



CHRISTIAN
Character

TOURS



Christian Character and Leadership

HISTORICAL TOURS WITH DR. HARRY REEDER

HOSTED BY REFORMED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
CHARLOTTE, N.C.

A STUDY IN CHRISTIAN CHARACTER AND LEADERSHIP OF CIVIL WAR GENERALS

Come walk the historic fields and travel the significant roads of the Civil War while studying the Christian character of both Union and Confederate generals in the execution of their duties. Experience the lessons of the Civil War like never before in these three-day, two-night trips which highlight the Christian leadership and character in the lives of Generals Robert E. Lee of Virginia, Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson and Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain of Maine.

Dr. Harry Reeder, Senior Pastor/Teacher at Briarwood Presbyterian Church in Birmingham, Alabama, and sought-after speaker and historian, will lead us through a study of the lives of these Christian generals. Although their wartime causes were at odds, all three demonstrated their faith during their lives and in the course of carrying out their duties in remarkable fashion.

All three deluxe bus tours will leave from Charlotte, North Carolina. They include visits to homes, churches, cemeteries, colleges and universities, battlefield memorials, and museums as we learn how these generals lived out their Christian beliefs in their youth, their education, their wartime experiences, and in the years after the war.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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TOUR I

Christian Leadership from Gettysburg to Appomattox

DAY ONE – We will begin our tour up I-77 and I-81 to Gettysburg. Our first stop is at Sharpsburg, MD where we study the bloodiest one-day battle in American History. At this Antietam Creek battle, we'll walk the same land, trudge the "sunken road" and cross the famous Burnside Bridge which marks lessons of courage for us to learn today. We'll continue to Gettysburg and study each day of the three-day battle. We'll arrive on the Chambersburg Pike—the same road that Lee's troops used as they approached Gettysburg on June 30, 1863. We begin by visiting the key spots marking the battle's first day—the Lutheran Seminary, McPherson's Ridge, Oak Hill before concluding with Dr. Reeder leading us in a study of Biblical leadership.

DAY TWO – We visit the critical topography of the second day---Devil's Den, Little Round Top and the Peach Orchard. Personal stories of leadership and courage are highlighted. In the afternoon, we will study the battle's third day focusing on the "the Pickett-Pettigrew-Trimble Charge." We'll walk across the actual route of Pickett's Division and see and feel what the men faced as they marched across the mile-long open field. This three-day battle had the most casualties of any single engagement in our history. We conclude the outdoor portion of our Gettysburg visit to the National Cemetery where Lincoln, in November of 1863, gave his Gettysburg Address. We finish our day with a buffet and Forum on leadership.

DAY THREE – We bus to Manassas, VA to study both the First and Second Battles of Manassas (Bull Run). First Manassas is where General Bee said, "There stands Jackson like a stone wall." While in the area, we will visit the Second Battle of Manassas battlefield and highlight Jackson's leadership and courage. We continue to Appomattox Court House and visit the site of the surrender, the McLean House and the Surrender Triangle. Dr. Reeder will provide insights about the character of both Lee and Chamberlain as revealed at Appomattox.



TOUR II

Christian Character on the Battlefields of Virginia

DAY ONE – We'll travel up I-85/I-95, where our first stop will be in Richmond. We'll have lunch at Chimborazo Park, the site of a large Civil War hospital, before going to the historic State Capitol where Lee assumed command of the Virginia troops, and visit St. Paul's Church where he worshiped. We'll visit the outstanding Museum of the Confederacy and the Confederate White House. We'll enter Lee's post-war Franklin Street home and we'll hear some wonderful anecdotes, which demonstrate Lee's Christian character. If we have time, we see the church where Patrick Henry gave his "give me liberty" speech.

