Contending for the Faith

What Early Saints Believed



Jude 3 *Contend earnestly* (Ep- A-go-ni z-omai) for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.



Are We Soldiers of the Cross?

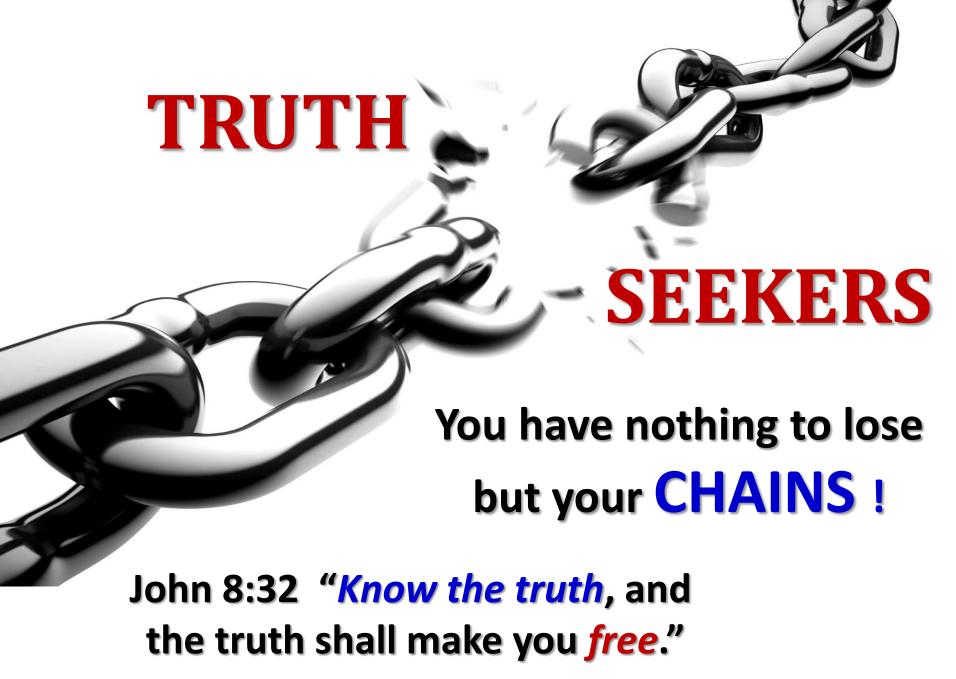
Or 90# Weaklings?

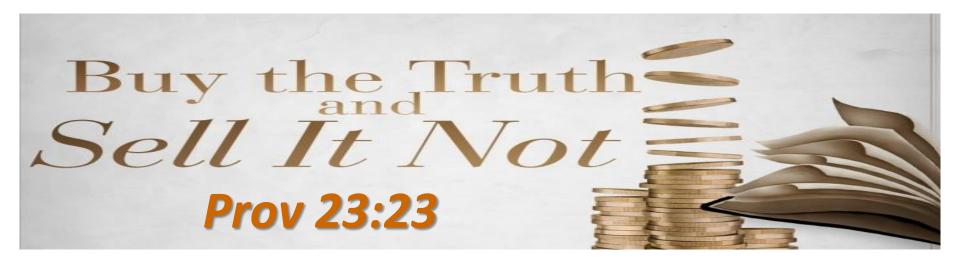
Christians are designed for **POWER**



Heb 11:34 "From weakness were made strong, became mighty in war."

2 Tim 1:7 God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline.





Lot's of things we buy – then sell.

We buy trailers,
Jewelry. Boats,
Stocks, Bonds,
Collectibles,
Computers,
Live stock,
Furniture.

We sell
Houses,
Firearms,
Motorcycles,
Musical Instru,
Cars, Ceramics,
Sporting equip.

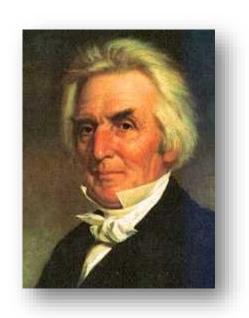
Seek TRUTH.
And It's Too
Valuable to
Surrender
at any
Price.

Enemies & Critics say the Church of Christ was started by Alexander Campbell.



That's crazy!

(Mt 16:18)
Jesus said
"I" will
build my
church!



What's the Bible Say? What did the Early Church really believe? (Pre-Nicean Leaders from AD 50 – AD 325)

Be Diligent thyself Approved

unto

1000...

