

# EMBASSY COLLEGE



ἀντὶς οὗ ἐμπροσθεν μου γέγονεν, οὐκ ἄλλοτος  
μου ἦν. 31 καὶ γὰρ οὐκ ᾔδειν αὐτόν, ἀλλ' ἵνα  
φανερῶθῃ τῷ Ἰσραὴλ διὰ τοῦτο ἦλθον ἐγὼ  
ἐν ὕδατι βαπτίζων. 32 Καὶ ἐμαρτύρησεν  
Ἰωάννης λέγων ὅτι Τεθέαμαι τὸ πνεῦμα.



## SYLLABUS AND STUDY GUIDE History of Christianity in America 1 HT109

Dr. Stephen Mansfield

*“The more thoroughly a nation deals with its history, the more decidedly will it recognize and own an over-ruling Providence therein, and the more religious a nation will it become; while the more superficially it deals with its history, seeing only secondary causes and human agencies, the more irreligious will it be.”*

*Rev. A. W. Foljambe*

# THE INSTRUCTOR

## Stephen Mansfield, Ph.D.

**Stephen Mansfield** believes that life ought to be lived passionately, adventurously and on a large scale. His manner of living certainly reflected this philosophy and it has made him the writer, the statesman, and the educator that he is.

Stephen was born in 1958 to a military family and grew up largely in Europe due to his father's work as an intelligence officer in the United States Army. After a youth filled with sports, travel, and mischief, Stephen was recruited to play college football but turned down the opportunity when a religious conversion moved him to attend a Christian college.

After majoring in history and philosophy, he moved to Texas where he pastored a church, earned several master's degrees, hosted a radio show and founded a nationwide network of agencies serving the poor. He moved to Tennessee in 1991 where he again pastored a church, worked extensively in Middle East politics, and completed a doctorate. It was during this time that he also began writing books. His first book on Winston Churchill was a Gold Medallion Award Finalist. He also wrote biographies of Booker T. Washington and George Whitefield as well as a number of other books on history and leadership.

In 2002, Stephen left the pastorate to write and lecture full-time while continuing to exert influence on the American political scene. It was during this time that he wrote *The Faith of George W. Bush*, which spent many weeks on the New York Times bestseller list and has been credited with profoundly shaping public discourse on religion in America.

Stephen is becoming one the nation's most sought after commentators and lecturers on matters of faith, politics, and American culture. He has founded Mansfield Group to answer the pressing needs of leading organizations for education that explains the times and the trends that define the future. He has also founded Chartwell Literary Group, a network of writers, researchers, and artists who help leaders impact culture through books and literature.

His latest books are *The Faith of the American Soldier* and *Benedict XVI: His Life and Mission*. Both have been released to widespread acclaim.

When he is not writing or lecturing, Stephen feeds his addiction to racquetball and a good laugh with friends over something wonderful to eat. His lifestyle is testimony to this maxim: "Live every day as though it were your last, for one day you are sure to be right."

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# History of Christianity in America - Part 1

Rev. Stephen Mansfield

## Course Orientation

### I. Course Description

History of Christianity in America - Part 1 is designed to impart destiny through the study of history. Looking at history as a tapestry God weaves in time, the course gives an overview of the major events and ideas of American Christian history before the American Revolution: The Reformation, Christopher Columbus, the Pilgrim and Puritan fathers, the Great Awakening and the spiritual conflicts that led to the American Revolution. This course is far from the traditional “dates and dead people” approach to history found in the secular classroom.

### II. Course Objectives

This course aims to:

- A. Acquaint students with the history of Christianity in America before the American Revolution.
- B. Foster an awareness of the sovereignty of God through a study of history.

### III. Suggested Tools of Study

- A. This study guide/syllabus  
Textbook: Marshall, Peter and David Manuel. *The Light and the Glory*. Grand Rapids: Revell, 1977.

### IV. Suggested Study Habits

- A. DO NOT miss a single class session.
- B. Master the study guide and use it as you listen to the lecture.
- C. Take notes. Short term memory will fail you. Take more than a blessing away from the class - take notes.

V. Course Requirements

A. Attendance at lectures

B. There will be a final examination over the entire course. You will have six weeks to complete the class and take the exam.

# Introduction

An architect once told me a truth about his field that surprised me and that is easily a parallel to Christian history.

The architect said a house does not really fulfill its original design unless it is first built, it declines, and it is then restored according to its original blueprint. In other words, it is in restoration that the original purpose is fulfilled.

The analogy this provides for Church history is perfect. That the Church lived in relative purity during the first century and then declined until the Reformation is accepted by virtually all Christians. But what has eluded many believers is that since the Reformation, God has been restoring the truth, the power and the glory that was lost from the first century through the Reformation.

For Christians living at this point in time, the pattern of decline and restoration we see in history points to an exciting future. If God will enable us to study the past so as to reveal the future, we will be better equipped to know the times and to know what God's people should do.

While this course is not a systematic treatment of Church history, it is an overview of God's restoring work in history. If it is true, as Ecclesiastes 1:9 - 10 states, that what has been will be again, then what we see in the past will be encountered again in the future. For those who have pledged their lives in the service of the Lamb of God, this preparation for the exciting days of victory that lay ahead will make them more effective tools in the hands of their God.

## I. Our Problems with History

### A. Miss Wretched Complex - Our Problems from School

1. History is dates and dead people.
2. Evolutionary approach: Everything is an accident.

### B. Christian Problems

1. Rapture
2. Charismatic Syndrome of 1901
3. Low view of God

C. Technological Advance in Our Society

**II. History Is Like an Individual.**

(Jeremiah 1:5, Psalm 139, Philippians 3:12)

**III. Scriptures That Show God Created and Makes History**

A. He Rules the Hearts of Kings (Proverbs 21:1)

B. He Determines All Authority (Romans 13:1)

C. He Sets Up and Disposes of Rulers (Daniel 2:21)

D. He Determines Where Men Live (Acts 17:26)

E. He Determines the Times Set for Men (Acts 17:27)

F. He Controls the Weather (Psalm 148:8, Psalm 147:8,15 - 18)

G. He Controls the Times and the Seasons (Daniel 2:21)

H. He Creates Disaster and Prosperity (Isaiah 45:7)



I. He Does as He Pleases with the Peoples of the Earth (Daniel 4:35)

J. He Determines the Outcomes of Wars (Proverbs 21:31)

#### **IV. Christian History**

A. We See a Revelation of God (Romans 1:18).

B. Power of Heritage

1. Karl Marx

2. Story of Stephen

3. Youth today - blacks

C. The Future (Ecclesiastes 1:9 - 11)

1. Taking our cities and healing land - Salisbury

2. Anti-Christian bias - 95% of history from mini-series

D. Inspiration - Cloud of Witnesses - Hebrews 12

E. Restoration - Acts 3

V. American History - The Covenant Concept - Wesley Prophecy

*“History maketh a man old, without either wrinkles or gray hairs; privileging him with the experience of age, without either the infirmities or inconveniences thereof.”*

Thomas Fuller  
English Divine  
Church Historian

*“History has a wonderful way of freeing us from the cult of the contemporary.”*

Richard J. Foster

*“Some people live in the present, oblivious of the past and blind to the future. Some dwell in the past. A very few have the knack of applying the past to the present in ways that show them the future. Great leaders have this knack.”*

Richard Nixon