



PRESENTED BY
PLAYMAKERS IN THE FAITH

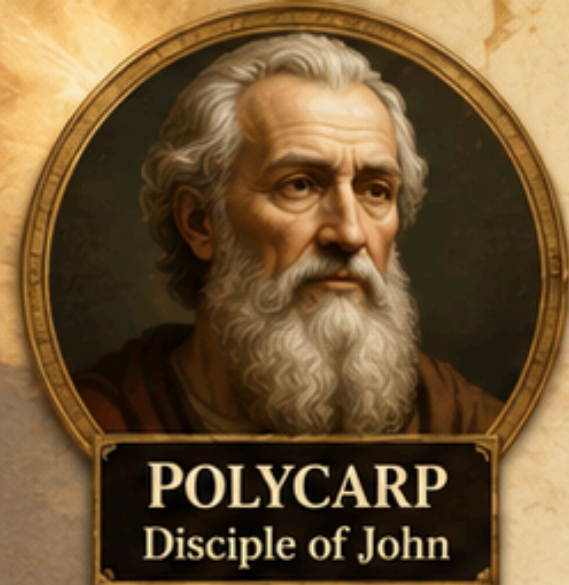


EARLY CHURCH

AGAINST

ETERNAL SECURITY / OSAS

WHAT THE EARLY CHURCH REALLY TAUGHT



POLYCARP TO THE PHILIPPIANS

SALVATION IS CONDITIONAL – WALK IN HIS WILL

Polycarp (c. 69–155 AD), Bishop and Martyr, Disciple of the Apostle John

“But He who raised Him up from the dead will raise us up also, if we do His will, and walk in His commandments, and love what He loved, keeping ourselves from all unrighteousness, covetousness, love of money, evil speaking, false witness; not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing, 1 Peter 3:9 or blow for blow, or cursing for cursing, but being mindful of what the Lord said in His teaching:



Judge not,
that you be
not judged;

Matthew 7:1



Forgive,
and it shall be
forgiven unto you;

Luke 6:36



Be merciful,
that you may
obtain mercy;

Luke 6:36



With what measure
you measure, it shall
be measured to you
again;

Matthew 7:2; Luke 6:38

and once more,

“Blessed are the poor, and those that are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of God.”

Matthew 5:10

FALSE ASSURANCE SAYS:



Once I’m saved,
I can live however
I want. I can’t lose
my salvation.



TRUE DISCIPLESHIP SAYS:

CONTINUE IN FAITH, OBEDIENCE, AND LOVE
UNTIL THE END.

HE WHO RAISED CHRIST FROM THE DEAD WILL RAISE US UP ALSO,
IF WE DO HIS WILL AND WALK IN HIS COMMANDMENTS.

NOT ONCE SAVED ALWAYS SAVED
BUT: CONTINUE IN HIS WILL



IF WE DO HIS WILL



Walk in His
commandments



Love what
He loved



Keep from all
unrighteousness

GOD WILL RAISE US UP ALSO



IF WE DO NOT OBEY HIS WILL



Unrighteousness



Covetousness



Love of Money



Evil Speaking



False Witness

WE PUT OURSELVES
IN DANGER OF LOSS

WARNING FROM SCRIPTURE:

Matthew 7:21-23 – Not everyone who says
“Lord, Lord” will enter the kingdom.

Hebrews 3:12-14 – Take heed, lest any
fall short of the grace of God.

Revelation 2-3 – Overcomers will inherit
eternal life.



SALVATION IS A GIFT – BUT REMAINING FAITHFUL IS OUR RESPONSE. | “Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.” Philippians 2:12

CLEMENT OF ALEXANDRIA – WARNING TO BELIEVERS



BUT IF ONE CHOOSES to continue and to **SIN** perpetually in pleasures, and values indulgence here above **ETERNAL** life, and **TURNS AWAY** from the **SAVIOUR**, who gives forgiveness; let him no more blame either **GOD**, or **RICHES**, or his having fallen, but his own **SOUL**, which **VOLUNTARILY PERISHES.**



BUT TO HIM who directs his eye to **SALVATION** and desires it, and asks with **BOLDNESS** and **VEHEMENCE** for its bestowal, the good **FATHER** who is in heaven will give the **TRUE PURIFICATION** and the **CHANGELESS LIFE.**





2 CLEMENT
Early Church Father
(c. 150 AD)

2 CLEMENT – CHAPTER 4

For this reason, if we should do such
WICKED things,
the Lord has said,

“Even though you were
gathered together to me in
my very bosom, yet if you were
not to **keep my commandments**,
I would **cast you off**, and say
unto you, **Depart from me;**
I KNOW YOU NOT
whence you are, you
workers of iniquity.”



