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**Synoptic Gospels**

## Assignment 14

Did the Apostolic Fathers contribute to the development of Christianity? I believe that the answer to this question is an astounding yes. We may think this must have not been that important I think it is important say that a book can be important to the Christian faith without being inspired. We can look at books that are important to us and Mere Christianity rings a bell that many christians have read and have been inspired by it. When placing that book next to the Bible we would say no it is not inspired by God but it is useful for our spiritual development. This is the same attitude we should have towards the apostolic fathers. How influential they were to the early Christians and their writings had significant impact on the culture of the early church. As the Bible was still being put together at that time I believe that if you were to ask a Christian of that time about one of these writings that they would have told you that it was scripture. This can give you an idea of how influential their writings were in the development of Christianity during that time. In fact it has peaked my interest enough that I want to go back and read some of these writings.

Ignatius wrote seven epistles to churches as he was on his way to Rome for his trial and eventual execution. These writings give us great insight into what it was like to be a christian at that time in their various communities. 2 Clement urges Christians towards repentance and practicing morality. The Didache gives instructions for worship practices and good advice for people to follow. I enjoy that these letters include great insight for christians to be able to live the christian life it is both theological but practical as well and I think we would find that we are edified by reading these passages but we

cannot treat them like scripture. We have to understand that they are not without error like the scriptures so we have to take the good and leave the bad.

Sources

The Synoptic Gospels by Keith F. Nickle