Church History

1. Waldo and his People
   1. Sincerity in the midst of hypocrisy
   2. Around the year 1176 a wealthy French merchant by the name of Peter Waldo gave up all his wealth and began preaching the idea of discipleship for all Christians, not just monks and other special classes of people. Other people joined him in his ideas and lifestyle. Although Waldo did not turn on the Roman church, he was condemned by it since he preached without its permission. As a result, he and his followers (known as Waldenses) bore the disapproval and persecution of the Roman Church for many years.
   3. Notable and admirable things about the Waldenses
      1. Believed that the Scriptures, especially the New Testament, should be the rule for faith and practice
      2. Advocated a simple, sincere, and obedient life of discipleship for all Christians
      3. They rejected the swearing of oaths and the use of violence
      4. They rejected the Catholic view of mass and purgatory
2. The Albigenses
   1. Perversion in the midst of hypocrisy
   2. In the late Middle Ages, the heresy of Manicheism, which was a mixture of pagan and Christian ideas, revived in a movement of people who became known as the Albigenses. They believed in two gods, one good and one bad. They believed that the physical world came from the bad god.\* Although they retained some Christian ideas in their religion, they were really not Christian at all. Along with the Waldenses, they were persecuted by the Catholic Church. \*They were supposed to avoid marriage, sexual intercourse, eating of meat, and material possessions.
3. A Thing Called Inquisition
   1. Fighting evil (and sometimes good) with evil
   2. Because of the growth of these groups which disagreed with the Catholic Church in one way or another, the Roman Church developed a method of questioning and interrogating anyone whom they suspected of holding a different view from that of the Church.
   3. Unfortunately, many times torture and other unjust tactics were used by these Inquisitors
   4. If the Inquisition found a person guilty, the person had the choice between recanting or death
   5. When a person refused to recant, he was normally handed over to civil authorities, who executed him by burning at the stake or some similar method