

CHURCH HISTORY LITERACY

HERESIES – PART ONE

The Gnostics #1

Lesson 8

Biblical-Literacy.com

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We are told:



We are told:

- 14 Year old Joseph Smith



We are told:

- 14 Year old Joseph Smith
- “all the religious denominations were believing in false doctrines

We are told:

We are told:

- 17 Year old Joseph Smith



We are told:

- 17 Year old Joseph Smith
- Angel Moroni appears



We are told:

- 17 Year old Joseph Smith
- Angel Moroni appears

We are told:

We are told:



We are told:

- September 1827 gets gold plates



We are told:

- September 1827 gets gold plates



We are told:



We are told:

- “Reformed Egyptian”



We are told:

- “Reformed Egyptian”
- The “Secrets” are revealed!

Solomon said:

Solomon said:

There is nothing new
under the sun. Is there
anything of which one can
say, 'Look! This is
something new?' (Ec. 1:9)

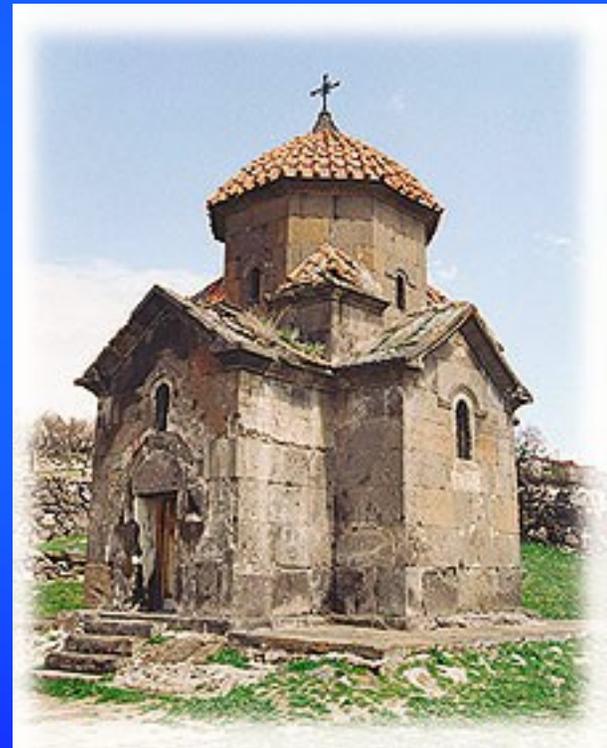
Mormonism Teaches “Heresy”

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Heresy:
Teaching
claiming to be
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is contrary to
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Lessons Today



