

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 formulaing
    - a. doctrine
    - b. ritual
    - c. official religion of the state