

Welcome to

faith and practice

overview

week 1 : starting a journey

week 2 : faith in God

week 3 : living for Jesus

week 4 : the help of the Spirit

week 5 : about Church

welcome

this week...

The Church: in faith and practice

Understanding ideas about the Holy Spirit

Doctrine of HS comes out of the New testament

God reveals Himself to us by the Spirit

Spirit as person

The Church: place



The Church: people



The Church: religion & ritual



The Church: in faith and practice

The Church: in New Testament

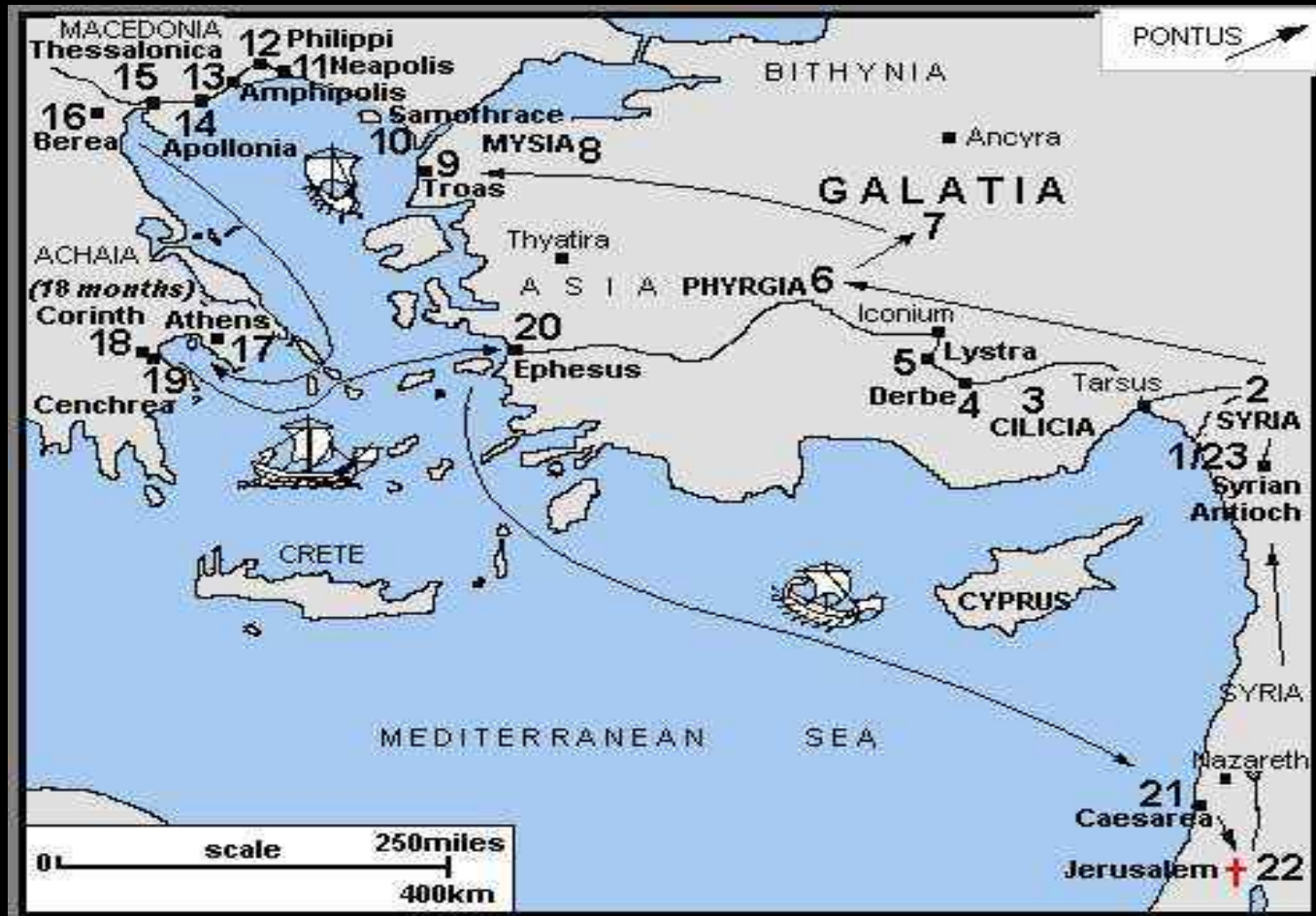
And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. 19 I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven;

Matt. 16: 13ff

Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, 26 and when he found him, he brought him to Antioch. So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul met with the church and taught great numbers of people. The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch.

AC 11:25

Paul's 2nd missionary journey



The Church: in formation

100-325 AD

Church before institution

325 – 600 AD

Church of the Empire

Early thinking

Councils and Creeds

East and West Split

The Church: believing what?

The meaning of faith?

Scripture canon?

How could God share our human life?

Was Christ really God?

Belief summarised in Creeds



question time re: faith

NT | mission | formation | believing what?