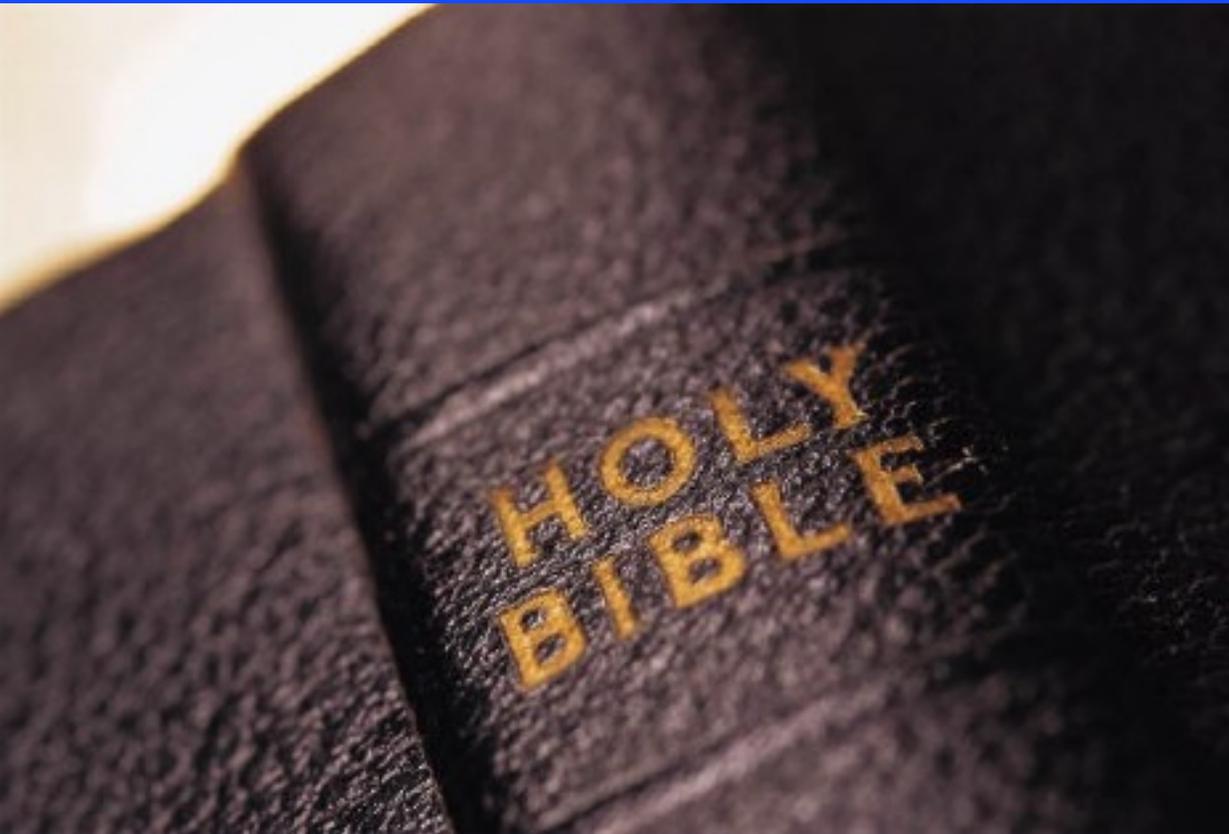
- Truth Matters

Lessons Today



- Road to heresy not always a U-turn

Lessons Today



- Core understanding vs. complete understanding

Lessons Today



- Be wary of
goofy
interpretations

Major Heresy: Gnosticism

Major Heresy: Gnosticism



Major Heresy: Gnosticism



- Gnostic (γνοστικός): Capable of attaining knowledge - Secret knowledge!

Major Heresy: Gnosticism



- More than one god!

Major Heresy: Gnosticism



- Spirit good! Body and earth evil!

Major Heresy: Gnosticism



- Set spirits free and get them home!

Major Heresy: Gnosticism



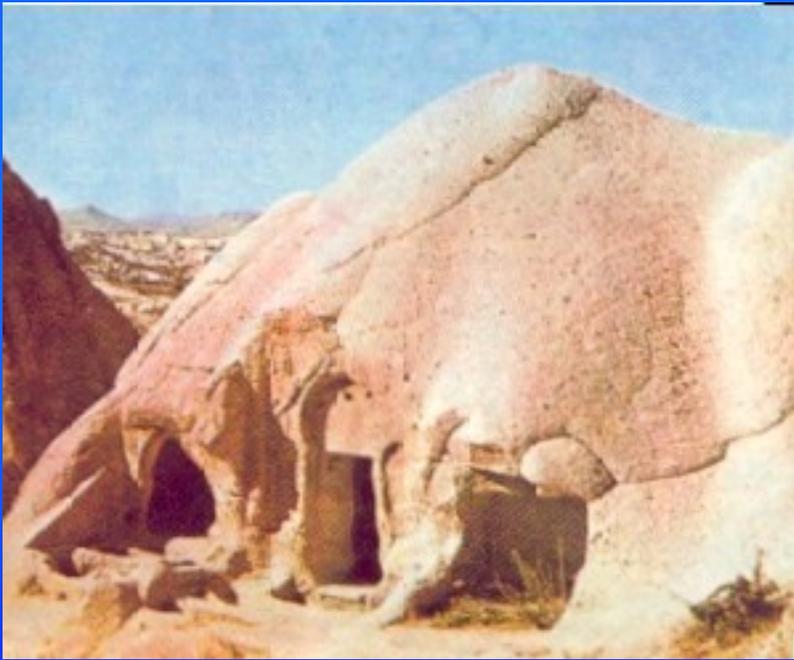
- Jesus as “Savior” taught the secrets and how to get home!

