

**Lesson 16: The Age of
Christian Empire: The Pilgrim
Church, Monasteries, and
Missions**

Characteristics of the Pilgrim Church

- Terminology comes from E.H. Broadbent's book *The Pilgrim Church*.
- Terms describes groups of believers throughout history who remained separate from the church/state union of Catholicism.
- These believers were persecuted and their written works destroyed by the state/church.
- Calling themselves Christians or Brethren they were given names and titles by their enemies that they themselves did not accept.

Characteristics of the Pilgrim Church

- While all their beliefs do not jive with the views of mid-Acts dispensationalists we can observe much more in common with these saints than the church branding them heretics.

Members of the Pilgrim Church

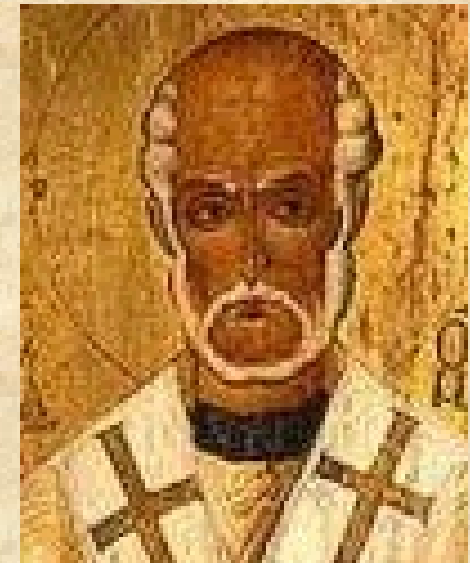
- For organizational purposes, we will consider only those pilgrim groups that fit best into The Age of Christian Empire between 313 and 590 AD.



**Donatists
(313-411 AD)**



**Priscillian
(?-385)**



**Nestorius
(?-451)**

Key Points Regarding the Pilgrim Church

- They resisted the church/state union
- They resisted the hierarchy of the Catholic Structure
- They were labeled as heretics for refusing to submit to Church authority
- The organized church/state would not hesitate to kill them
- The Pilgrim Church was more interested in preaching the gospel and maintaining power and authority.

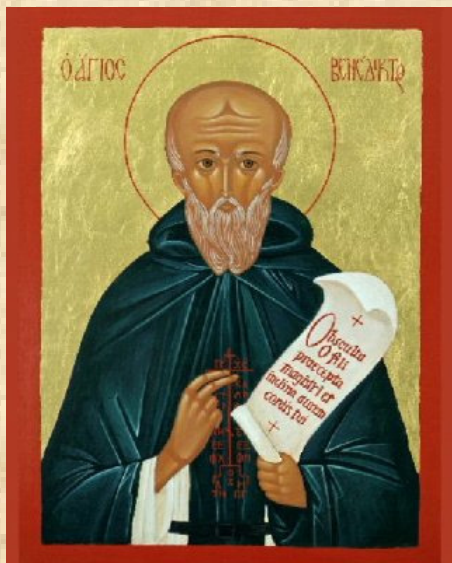
Monks and Monasteries



Anthony of Egypt the first monk

- According to Latourette, there were three types of monasticism:
 - *The hermit*—where a monk lived in solitude
 - *Modified hermit*—possessed individual dwellings (cell, cave, or hut) yet were sufficiently near one another for shelter.
 - *Monastery*—monks lived in a community where they were governed by a head monk and by rules.

Monks and Monasteries



Benedict of Nursia established a famous order or rules for monks to follow



Jerome translated the Latin Vulgate using Origen's *Hexapla* as his text. This helps explain how Apocryphal books were included in the Catholic Cannon

Missions

- Many believing Roman soldiers were captured by the Goths who despite a condition of servitude did much to spread the gospel amongst the Goths.
- Ulphilas, commonly referred to as “the Apostle of the Goths” invented an alphabet and translated the Bible into the Gothic language about the middle of the 4th century.



- On Christmas Day, 496, Clovis king of the pagan Franks was baptized at Rheims.
- Like Constantine, Clovis found the profession of Christianity most favorable to his political interests.

Missions

- How did Clovis spread his new found faith? The entire population of Gaul converted to Christendom after Clovis issued the following decree: “Knowing that those who do not present themselves with me at the river tomorrow for baptism will incur my displeasure.” (Price and Collins, 79)
- “. . . when kings came to confess Christianity, the principle of Church and State led to the forcible outward conversion of multitudes of their subjects to the new State religion. Instead of churches being founded in the different towns and countries, independent of any central organization and having direct relations with the Lord, as in the apostolic days, all were drawn into one of the great organizations which had its center in Rome or Constantinople or elsewhere.” (Broadbent, 56)

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