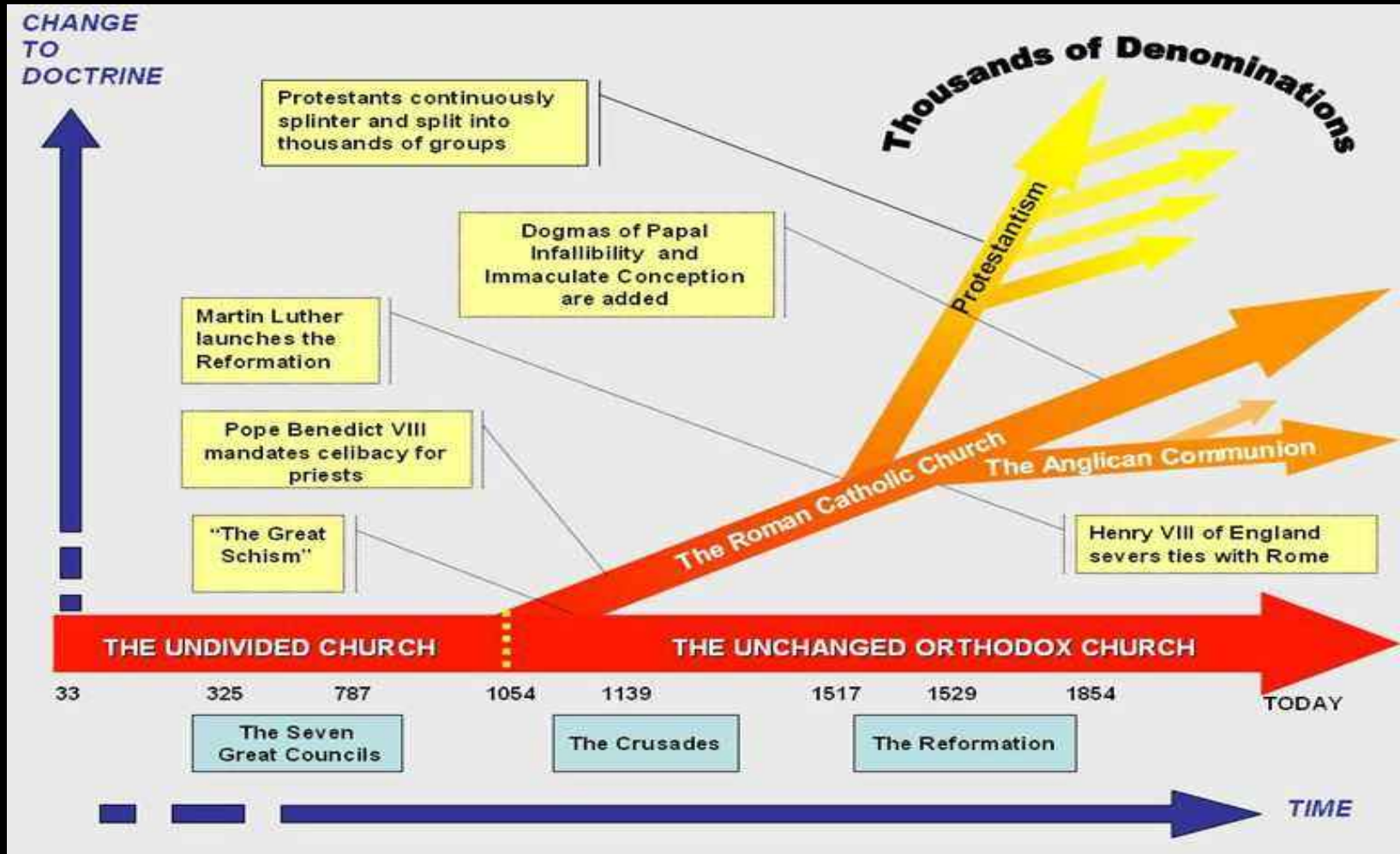
Do you think the early Church provides a model for us to follow or does the inspiration of the Spirit that we receive today have equal value?

What do you think were the top priorities for the early Church?

How do they compare with the priorities that we have in the Church today?

The Church: in faith and practice

The Church: how did we get here?



The Church: reformation

- Martin Luther
- God's Word
- Grace Alone
- All priests
- John Calvin
- Protestants
- Tyndale and Bible



The Church: next 500 years!

The Church: next 500 years!

Although one of the smaller mainstream denominations, the United Reformed Church plays a dynamic and challenging part in the British Christian community. It has brought together English Presbyterians, English, Welsh and Scottish Congregationalists, and members of the Churches of Christ, through unions in 1972, 1981 and 2000. One hundred thousand people make up 1600 congregations, with nearly 800 ministers, paid and unpaid.



The Church: next 500 years!



'The Methodist Church claims and cherishes its place in the Holy Catholic Church which is the Body of Christ. It rejoices in the inheritance of the apostolic faith and loyally accepts the fundamental principles of the historic creeds and of the Protestant Reformation.'

Methodist Deed of Union

The Church: next 500 years!

What kind of Church?

Theology and all that...

Bible – how we use it

Conservative and radical?

Eg the Devil!



question time re: practice

how here | reformation | URC | methodist

What things should we do in the future to ensure that we don't misrepresent what the Church truly is?

Some people want the Church to be clearer about what it stands for, to be less wooly! Do you think this is the way forward for the Church?

What areas of the Churches life would you like to be made clearer?

over to you

final questions and comments?

what next?

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from here on...



www.thecrossing.co.uk/church/growing/fandp