Gnosticism: Sources of Information



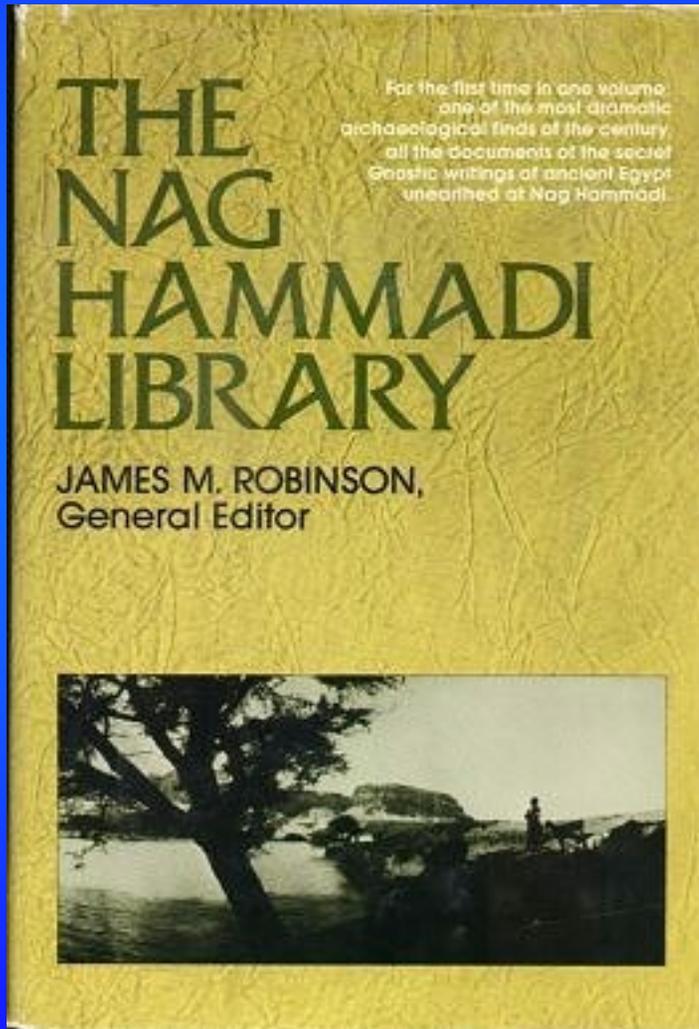
- Nag Hammadi, Egypt, 1945

Gnosticism: Sources of Information



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Gnosticism: Sources of Information



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Gnosticism: Sources of Information



- St Irenaeus of Lyons

St. Irenaeus of Lyons



St. Irenaeus of Lyons



- Originally from Smyrna

St. Irenaeus of Lyons



- Originally from Smyrna
- Mentored by Polycarp

St. Irenaeus of Lyons



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- Mentored by Polycarp
- Around 150 moves to Lugdunum (Lyons)

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St. Irenaeus of Lyons



- Taught “Barbarians”

St. Irenaeus of Lyons



- Taught “Barbarians”
- Went to Rome

St. Irenaeus of Lyons



- Taught “Barbarians”
- Went to Rome
- Made Bishop

St. Irenaeus of Lyons



- Taught “Barbarians”
- Went to Rome
- Made Bishop
- Wrote against Gnostics

St. Irenaeus of Lyons

**ANCIENT
CHRISTIAN
WRITERS**



**ST. IRENAEUS
OF LYONS**

**AGAINST THE
HERESIES**

- Full title: Expose and Overthrow/Refutation of What is Falsely Called Knowledge