OBEDIENCE TO
CHRIST'S COMMANDS

REMAINS
THE CONDITION
OF FELLOWSHIP
AND SALVATION

DEPART
FROM ME;
I KNOW YOU NOT,
YOU WORKERS
OF INIQUITY.”



Matthew 7:23 — “And then will I profess unto them,
I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.”

2 CLEMENT – CHAPTER 6

HATE THE THINGS PRESENT

SIN • PLEASURE • RICHES
POWER • PRIDE • WORLDLY GLORY



TRIFLING

Without lasting value



TRANSIENT

Here today, gone tomorrow



CORRUPTIBLE

Subject to decay and death

Let us reckon that it is better to
HATE the things present,
since they are **TRIFLING**, and
TRANSIENT, and **CORRUPTIBLE**;
and to **LOVE** those [which are to come,]
as being good and incorruptible.

For if we do the **WILL** of **CHRIST**,
we shall find rest; otherwise,
nothing shall deliver us from
ETERNAL PUNISHMENT,
if we disobey His commandments.

LOVE THOSE THINGS TO COME

GOOD • INCORRUPTIBLE
ETERNAL • GLORIOUS

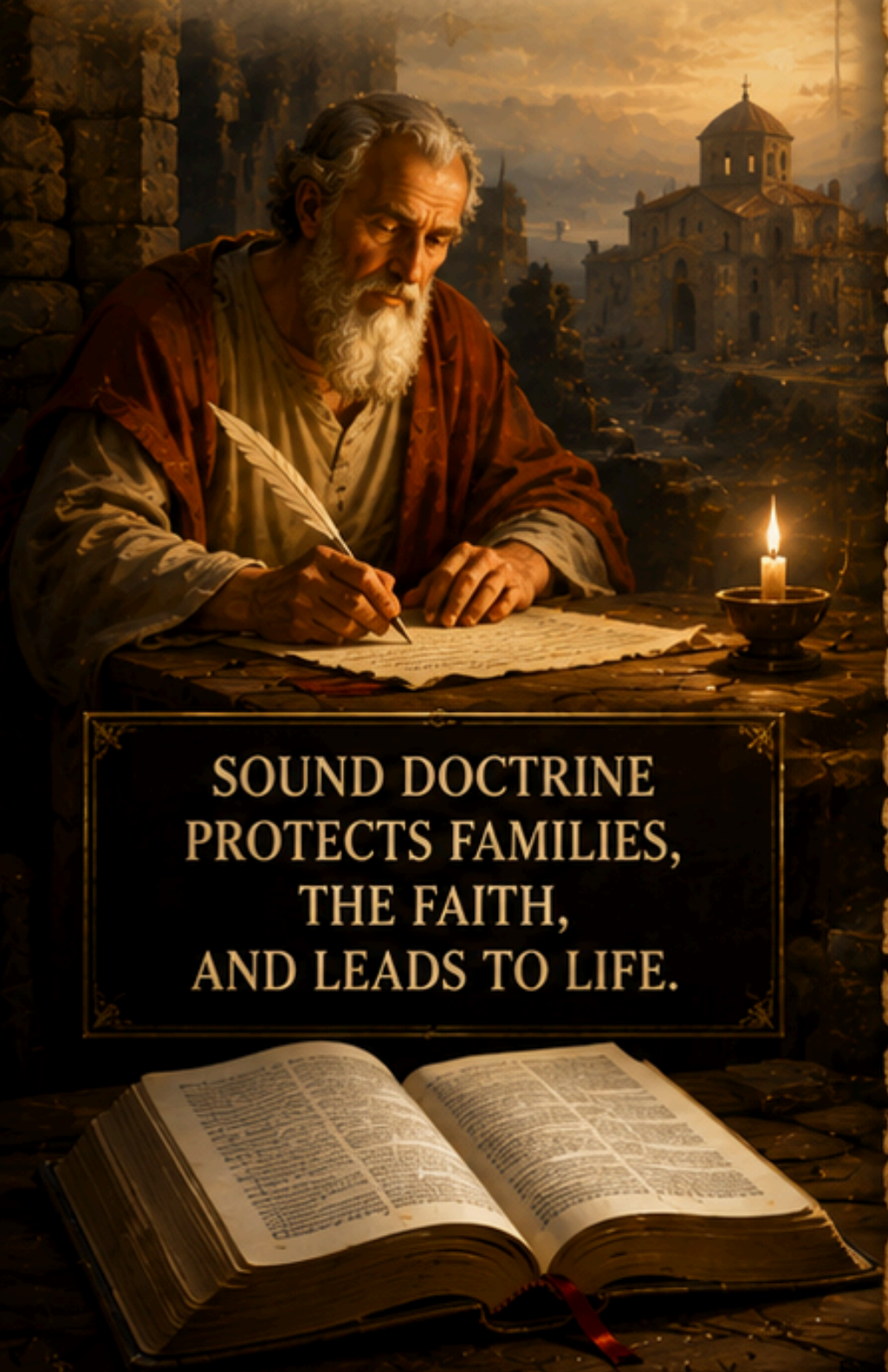


1 JOHN 2:3-4

3 And hereby we do **know** that we know Him, if we
keep His commandments.

4 He that saith, I know Him, and keepeth not His commandments,
is a **liar**, and the truth is not in him.

