

## I. Introduction.

- A. Today's lesson deals with those faithful Christians and churches who suffered so greatly during the Inquisition.
- B. We briefly studied the history of the names of the true churches of the first four centuries. It will be remembered that with rise of errors those churches who remained loyal and maintained their New Testament identity were called by many different names throughout the centuries. We studied about the Montanists, Novatians, Donatists, Paulicans, and Anabaptists.
- C. The true Christians and churches were identified by many different names. However, through these churches, the identifying doctrines of the New Testament were passed from generation to generation. Through these churches can be traced the Baptists of today.
- D. It is not to be understood that each of these groups were entirely free from error or entirely embraced all truth but through these groups the truth did survive.
- E. Today we study some of these groups that were so bitterly persecuted during the Inquisition.

## II. The Waldenses of France.

- A. Peter Waldo was a rich and distinguished citizen of Lyons, France in the latter part of the twelfth century.



1. Waldo was a Catholic but his study of the Bible led him to salvation and an acceptance of the truth.
2. Waldo sold all his goods and gave the money to the poor and went out to preach the gospel.
3. He translated the New Testament into French.
4. Waldo soon had many followers.
  - a) They traveled two by two, clad in woolen garments, with wooden shoes or barefoot.
  - b) They reached into Switzerland and Northern Italy. Their numbers increased and reached into the thousands.

5. Waldo was denounced by the Pope and he and his followers were classified as “heretics” and were considered outlaws.
6. It was the preaching of Waldo and his followers **that first brought about the appointment of the inquistors by the Pope.**

Other Peter Waldo information: view at [https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peter\\_Waldo](https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peter_Waldo)

[In January 1179, Waldo and one of his disciples went to Rome, where they were welcomed by Pope Alexander III and the Roman Curia. They had to explain their faith before a panel of three clergymen, including issues which were then debated within the Church, such as the universal priesthood, the gospel in the vulgate or local language, and the issue of voluntary poverty. The results of the meeting were inconclusive. The pope affirmed the Waldensians' vow of poverty, but forbade them to continue preaching due to their status as laypeople. Waldo and his followers revolted against the ban and increased their preaching and missionary efforts. They continued to gather followers and began proclaiming doctrines at odds with Catholicism - such as the right of all worthy members including women to preach the Scriptures without permission from Church authorities. They also began preaching against Purgatory, prayers for the dead, and indulgences. They were excommunicated by the Catholic Church. By the late 1180s, they were being pursued as heretics. This persecution only increased their preaching against the Roman Catholic Church. The Waldensians developed a doctrine that forbids the use of weapons or of oaths, which led them to refuse any participation in Catholic rituals. The Catholic hierarchy accused them of apostasy.]

#### B. The persecution of the Waldenses.

1. The full power of the Inquisition was brought to bear on the Waldenses. It is stated that **900,000** people were put to death in the Pope's efforts to eliminate the Waldenses.
2. For more than 200 years the Waldenses found a refuge and continued to live on the eastern slope of the Alps.
  - a) A body of troops from Rome descended on this community, burned and plundered the houses, murdered a great many, and drove the others into the mountains where they died of cold.

- b) This is an example of the persecution of Rome continually pressed against the Waldenses.

**C.** The doctrine of the Waldenses.

1. They exhorted the people to lead clean dedicated lives.
2. They called for a return to the scriptures.
3. They rejected all the errors of Catholicism.
4. It is easy to identify the Waldenses with the true, New Testament church.

### III. The Albigenses.

- A.** The descent of the Albigenses has been traced to the earliest ages of Christianity.
- B.** They spread rapidly throughout Southern France and the little city of Albi became the center of their activities. From this city, they received their name.
- C.** The history of these people has been, in a large sense, destroyed by enemies.
- D.** The Albigenses, like all true churches and followers, stood opposed to the errors of the Catholic church and this brought persecution.
1. Pope Innocent III raised an army and sent them on a mission to exterminate the Albigenses.
  2. The accounts of bravery and loyalty of the Albigenses in the face of persecution is another chapter in the march of the true churches.

### IV. The Petrobrusians.

- A.** Peter of Bruys, a well-known preacher, sought around 1100 A.D. a restoration of true religion in France. **[Peter of Bruys (also known as Pierre De Bruys or Peter de Bruis; 1117 – c.1131) was a medieval French religious teacher. He was called a heresiarch (leader of a heretical movement) by the Roman Catholic Church because he opposed infant baptism, the erecting of churches and the veneration of crosses, the doctrine of transubstantiation and prayers for the dead. An angry Roman Catholic mob murdered him in or around 1131.]**
- B.** He preached for twenty years with great success and had a large following called Petrobrusians.



- C. In the year 1126, he was seized and burnt at the stake.
- D. His followers were also known as Anabaptists.

V. **The Henricans.** Henry of Lausanne, 1116-1148, was a disciple of Peter Bruys, and was so successful in his work that he left a large number of followers who were called Henricans.

VI. **The Arnoldists.**

- A. Arnold of Brescia was born in the beginning of the twelfth century and died about 1148. [\[Arnold of Brescia \(c. 1090 – June 1155\), also known as Arnaldus, was an Italian canon regular \(a priest\) from Lombardy, who called on the Catholic Church to renounce property-ownership and participated in the failed Commune of Rome of 1144–1193. Exiled at least three times and eventually arrested, Arnold was hanged by the papacy; his remains were burned posthumously and the ashes thrown into the River Tiber. Though he failed as a religious reformer and a political leader, his teachings on apostolic poverty gained currency after his death among "Arnoldists" and more widely among Waldensians and the Spiritual Franciscans, though no written word of his has survived the official condemnation. Protestants rank him among the precursors of the Reformation.\]](#)
- B. He led a vigorous protest against the errors of Rome but was finally taken prisoner, hanged, his body burned, and the ashes thrown into the Tiber River.
- C. His followers were called Arnoldists.