St. Irenaeus of Lyons

ANCIENT
CHRISTIAN
WITNESSES



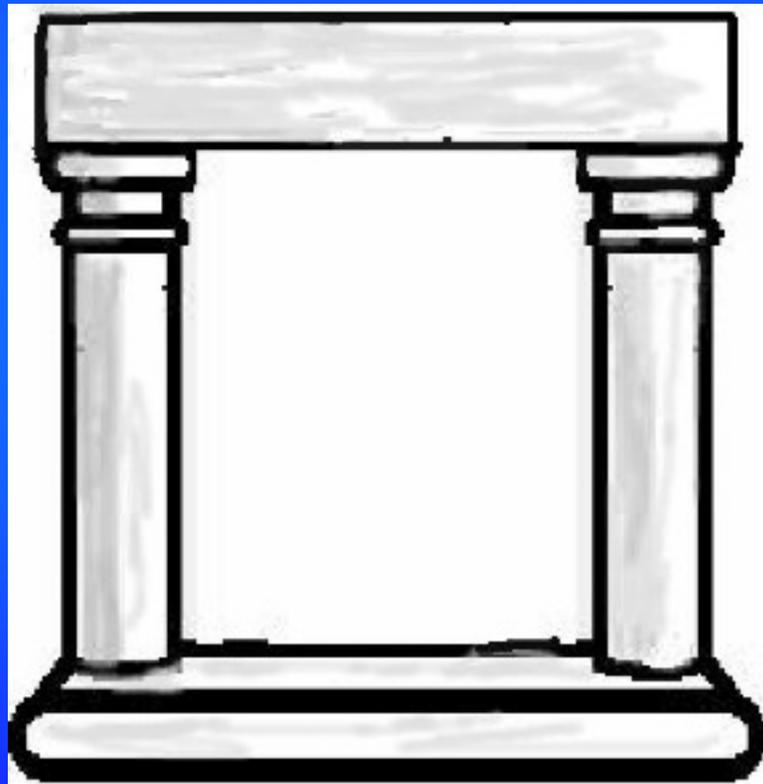
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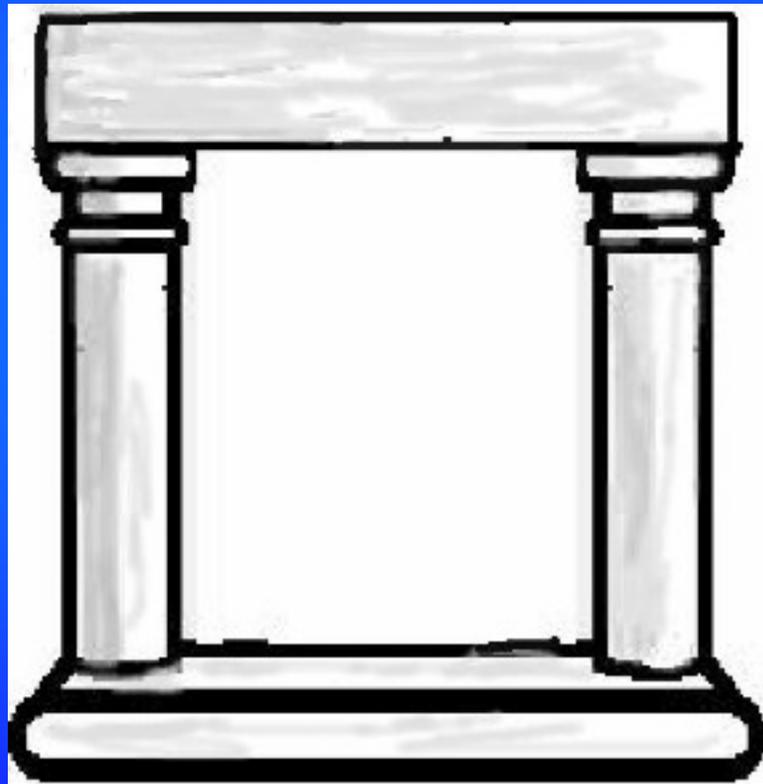
Remember for later!