IGNATIUS
EPISTLE TO THE
EPHESIANS
CHAPTER 16



SOUND DOCTRINE
PROTECTS FAMILIES,
THE FAITH,
AND LEADS TO LIFE.



Do not **ERR**, my brethren.

James 1:16



Those that corrupt **FAMILIES**
shall not inherit the **KINGDOM OF GOD.**

1 Corinthians 6:9-10



If, then, those who do this as respects the flesh
have suffered death, how much more shall this be
the case with any one who corrupts by
WICKED DOCTRINE
the **FAITH** of **GOD**,
for which **JESUS CHRIST** was crucified!



Such an one becoming defiled [in this way],
shall go away into **EVERLASTING FIRE**,
and so shall every one that hearkens unto him.

IRENÆUS AGAINST HERESIES



Irenaeus primarily wrote *Against Heresies* (*Adversus Haereses*) to refute Gnostic sects—such as the Valentinians—who taught that spiritual salvation was **guaranteed** by esoteric knowledge (*gnosis*) rather than **physical or moral actions**.



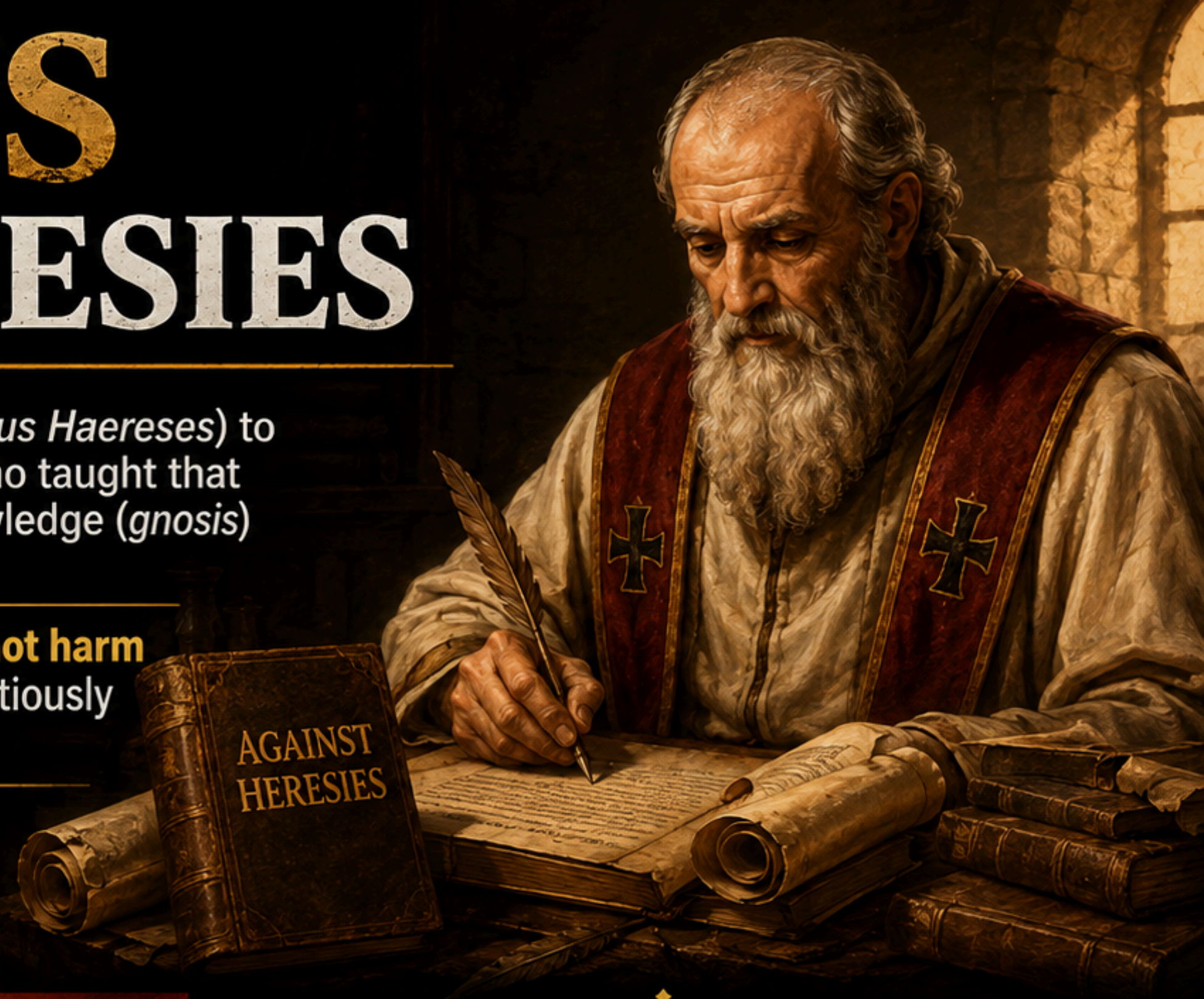
Some Gnostics claimed that **physical actions could not harm their spiritual substance**, allowing them to live licentiously without losing spiritual standing.



