VII. The Church in the New Testament Era

A. Relationship with Judaism

1. Began within Judaism

2. Grew apart from Judaism fairly quickly

B. Expansion of the church

1. Rapid growth in Palestine

2. Rapid growth around the Mediterranean Basin

3. Missionary journeys of Paul and his companions

C. Persecution of the church in biblical times

1. Opposition of the Jewish religious establishment (martyrdom of Stephen)

2. Persecution by Roman emperors

a. Nero - A.D. 64 - Peter and Paul probably killed

b. Domitian - A.D. 90-100 - John sent to Isle of Patmos

D. The vitality of the church

1. Acts 2:42-47

2. Acts 4:18-21, 32

3. Acts 6:1-3

E. Problems within the church

1. Ananias and Sapphira

2. Church at Corinth

3. Churches referred to in the first chapters of Revelation

F. The beliefs of the church

**The Apostles’ Creed**

I believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty

Maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son, our Lord,

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,

and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, died and was buried.

He descended into hell.

On the third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty.

From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic church,

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body

and the life of the world to come. Amen.