSALEM TO CHANG'AN (AD 1 – 1500)

Dr. Lai Pak Wah | 3CR

## About the Course

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The History of Christianity I is the first of a two course survey (3 credits each) on the history of Christianity over the last 2,000 years.

The course aims to identify the significant historical movements in the first 1,500 years of church history and consider their influence and relevance for contemporary Christians, especially those living in Asia. We begin with the theological, historical and spiritual developments in, what John Calvin calls the 'Golden Age of the Church', that is, the age of the church fathers (2nd to 5th centuries).

### Dates (2020)

July 17  
August 7, 21  
September 4, 18  
October 16, 30

(7:15pm – 10:00pm)

### Credits

3CR

### Class Format

Blended Learning  
(Zoom Lectures & Tutorials)

### Location

TBA

### Fees\*

S\$450(Credit)  
S\$240 (Audit)

\* Students from Host Churches are entitled to 20% off credit courses only

## About the Lecturer

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**Dr Lai Pak Wah** is Principal and lecturer of Church History and Historical Theology at BGST. A graduate from BGST (Grad Dip CS) and Regent College, Vancouver (MCS, ThM), Pak Wah completed his PhD at Durham University, where he specialised in Christianity in Late Antiquity, i.e., the history, theology and spirituality of the 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> century church fathers (Patristic Studies).

Pak Wah has published articles and chapters on John Chrysostom's preaching, soteriology and Trinitarian doctrine. He is also author of *The Dao of Healing: Christian Perspectives of Chinese Medicine*. Previously, Pak Wah was a lecturer at the School of Business, Singapore Polytechnic, and was engaged in investment promotion work with the Singapore Economic Development Board.



# Course Objectives

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Upon completion of the course, it is hoped that the student will:

- i. Be able to identify the significant historical movements in the first 1,500 years of church history
- ii. Be able to understand how these movements influenced thinking of the day
- iii. Be able to evaluate the impact of that influence and how it is relevant to contemporary Christians
- iv. Be able to create an Asian response to these movements

## Academic Information

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### Course Texts

- (1) Gonzalez, Justo L. *The Story of Christianity: Volume 1*. S.F.: Prince Press, 1994, 1999.
  - (2) Wilken, Robert. *The Spirit of Early Christian Thought: Seeking the Face of God*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2003.
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### Assignments

- (1) Readings
- (2) Online Questions and Fora
- (3) Class Presentation
- (4) Book Review (1,200 – 1,500 words)
- (5) Reflection Paper (1,000 words)
- (6) Essay (3,000 – 3,500 words)

For more information, contact us at **Biblical Graduate School of Theology**  
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