Irenaeus strongly opposed this mindset, asserting that **moral choices, perseverance, and obedience** matter profoundly for final judgment and eternal life.

“Those who do not obey Him . . .
have **ceased** to be **His sons**.”

— Irenaeus, *Against Heresies*, Book 4.41.3



THE TRUTH IRENÆUS DEFENDED:

Salvation is not just believing in secret knowledge—
it is **living in obedience**, remaining **faithful**,
and enduring to the end.

needed more love, possibly including love for one another (Rev 2:4). Certainly false apostles and teaching (Rev 2:2,6,14 – 15,20) abounded. Any of these issues, or combinations of these issues, could lie partly in the background.

One often-proposed background for 1 John is the challenge of early Gnosticism. One group, Docetists, believed that Christ was divine but only seemed to become human (cf. 4:2). Another group, followers of one Cerinthus, believed that the Christ-Spirit merely came on Jesus, but they denied that he was actually the one and only Christ (cf. 2:22). Some Gnostics believed that they were incapable of committing real sins, although their bodies could engage in behavior that non-Gnostic Christians considered sinful. Such Gnostic systems are not really attested until decades after 1 John, but it is possible that some thinkers were already moving in these directions.

Whatever the specific background we reconstruct, one point is beyond dispute: the primary troublemakers are clearly "secessionists," people who had been part of the Christian community John addresses but who had rejected the teaching of that community. John advocates testing the spirits by two main criteria: a moral-ethical test (keeping the commandments, especially love of the Christian community) and a faith test (the right view about Jesus). ♦

CYPRIAN OF CARTHAGE – c. AD 250

Cyprian's writings are especially valuable because the Decian persecution created a real pastoral crisis involving **CHRISTIANS WHO DENIED CHRIST** to avoid persecution.



Cyprian says:

“Let not Christ be forsaken, so that the loss of salvation and of an eternal home should be feared.”



Then he quotes Christ:

“Whosoever shall confess me before men, him will I also confess... but he that denies me, him will I also deny.”



Cyprian argues:

“If they who deny shall not be guilty of a crime, neither shall they who confess receive the reward of a virtue.”



He describes people who had denied Christ as having **“lost the grace”** previously received.

Our Lord Jesus Christ

“Whosoever shall confess me before men, him will I also confess... but he that denies me, him will I also deny.”

— Matthew 10:32-33



BISHOP. SHEPHERD. MARTYR.
Faithful to Christ in persecution.

