

Revelation 2:8-11



'THE LETTER TO THE CHURCH OF THE SMYRNA' pt. 3

- I. The COMMISSION
- II. The CHARACTER
- III. The COMMENDATION
- IV. The CONDEMNATION

CONTINUED DEVIATIONS FROM THE WORD OF GOD IN THE SMYRNA CHURCH PERIOD:

1. The teaching that God is finished with the JEWS.
2. The rise of _____.

- In Gnosticism "A man is regarded as _____ on the scale of being in proportion to his knowledge" -*Albert Henry Newman, A Manual of Church History, Vol. 1, 183-184*

3 COMMON COMPONENTS OF GNOSTICISM:

1. _____

The Gnostic belief that all matter is _____, and all spirit is _____.

2. _____

Since all flesh is evil, God could never live in a _____, He only appeared to have a body.

3. _____

Jesus was only a "_____ -god" or "_____ God."

Gnostic Leaders in the first two periods of Church History:

- Cerinthus- Saturninus- Basilides- Valentinus- Marcion

3. The _____ and _____ of the Ante-Nicene Church Fathers

The Ante-Nicene Church Fathers who deviated from the Word of God:

1. _____ (130-202 AD)

- "Was educated in the Philosophical mindset of the Greeks, and in his writings, he actually quotes most of the leading Greek _____." - *Newman, A Manual of Church History, 248-249.*

- Irenaeus was very important in the church because he wrote five books against Gnosticism, called 'Adversus Haereses' (AGAINST _____).

- "To counter the doctrines of the gnostic sects claiming secret wisdom, IRENAEUS offered three pillars of orthodoxy: the scriptures, the tradition handed down from the apostles, and the teaching of the apostles' successors.

- "If there were a "secret knowledge", the Apostles certainly would have had it, and they certainly would have entrusted it to those whom they selected as their _____ in the government of the churches." - *Wolker, A History of the Christian Church, 58.*

- Irenaeus emphasized the unity of the church through the continued apostolic _____" *Cairns, Christianity Through the Centuries, 110.*

- "through the Apostolic line came "the ecclesiastical _____ from the Apostles" to go along with "the preaching of the truth that has come down to us" - *Irenaeus, Against Heresies, III, cited by Schaff, II, 159.*

- Irenaeus said that Rome was the _____ and oldest church acknowledged by _____, and founded by Peter and Paul." - *Irenaeus, Against Heresies, cited by Schaff, II, 159.*

- "it is a matter of necessity that every church should _____ with this church" *Irenaeus, Against Heresies, III. 3.2, cited by Walker, 61.*
- "For as the bread, which is produced from the earth, when it receives the invocation of God, is no longer common bread but the _____ consisting of two realities, earthly and heavenly. so also our bodies, when they receive the Eucharist, are no longer corruptible, having the hope of the resurrection to eternity." *Irenaeus, Against Heresies, IV. 18.5, cited by Walker, 90.*
- "The Eucharist is the human organism of Jesus Christ, made up of His flesh, sinews, and bones, and the cup is His blood and the bread is His body. It nourishes our literal flesh and bones because it is _____ flesh and blood." *Irenaeus, Against Heresies, V. 2.3, cited by Walker, 90.*
- "The knot of Eve's disobedience was loosened by the obedience of Mary. For what the Virgin Eve had bound fast through unbelief, this did the Virgin Mary, set free through _____." *Walker, A History of the Christian Church, 63*

2 _____ (195-258 AD)

- Cyprian was "known for his _____," *Newman, A Manual of Church History, 265*
- "He was a genuine _____ and had the profoundest regard for the welfare of each member of the flock..He had administrative plans, and he insisted on executing them" *Newman, A Manual of Church History, 255, 267.*

THE WORKS OF CYPRIAN: "De Unitate Catholicae Ecclesiae" (The UNITY of the _____ Church.) , Cyprian's _____.

- In his works, Cyprian calls the pastors, "_____".
- "There is one God, and Christ is one, and there is one church, and one _____ founded upon the rock by the word of the Lord." *Cyprian, Epistles, 39-42.5, cited by Walker, 67.*
- He referred to Rome as the chief church whence _____ unity takes its source. *Cyprian, Epistles, 50-54.14, cited by Walker, 67*
- "Whoever he may be and whatever he may be, he who is not in the church of Christ is not a _____."
- "He can no longer have God for his Father, who has not the church for his _____." - *Cyprian, Epistles, Cyprian, Unity of the Catholic Church 51-55.24, cited by Walker, 67.*
- For if Jesus Christ, our Lord and God is Himself the chief priest of God the Father, and has _____ offered Himself a sacrifice to the Father, and has commanded this to be done in commemoration of Himself, certainly that priest truly discharges the office of Christ, who imitates that which Christ did; and he then offers a true and full sacrifice in the church when he proceeds to offer it according to what he sees Christ Himself to have offered." *Cyprian, Epistles, 62-63.14, cited by Walker 91.*

3 _____ (170-235 AD)

- He writes against Gnosticism in his work 'Refutation of All _____'
- The way Irenaeus and Hippolytus saw to keep the unity of the church against heresies was to _____ the office of _____.
- By the time of Hippolytus, Callistus, was saying that a Roman Bishop can never be deposed or compelled to _____ no matter what kind of _____ he's committing. *-Newman, A Manual of Church History, 256.*
- Hippolytus emerges as the bishop of the party that claimed to be the _____ church of Rome. - *Newman, A Manual of Church History, 253*

- V. The CORRECTION
- VI. The CALL
- VII. The CHALLENGE

- We are _____ in Christ Jesus! *1 John 4:4, 1 John 5:4*