St. Irenaeus - 2 Pillars of Church



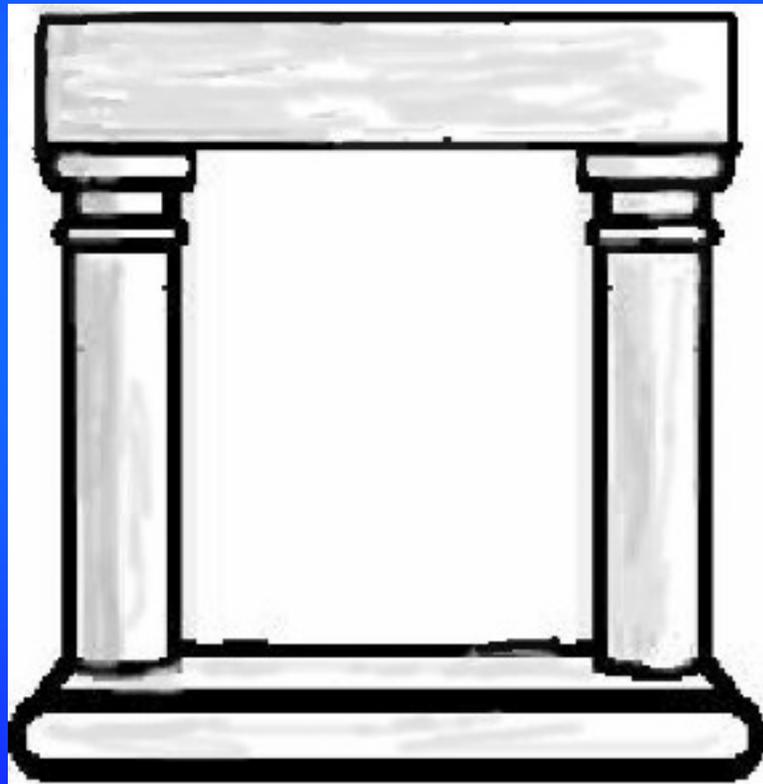
St. Irenaeus - 2 Pillars of Church

- Authority of Scripture



St. Irenaeus - 2 Pillars of Church

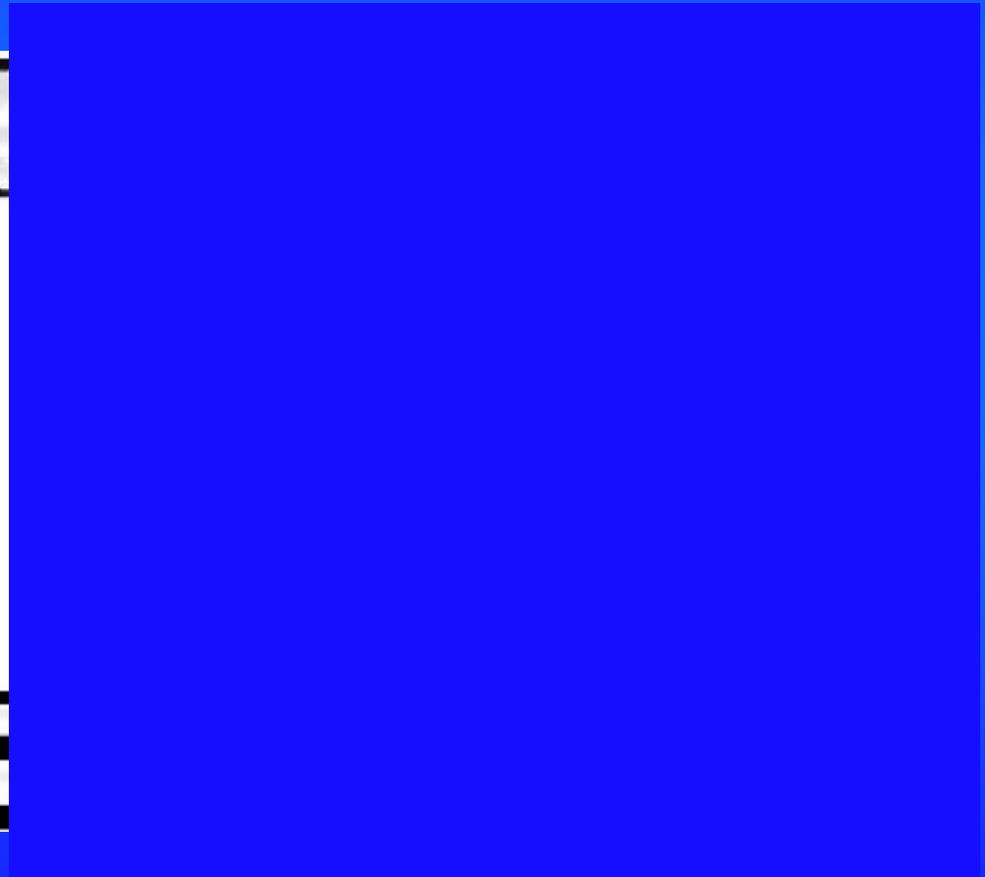
