HOW TO THINK TO LIVE - PHILOSOPHY COURSE
Basic College: A Program of People's College

Week III
Black Religion and the Black Church
Reading Religion and the Black Church
Chapter 2 in Introduction to Afro-American Studies by People's College
pp. 53-59

I. Black Religion - Slavery
   1. Class and Religion
      A. House and Field Slaves
      B. Slave Master's Uses of Religion
         1. Submission
         2. God Ordained Slavery
         3. The Role of the Preacher
   2. The Church as an Institution
      A. The Invisible Institution of Slaves
      B. "Free" Black Folk Start Churches

II. Black Church - Rural Period
   A. Classes in the Black Community
      1. Land Owners and Sharecroppers
         A. Social Stability
         B. Economic Cooperation
         C. Education
         D. Arena for Political Life

III. Black Liberation Movement and Black Religion
   A. Civil Rights Movement - Nonviolence and Martin Luther King
   B. Black Power and Black Theology
      1. Malcolm X
      2. Cone, Cleage and Jones
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Week II

The Origin and Rise of Christianity
Reading "Bruno Bauer and Early Christianity" by F. Engels in Marx/Engels on Religion

I. Two approaches to the study of Christianity

1. Idealism - study of biblical scripture
2. Materialism - study of the concrete history surrounding the emergence of Christianity

A. Material Conditions (Social basis) for Christianity

1. Ancient Slavery of Roman Empire
   a. Slavery and Slave Revolts: The Failure of Slave Revolts - Hopelessness of Material (real) Freedom
2. A Mass Movement of Slaves and of Pressed Freedom of Spirit (religious salvation)
3. Why Christianity and not other religions?
   a. Roman Empire makes a common basis for a common world view - A World Religion
   b. Other religions in Roman Empire

B. Ideological - (philosophical) Influences in Early Christianity

1. Salvation through the death of Christ
2. Continuation of Judaism
3. Influence of Greek-Roman Philosophy
4. African Influences

C. The Church: Religion As An Institution

1. Early Christians had no church as institution
2. The Roman Ruling class establishes religion as an Institution by formulating
   a. doctrine
   b. ritual
   c. official religion of the state