

Jones, Timothy Paul

Christian History Made Easy (Rose Bible Basics)

40. Chapter Nine Discussion and Review Session (1510–1767)

This is a teacher's guide for leading a class session, not a narrative chapter. Its aim is to reinforce Chapter Nine and drive home one idea: real transformation among God's people needs changed individuals, not just changed institutions. It walks the leader through worship, small-group study of four misused Bible texts, and personal reflection.

Key takeaways

- The core lesson: institutional reform (like the Reformation) fixed some problems but not all, because lasting change must begin in the individual, not just the structures.
- Four Scriptures that were historically twisted to justify error: Joshua 10:12-13 (used against Galileo), Isaiah 11:11-12 (Columbus's voyage), Genesis 9:25 (African slavery), Luke 14:23 (forced conversion by violence).
- Each misuse ignored context: the Bible speaks from a human viewpoint (Joshua), Isaiah refers to Israel's return from exile, Noah not God speaks the curse in Genesis, and Jesus persuaded but never endorsed violence.

- Misapplying Scripture is still a serious matter; the practical goal is teaching Christians to read texts in context instead of forcing them to fit their own agendas.
- Application moves inward: 'How do I fail to see areas in my life that need to change?'

Passages worth keeping

"We have expected institutions to change when, in truth, it is we ourselves who need to change."

The closing prayer states the session's whole point.

How it connects

Ties church history's abuses of the Bible to a timeless discipline: personal repentance and reading Scripture in context outlast any institutional fix.

Scripture referenced

- **Joshua 10:12-13** -- Misused to argue the sun orbits the earth; actually written from human perspective.
- **Genesis 9:25** -- Misused to justify slavery; it is Noah's curse, not God's approval.
- **Luke 14:23** -- Misused to justify forced conversion; Jesus compelled by words, not violence.

- **Deuteronomy 18:20** -- Read to underscore how seriously God treats speaking falsely in his name.