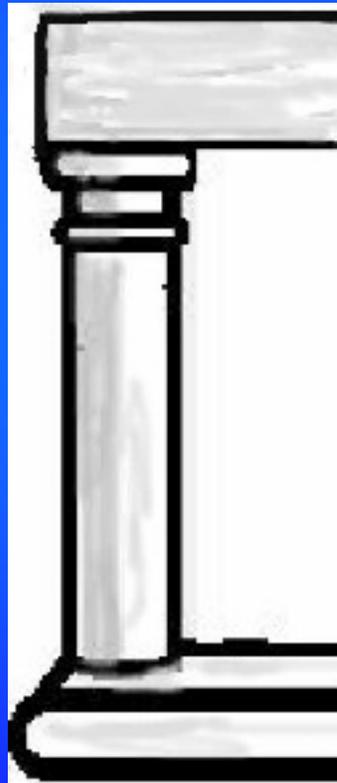
- Authority of Scripture



- Apostolic Tradition

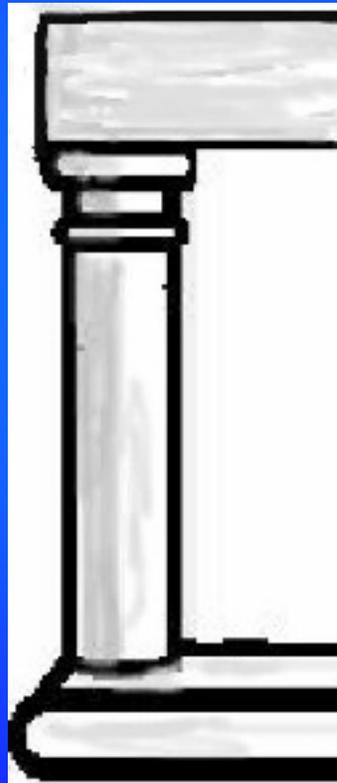
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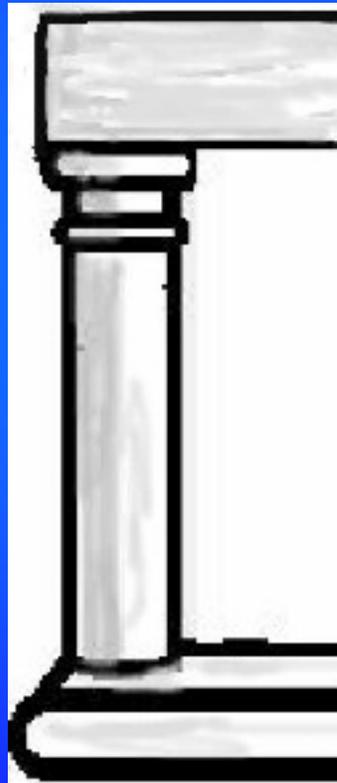
- Authority of Scripture