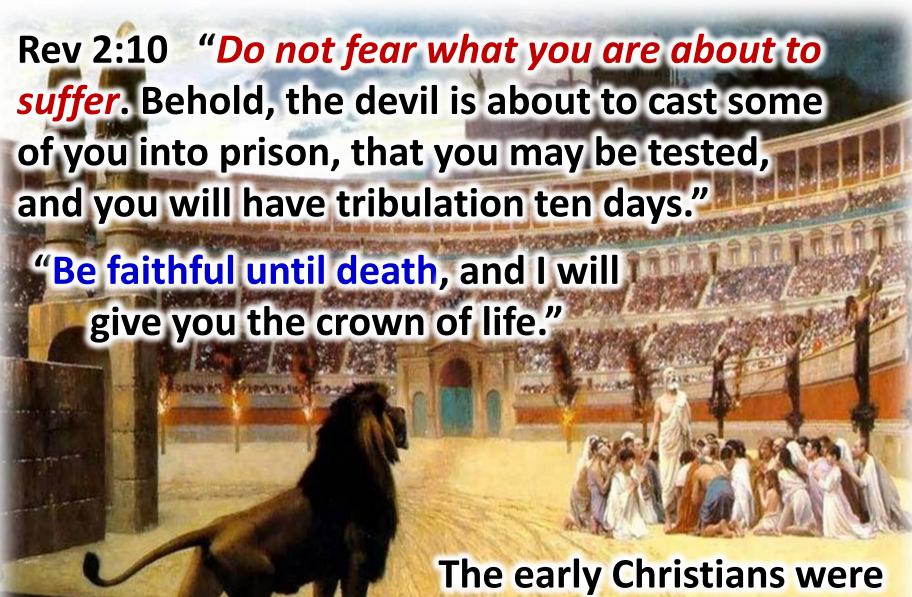
II Tim 2:15

as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth.

1 Peter 3:14 "Do not fear their intimidation ... v.15 but *sanctify Christ as Lord* in your hearts



Always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness & reverence,



The early Christians were the heroes.. Our brothers and sisters.

The Bible states and the Early Church believed what YOU do!

1. Baptism is immersion for forgiveness of sins.

Bible: Acts 2:38; 22:16;

1 Pet 3:21; Titus 3:5.



<u>Hermas</u>; 150 AD "We descended into the water and received remission of our former sins" 2.22

Justin Martyr; 160 AD "May obtain in water the remission of sins formerly committed." 1.183

Clement of Alexandria 195 AD; Tertullian 198 AD.

<u>Cyprian</u> 250 AD; "In baptism of water there is received the remission of sins." 5.497

Sunday Worship

The Bible states and the Early Church believed what YOU do!

2. Sunday (not Saturday) is the day believers met to worship God. Bible: Acts 20:7; 1 Cor 16:2.

<u>Justin Martyr</u>: (160 AD) "But <u>Sunday</u> is the day on which we <u>all</u> hold our common assembly.."

<u>Tertullain</u>: (198 AD) "We solemnize the day after Saturday." Apology, xvi.

<u>Victorinus, Bishop of Petau</u>: (300 AD) "Christ ... hates which Sabbath He in his body abolished."

Creation of the World; section 4. [ph see Col 2:14-17]

The Bible states and the Early Church believed what YOU do!

3. Communion: 1 Cor 11:24-31 Mat 26:26-30. Unleavened Bread and fruit of the vine on the 1st Day of the Week (Acts 20:7)



Justin Martyr; 160 AD; 1.305; "And on the day called Sunday, all who live in cities or in the country gather together to one place... [1] And the memoirs of the apostles (Bible) is read. [2] The president verbally instructs us to imitate good things (Preaching). [3] We all rise together and pray. [4] Bread and wine are distributed to everyone over which thanks has been given."

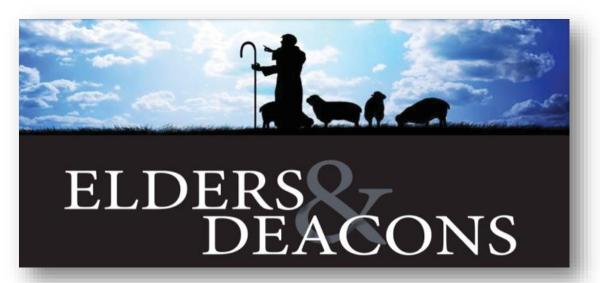
The Bible states and the Early Church believed what YOU do!

4. Singing: Eph 5:19; Col 3:16; Mt 26:30; Heb 2:12; Rom 15:9

Justin Martyr: (160 AD) "Singing with lifeless instruments, & with dancing & clapping... is removed from the songs in the churches and there is simply singing." Ques & Ans to Orthodox

Chrysostom: (347-407 AD) "David formerly sang songs.. with lifeless strings. Our tongues are.. much more in accordance with piety. Here there is no need for ..any instrument." Expos of Psalms 41

History of Music: "The music of the primitive church ...consisted in *singing* psalms & hymns." vol 1, p10812



The Bible states and the **Early Church believed** what YOU do!

5. Organization: Elders & Deacons. Phil 1:1; 1 Tim 3; Titus 1; Acts 14:23; Acts 20:17,28; Eph 4:11.

Didache; (1st century) "Elect for yourselves **Bishops** and **deacons** worthy of the Lord."

Polycarp; 69-156 AD; "Deacons are to be unblamable .. attentive. Elders are to be compassionate, showing mercy to all, not neglecting those who strayed, looking after weak. Philipians 5.2, 6.1

Fight the Good Fight!



1 Tim 6:12 FIGHT the good fight of faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called.."

Fight: A-go-niz-omai: "To compete for a prize.

To contend with an adversary."

1 Tim 4:1 "The Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits & doctrines of demons, 2 by means of the hypocrisy of liars seared in their own conscience as with a branding iron."

