

Jones, Timothy Paul

Christian History Made Easy (Rose Bible Basics)

33. Chapter Two Discussion and Review Session (AD 90–250)

This is a teacher's guide for a class session reviewing Chapter Two, not new teaching content. It lays out the plan—worship, a learning activity, discussion questions, and a life-application exercise—and folds in the chapter's key facts along the way.

Key takeaways

- Persecution eased in the late second century because the Roman government was in turmoil and most rulers ignored the churches.
- Gnostics denied that Jesus was fully God and fully human.
- The main test for which New Testament books counted as authoritative was whether a book connected to an eyewitness or a close associate of one.
- The Rule of Faith listed essential, non-negotiable doctrines the church would not compromise against Gnostic heresy.
- The session teaches 'theological triage': sorting beliefs into first-level (essential for salvation), second-level (important for fellowship), and third-level (agree to disagree), so Christians can hold unity without compromising essentials.

How it connects

The ancient Rule of Faith and Mohler's 'theological triage' make the same move: guard the essentials firmly, hold the rest with grace.

Scripture referenced

- **1 Corinthians 12:3** -- cited as an example of a teaching that cannot be compromised
- **Romans 14:1-5** -- cited to show believers may disagree peaceably on nonessential matters