- Scripture is “perfect”

St. Irenaeus - 2 Pillars of Church

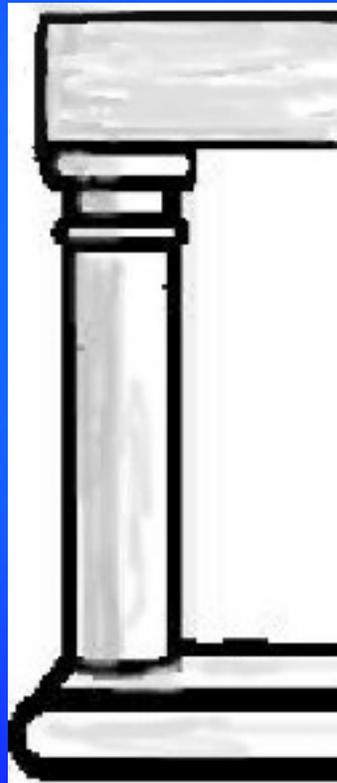
- Authority of Scripture



- Scripture is “perfect”
- The “mainstay and pillar of our faith”

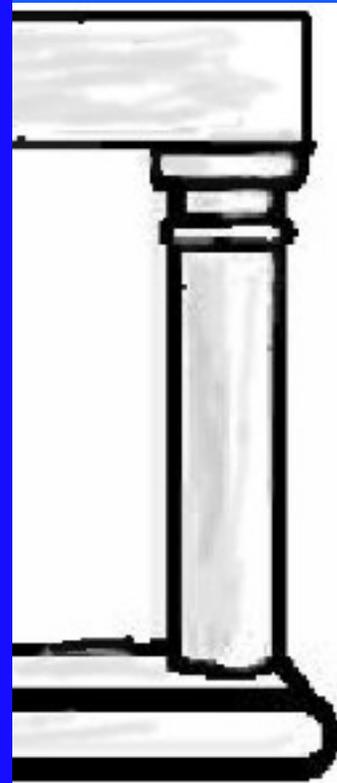
St. Irenaeus - 2 Pillars of Church

- Authority of Scripture



- Scripture is “perfect”
- The “mainstay and pillar of our faith”
- Inspired and divine

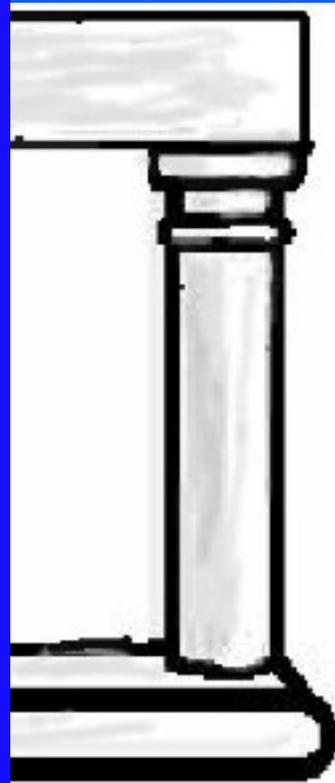
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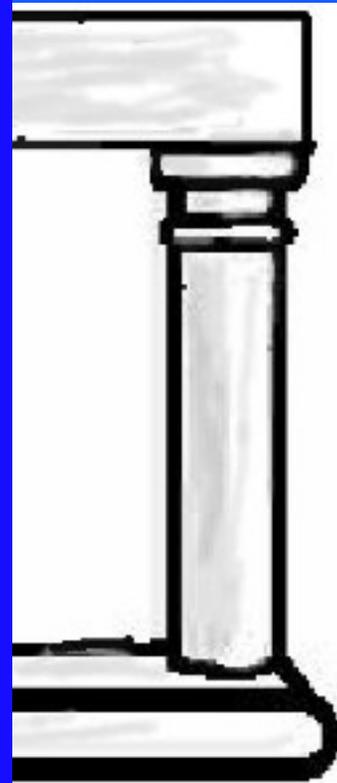
- Produced the scriptures