FAITHFULNESS TO CHRIST BRINGS ETERNAL REWARD.
DENIAL OF CHRIST BRINGS ETERNAL LOSS.



**“Cyprian, Treatise III,
On the Lapsed”**



Date	Christian writer	Can believers fall / salvation conditional?	Cause emphasized
c. 96	Clement of Rome	Yes	rebellion / refusal of correction
c. 70–120	Didache	Yes, explicitly	failure to endure
c. 70–130	Barnabas	Yes, explicitly	sin / failure to persevere
c. 100–150	2 Clement	Yes	disobedience
c. 107	Ignatius	Yes	corruption / false doctrine
c. 110–135	Polycarp	Yes	failure to live worthily
c. 100–150	Hermas	Extremely explicit	sin / denial of Christ
c. 150	Justin Martyr	Yes	apostasy / denying Christ
c. 180	Irenaeus	Yes	voluntary apostasy
c. 195	Clement of Alexandria	Yes	willful sin / turning from Christ
c. 200	Tertullian	Yes	grave post-baptismal sin
c. 220	Origen	Yes	free-will departure
c. 250	Cyprian	Yes	denying Christ / apostasy
c. 300	Lactantius	Yes	unfaithfulness
c. 350	Cyril of Jerusalem	Yes	serious sin / denial
c. 370	Basil	Yes	denying Christ
c. 380–400	John Chrysostom	Extremely explicit	falling from grace
c. 400	Augustine	Falling away recognized; perseverance framework differs	apostasy / lack of perseverance

REVELATION 22:19

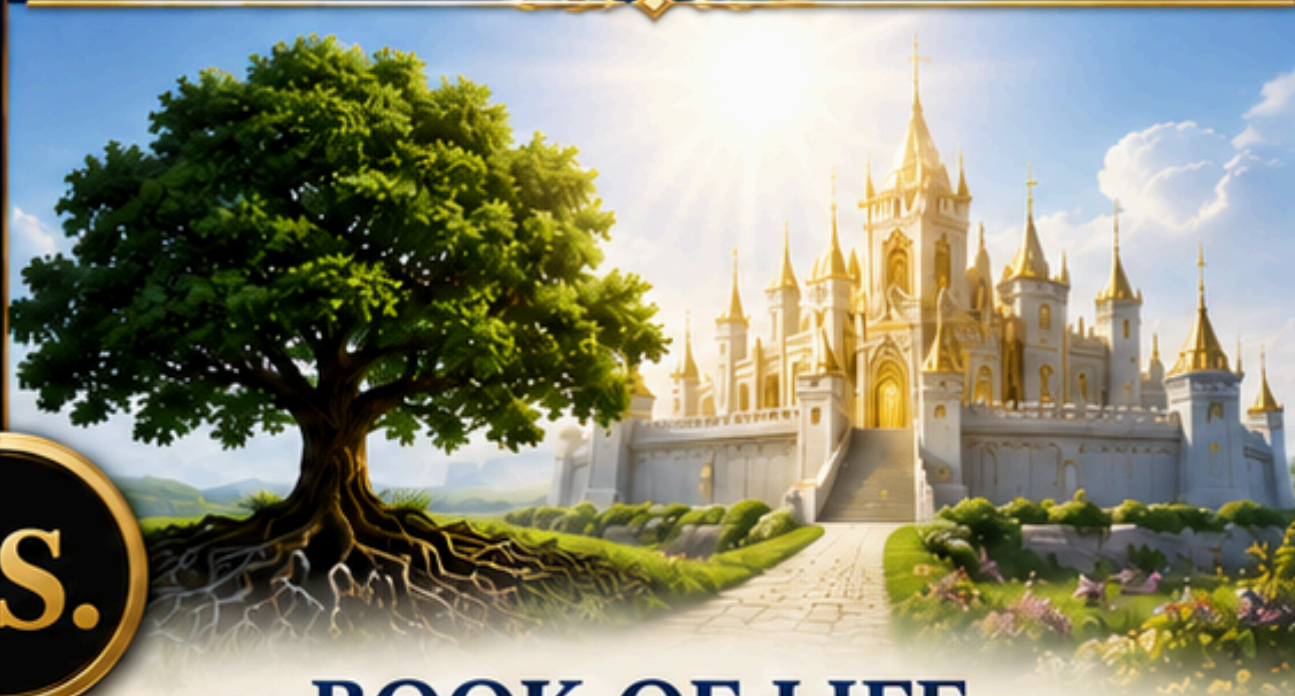


PART OF
UNBELIEVERS

**LAKE OF FIRE
OUTSIDE THE
HOLY CITY**

VS.

