Church History

Mr. Myers

Chapt. 4

**Constantine and His Significance**

1. Background
   1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_—emperor of late 3rd century who “grabbed the empire by the scruff of the neck and shook it into new life”; tried to reinvigorate paganism and instigated a severe persecution of the church
   2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ followed Diocletian and continued the persecution until his deathbed when he stopped the persecution
2. Constantine’s Rise
   1. In the vacuum of Galerius’s death, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_—military leader stationed in Gaul—moved on Rome to take power
   2. He met his rival Maxentius just north of Rome at Milvan Bridge; the night before the battle, Constantine saw a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ above the sun and the words “In this sign, conquer”; he took it for a Christian sign and won the battle in “Christ’s name”
   3. From then on, Constantine made Christianity a significant consideration (though not always supreme) in his life and political policy
   4. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (313)—Official acceptance of Christianity
   5. Constantine’s personal life:
      1. Maintained the title of *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (*pagan high priest)
      2. Had various potential competitors murdered, including his own \_\_\_\_\_\_
      3. Continued to wage \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
      4. Was not \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ until on his deathbed
   6. Detrimental results of the Constantinian shift:
      1. Many people entered the church who were not \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Christians
      2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ leaders exerted control within the church
      3. The church begins to adopt \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ from the political world
   7. The Constantinian shift marks a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in the history of the church—after the Edict of Milan, the growth of the church skyrockets in terms of numbers but slides backward in terms of spirituality and faithfulness to Christ