

# POLYCARP

**WHEN DID HE LIVE** - between 75 AD and 155 AD

**HOW DID HE DIE** - he was burnt to death

**WHO WAS HE** - He was a disciple of John the beloved; the author of the Book of Revelation the gospel of John ,first ,second and third John .And he was the pastor of the Church of Smyrna.

**WHAT DID HE TEACH** - He also highlighted the sinlessness of Jesus, defended the doctrine of the Incarnation and the death of Christ in the cross, and clearly opposed docetism. Polycarp outright denied the teachings of Marcion, claiming he was the firstborn of Satan.



**HOW TO DESCRIBE HIM** - In the Christian church today, the name Polycarp stands as a reminder of commitment, faithfulness, sacrifice, martyrdom, and courage in the face of opposition. He provided selfless leadership to the early church, a trait he practiced onto the grave. As he stood in the area awaiting his end, Polycarp [shouted to the proconsul](#), "Hear me declare with boldness, I am a Christian." *"And unto the angel of the church in Smyrna write; These things saith the First and the Last, which was dead, and is alive; I know thy works, and tribulation and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan. Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life"* ([Revelation 2:8-10 KJV](#)).

# THEOLOGICAL TERMS

**INCARNATION** - A central doctrine of the Christian faith which affirms that God took human form in the body of Christ. In other words, God was 'in-carnated' in human flesh.

**GNOSTICISM** - The doctrine of [salvation](#) by [knowledge](#). This definition, based on the etymology of the word (*gnosis* "knowledge", *gnostikos*, "good at knowing"), is correct as far as it goes, but it gives only one, though perhaps the predominant, characteristic of Gnostic systems of thought. Whereas [Judaism](#) and [Christianity](#), and almost all [pagan](#) systems, hold that the [soul](#) attains its proper end by obedience of [mind](#) and will to the Supreme Power, i.e. by [faith](#) and [works](#), it is markedly peculiar to Gnosticism that it places the [salvation](#) of the [soul](#) merely in the possession of a quasi-intuitive [knowledge](#) of the [mysteries](#) of the [universe](#) and of magic formulae indicative of that [knowledge](#). Gnostics were "people who [knew](#)", and their [knowledge](#) at once constituted them a superior class of beings, whose present and future status was essentially different from that of those who, for whatever reason, did not [know](#). A more complete and historical definition of Gnosticism would be:

**DEMIURGE** - The inferior God created by Sophia's desire, also referred to as the Demiurge, is the Creator God of the Old Testament. Due to his inferiority, he is not seen as good but rather an evil, angry, violent God.

**DOCETISM** - Docetism, (from Greek *dokein*, "to seem"), Christian heresy and one of the earliest Christian sectarian doctrines, affirming that Christ did not have a real or natural body during his life on earth but only an apparent or phantom one.

**DUALISM** - In religion, dualism means the belief in two supreme opposed powers or gods, or sets of divine or demonic beings, that caused the world to exist.