

Attendance for February 7, 2023

Lecture Notes- David Cheong

The Church and Rome- Paul created first distinction in Roman eyes between Jews and Christians in the 1st century

Christianity over time in the 1st century came to be seen as a religion completely different from the Jews

Ignatius, Polycarp

Polycarp's martyrdom inspired many Christians after him to stand firm in their faith. Even in the fire, Polycarp was seen to not being burned. People and Polycarp heard a voice from heaven present in his martyrdom "Be strong Polycarp and play the man." When the fire did not kill him, a soldier pierced him. The blood took out the fire.

In Second Century, Christian life moved towards asceticism and therefore legalism a lot of times.

Apostolic succession is important

Gnosticism was a huge threat to early church

Gnosis emphasized a mystical, supernatural knowledge or wisdom reserved for their initiates. It was syncretistic absorbing Jewish, Christian, and pagan elements, but generally it assumed a kind of Platonic view of the material world. That saw the world as evil.

Christ therefore revealer of the transcendent God through spiritual illumination, and Christ did not partake of real human nature- denial of incarnation- some upheld Docetism.

This is a big problem!

Separated OT and NT God. Appropriated Pauline terminology.

Marcion also denied Jesus was born of woman. Denied resurrection and judgment to come.

Big problem also!

But due to Marcion, canonizing of Scriptures was launched.

Montanism emphasized dispensation of the Holy Spirit and prophesy, advocated strenuous ascetism and fasting, discouraged marriages, but otherwise orthodox

Catholicism- universal; what everyone believed in the universal church. Opposed to gnosticism, Montanism. It was sectarian or heretical if not catholic. Believed in orthodoxy. Today it is Roman Catholic. But in theological and historical terms, catholic means you're part of the orthodox faith and you are not a heretic.

Rome had first major church, capital of empire, apostles martyred there, creed's locations, and such.

Heresies and schismatics pushed back by Rome

Tertullian coined Trinity- "trinitas"; in reading the Bible, God is One and God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are real persons. Emphasized trinity, triune, "double state" of God.

The Alexandrian School used its culture to express spiritual truths- "The highest good to which knowledge leads...is the knowledge of God."

Allegorical method is pivotal

Origen is key figure

Apologetics, theology is developed while facing persecution; sporadic and periodic persecutions. Church is growing and seeking to explain, clarify, and institutionalize what Scripture is saying. And first question is, Who Christ is.