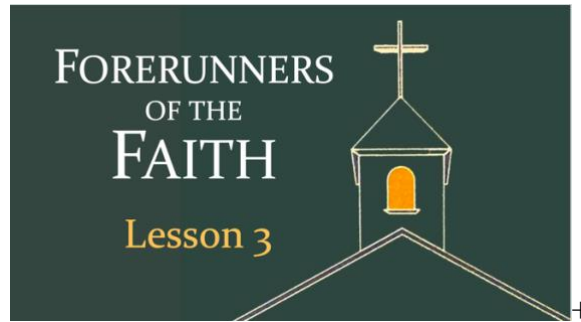


Forerunners of the Faith



THE DISCIPLES OF THE APOSTLES

KEY PASSAGE

“And the things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.”

Introduction

• The “Apostolic Fathers” are so named because of their close proximity to the Apostles. They are the next generation.

They include:

- Clement of Rome
- Ignatius of Antioch
- Barnabas of Alexandria
- Papias of Heirapolis
- Polycarp of Smyrna
- The authors of The Didache, Shepherd of Hermas, and The Letter to Diognetus.

Clement of Rome

- Pastored the church in _____ (from around _____).
- Possibly mentioned in Philippians 4:3.
- Disciple of both Peter and Paul (from their time in Rome); martyred under Emperor Trajan around 100.
- Wrote a letter to the Corinthian church in the 90s.

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Ignatius of Antioch

- Pastored in Syrian Antioch
- Possibly installed by the instruction of _____
- Disciple of John; friend of Polycarp
- Seven letters have survived
- Martyred in Rome around 117

Polycarp of Smyrna

- Disciple of John
- One extant letter, Epistle to the Philippians
- Details about his death (in 155) are recounted in The Martyrdom of Polycarp –one of the earliest accounts of Christian martyrdom.

The Didache

- Written in the late first or early second century.
- A summary and application of apostolic teaching.
- Designed to be an early manual of _____ ethics, likely intended for baptismal candidates.

CHAPTER 1

“(1) There are two paths, one of life and one of death, and the difference is great between the two paths.

(2) Now the path of life is this -- first, you shall love the God who made you, your neighbor as yourself, and all things that you would not want done to you, do not do unto another. . . .”

CHAPTER 2

“(1) But the second commandment of the teaching is this. (2) You shall not kill; you shall not commit adultery; you shall not corrupt youth; you shall not commit fornication; you shall not steal; you shall not use soothsaying; you shall not practice sorcery; you shall not kill a child by abortion, neither shall you slay it when born; you shall not covet the goods of your neighbor.”

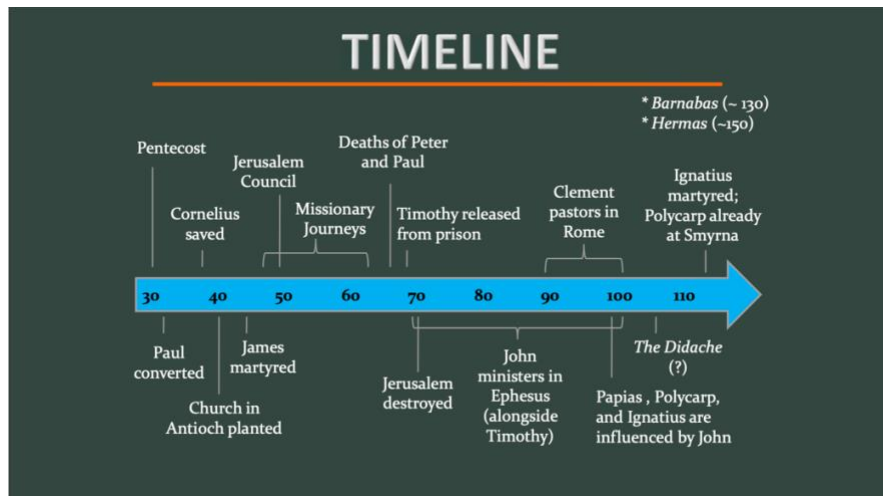
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CHAPTER 7

“And concerning baptism, baptize this way: Having first said all these things, baptize into the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, (Matthew 28:19) in living water. But if you have not living water, baptize into other water; and if you cannot in cold, in warm. But if you have not either, pour out water thrice upon the head into the name of Father and Son and Holy Spirit. But before the baptism let the baptizer fast, and the baptized, and whatever others can; but you shall order the baptized to fast one or two days before.”

Epistle to Diognetus

- Anonymous letter written to an unbeliever; likely in the mid-second century.
- Contains a beautiful description of our salvation in Christ—how sinners can receive both _____ and _____ through Him.



- After surveying the Apostolic Fathers, we find that most of them proved to be the “faithful men” of whom Paul spoke in 2 Timothy 2:2.
- Though neither inerrant nor authoritative, their writings demonstrate an earnest commitment both to preserve and to practice the teaching of the Apostles.