PART OF
CHRISTIANS



**BOOK OF LIFE,
TREE OF LIFE,
HOLY CITY**

19 And if any man shall **take away** from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall **take away** **his part** out of the **book of life**, and out of the **holy city**...

REVELATION 22:19



**ETERNAL SEPARATION
FROM GOD'S PRESENCE**



**ETERNAL LIFE
WITH GOD FOREVER**



But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and **sorcerers**, and **idolaters**, and **all liars**, shall have **their part** in the lake which burneth with fire..."

REVELATION 21:8

“I will tell you,” says he, about both the **prophets**, and then you can try the **true** and the **false prophet** according to my directions.

Try the man who has the Divine Spirit by his life.

First, he who has the Divine Spirit proceeding from above is **meek**, **peaceable**, and **humble**, and refrains from all **iniquity** and the vain desire of this world, and contents himself with fewer wants than those of other men, and when asked he makes no reply; nor does he speak privately, nor when man wishes the spirit to speak does the **Holy Spirit** speak, but it speaks only when God wishes it to speak.

When, then, a man having the Divine Spirit comes into an assembly of **righteous men** who have **faith** in the Divine Spirit, and this assembly of men offers up **prayer** to **God**, then the **angel** of the prophetic Spirit, who is destined for him, fills the man; and the man being filled with the **Holy Spirit**, speaks to the multitude as the **Lord** wishes. Thus, then, will the Spirit of Divinity become manifest.

Whatever **power** therefore comes from the Spirit of Divinity belongs to the **Lord.**”

COMMANDS ARE NOT IMPOSSIBLE

If you lay it down as **certain** that they **can be kept**, then you will **easily** keep them, and they will not be hard. But if you come to **imagine** that they **cannot** be kept by man, then you will not keep them. Now I say to you, If you do not keep them, but **neglect** them, you will not be **saved**, nor your **children**, nor your **house**, since you have already determined for yourself that these commandments cannot be kept by man.

the man who has the **Lord** in his **heart** can also be lord of all, and of every one of these commandments. But to those who have the **Lord** only on their **lips**, **Isaiah 29:13**; **Matthew 15:8** but their hearts **hardened**, **John 12:40**; **2 Corinthians 3:14** and who are far from the Lord, the commandments are hard and difficult. Put, therefore, you who are empty and fickle in your **faith**, the Lord in your **heart**, and you will **know** that there is nothing easier or sweeter, or more manageable, than these commandments.

Return, you who walk in the commandments of the **devil**, in hard, and bitter, and wild licentiousness, and **fear** not the **devil**; for there is no power in him against you, for I will be with you, the **angel** of repentance, who am lord over him. The **devil** has **fear** only, but his **fear** has no strength. Fear him not, then, and he will flee from you.

“Fear,” said he, “the Lord, and **keep His commandments.** (Ecclesiastes 12:13) For if you keep the commandments of **God**, you will be **powerful** in every action, and every one of your actions will be incomparable. For, **fearing the Lord**, you will do all things well. This is the **fear** which you ought to have, that you may be saved. But **fear** not the **devil**; for, fearing the Lord, you will have dominion over the **devil**, for there is no power in him. But he in whom there is no power ought on no account to be an object of **fear**; but He in whom there is **glorious** power is **truly** to be feared. For every one that has power ought to be feared; but he who has not power is despised by all. **Fear**, therefore, the **deeds** of the **devil**, since they are **wicked**. For, fearing the Lord, you will not do these **deeds**, but will refrain from them. For fears are of two kinds: for if you do not wish to do that which is **evil**, **fear** the Lord, and you will not do it; but, again, if you wish to do that which is **good**, **fear** the Lord, and you will do it. Wherefore the **fear** of the Lord is **strong**, and **great**, and **glorious**. **Fear**, then, the Lord, and you will live to Him, and as many as **fear** Him and keep His commandments will live to **God**.

“Why,” said I, “sir, did you say in regard to those that keep His commandments, that they will live to God?”

“Because,” says he, “all creation **fears** the Lord, but all creation does not keep His commandments. They only who **fear** the Lord and keep His commandments have **life with God**; but as to those who keep not His commandments, there is no **life in them.**”