

# Contending for the Faith

What Early Saints Believed

ARMOR  
OF GOD

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***



Eph 6:10 “Be *strong* in  
the Lord, and in the strength of His might.”

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.***



**TRUTH**

**SEEKERS**

You have nothing to lose  
but your **CHAINS** !

John 8:32 “*Know the truth*, and  
the truth shall make you *free*.”



Buy the Truth  
and  
*Sell It Not*

**Prov 23:23**



**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*

to  
Show  
thyself  
Approved  
unto

*GOD*...

II Tim 2:15

***as a workman who does  
not need to be ashamed,  
handling accurately the word of truth.***<sup>6</sup>



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.

Rev 2:10 “***Do not fear what you are about to suffer.*** Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days.”

“**Be faithful until death**, and I will give you the crown of life.”

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.



Hermas; 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.

Cyprian 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.

Justin Martyr: (160 AD) “But **Sunday** is the day on which we all hold our common assembly.”

Tertullain: (198 AD) “We solemnize **the day after Saturday**.” Apology, xvi.

Victorinus, Bishop of Petau: (300 AD) “Christ ... hates which Sabbath He in his body **abolished**.”

*Creation of the World; section 4. [ph see Col 2:14-17]* 10

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***3. Communion:*** 1 Cor 11:24-31  
Mat 26:26-30. Unleavened Bread  
and fruit of the vine on the 1<sup>st</sup>  
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.”



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***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, p108*<sub>12</sub>



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***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.”



This is what Yahweh says: "Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the **ancient paths**, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls.

But you said, 'We will not walk in it.'

*Jeremiah 6:16*





**To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.**

**—Isaiah 8:20**