

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

DEPARTMENT OF THEOLOGY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES

FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER, MAY 2006

- TITLE OF PAPER** : **SELECT THEMES IN THE HISTORY OF CHRISTIAN THOUGHT**
- COURSE CODE** : **T3P6/IDE-T3P6**
- TIME ALLOWED** : **THREE (3) HOURS**
- MARKS** : **100**
- INSTRUCTIONS** :
- 1. ANSWER ANY FOUR (4) QUESTIONS.**
 - 2. ALL QUESTIONS CARRY EQUAL MARKS.**

THIS QUESTION PAPER MUST NOT BE OPENED UNTIL PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED BY THE INVIGILATOR.

QUESTION 1

Why was the apostle Paul so successful as a pioneer Christian missionary?

QUESTION 2

What factors contributed to the rapid spread of the Gospel in the first three centuries of its existence?

QUESTION 3

- (a) What were the opinions expressed by the different parties at the Council of Jerusalem?
- (b) How was the conflict resolved and what was its importance for the mission of the nascent Church?

QUESTION 4

“Few, if any, events in history have had a far reaching and lasting effect on the Church. For mission, the events of those fateful years had drastic implications” (Bosch). Discuss this evaluation of the Constantinian era.

QUESTION 5

“We believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all the worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made ...” (Niceanum). Examine the factors that led to the Nicene Creed.

QUESTION 6

Discuss the origins and teaching of EITHER Donatism OR Pelagianism, and show how Augustine of Hippo responded to that teaching.

QUESTION 7

Briefly explain the development of monasticism in Egypt and its eventual contribution to the universal church.

QUESTION 8

Write SHORT notes on ONE of the following:

- (a) The Crusades
- (b) The Jesuits
- (c) The Eastern Schism of 1054
- (d) Henry VIII

QUESTION 9

EITHER (a) “Those who believe they can be certain of their salvation because they have indulgence letters will be eternally damned, together with their teachers” (Martin Luther, ‘Ninety Five Theses’, 1517).

To what extent was the sale of indulgences the major cause of the continental reformation?

OR (b) Discuss the Catholic Church’s response to the challenges of the Reformation.

QUESTION 10

Explain the reasons why the people of Swaziland embraced Christianity.