*"I can only say that I am nothing but a poor sinner,
trusting in Christ alone for salvation." Gen. Robert E. Lee*

DAY TWO – We will visit Chatham House located just across the river from Fredericksburg. Serving as a Union headquarters during the battle, it also became a hospital, with both Clara Barton and Walt Whitman serving as nurses. At the 1862 battle of Fredericksburg, we stand behind the "stone wall" against which wave after wave of Union troops marched up an incline—never reaching the wall. We'll have lunch on the grounds of Salem Baptist Church and see the shell marks from the battle which took place on the grounds. We'll ride to the nearby 1863 Battle of Chancellorsville and learn about the relationship between Lee and Jackson. We'll stop at the location of the last meeting between the two. We study the tactics used by Jackson and travel the road his men marched to surprise the Northern troops. The tactics are still studied by military tacticians as they learn from past history. We will visit the spot where Jackson was mortally wounded and stop at Ellwood Plantation where Jackson's shattered arm is buried. We'll complete the day by visiting the ruins of the Chancellor House, which was used by General Joseph Hooker as Union headquarters during the Battle of Chancellorsville.



DAY THREE – We'll retrace our steps over some of the same land as we look at the 1864 Battle of the Wilderness. The tour follows the steps of General Gregg's out-numbered Texans as they charged across open land to dislodge thousands of Northern troops. We'll move the to 1864 Battle of Spotsylvania Court House and review, in detail, where the fiercest hand-to-hand combat of the war occurred at the "Bloody Angle." Our bus will take us along the same route that a wagon took the wounded Jackson back to Guiney Station, where he died a few days later. After lunch, we'll bus to Petersburg, where we'll see the remnants of the fortifications of the ten-month siege of the town in 1864-1865. Before visiting the battlefield, we will stop at Blandford Church, containing the beautiful Tiffany stained glass windows given by states of the former Confederacy to honor their soldiers. We'll conclude our tour with a visit to Fort Stedman and the "Battle of the Crater."

TOUR III

Christian Leadership in the Shenandoah Valley

DAY ONE – We travel up I-77/I-81 and enter the upper Shenandoah Valley—the geographic focus of the tour. We continue down the valley to Front Royal, which pitted "brother against brother" as the First Maryland Confederate faced the First Maryland U.S. Continuing to Winchester, our first stop is at Jackson's Headquarters, the site of the overall planning of the Valley Campaign. We study the first Battle of Winchester, seen by most as a decisive battle of the Valley Campaign. While in the immediate area, we review the other battles for Winchester in later years of the Civil War. We bus to nearby Kernstown and study the First Battle of Kernstown—the only battle in which Jackson was defeated in the War. Yet the battle proved to be a significant Southern strategic victory.



DAY TWO – As we continue to study the leadership of Jackson and the Valley Campaign, we visit the Cross Keys and the nearby Port Republic battlefields. We learn how Jackson defeated two separate armies, the result of which caused the Federal troops to leave the Valley and allowed Jackson to join General Robert E. Lee in the 7 Days battle near Richmond. In addition, seeing Jackson's overall strategy, these battles provide interesting lessons at the tactical level. We see clever use of terrain and maneuver. We stop near Harrisonburg to learn about Confederate Calvary General Turner Ashby, who was killed in June of 1862. We also stop at Weyers Cave where revivals broke out in the Army in 1862.

*"I am but an unworthy instrument whom it
has pleased the Lord to use in accomplishing His
purposes for His Glory."
Gen. "Stonewall" Jackson*

DAY THREE – Our first site is the Jackson Memorial Cemetery. Jackson and his family are buried there as are several other noteworthy citizens. We spend time at the Lexington Presbyterian Church where Jackson worshipped and served as a Deacon. We will stop at the R. E. Lee Memorial Episcopal Church to learn of Robert E. Lee's post-war life in Lexington as President of Washington College. We will stop at the President's home of Washington and Lee University which he designed. We will also visit the Lee Chapel, which he designed and is buried alongside with his entire family. Adjacent to the W&L campus is the campus of Virginia Military Institute, where Jackson was teaching when the Civil War began. We will visit the Jackson Museum and Cadet Chapel and see his horse, "Sorrell" as well as other mementos of his life. You will get to view "Matthew, Mark, Luke and John" on VMI's Parade Field. We'll conclude this tour by observing a parade of the VMI Cadet Corps, if scheduled.

*"Both my mind and heart are at peace;
Jesus Christ is my all-sufficient Savior."
Gen. Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain*

Camp near Suffolk VA
Se the 16th 1862

Dear Sister Willie

I improve these few moments
to inform you that I receive
your kind letter of the 14th inst.