- Apostolic Tradition

St. Irenaeus - 2 Pillars of Church

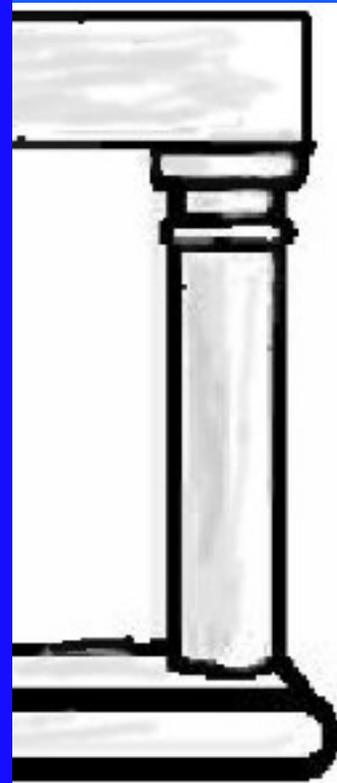
- Produced the scriptures
- Clear link of Bishops



- Apostolic Tradition

St. Irenaeus - 2 Pillars of Church

- Produced the scriptures
- Clear link of Bishops
- Consistent with Churches, Rome had authority



- Apostolic Tradition

St. Irenaeus - the Writer

St. Irenaeus - the Writer

“From us who live among the Celts and are accustomed to translating practically everything into a barbarous tongue, you cannot expect rhetorical art or the craft of writing or elegant style and persuasiveness.”

St. Irenaeus - the Humble Writer

St. Irenaeus - the Humble Writer

“Error, in fact, hides its true self, because if you see it naked, you see it for what it is. So instead it craftily decks itself out in an attractive dress, and by an outward false appearance, presents itself to the more ignorant as truer than truth itself!”

St. Irenaeus - the Doctrine Analyst

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1. What is the Doctrine? Flesh it out!

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2. What is the Basis or Authority for the Doctrine?

St. Irenaeus - the Doctrine Analyst

1. What is the Doctrine? Flesh it out!
2. What is the Basis or Authority for the Doctrine?
3. What Does Scripture say on the Issue?

Gnostic # 1 - Cerinthus





Gnostic # 1 -
Cerinthus

Gnostic # 2 -
Marcion



Gnostic # 1 -
Cerinthus

Gnostic # 2 -
Marcion

Gnostic # 3 -
Valentinus

Cerinthus



Cerinthus



- Teaching around John

Cerinthus



- Teaching around John
- God unknown pre-Jesus Christ

Cerinthus



- Teaching around John
- God unknown pre-Jesus Christ
- Jesus was ordinary until ...

Cerinthus



- Christ came on Jesus at Baptism

Cerinthus



- Christ came on Jesus at Baptism
- Jesus was taught the “secrets”

Cerinthus



Cerinthus



- Christ bails at the passion

Cerinthus



- Christ bails at the passion
- “My God, my God, why have you foresaken me?”

John vs. Cerinthus

John vs. Cerinthus

Dear children, this is the last hour, and as you have heard that the antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come... They went out from us, but they did not really belong to us... But you have an anointing from the Holy One and all of you know the truth.

John vs. Cerinthus

... No lie comes from the truth. Who is the liar? It is the man who denies that Jesus *IS* the Christ. Such a man is the antichrist -- he denies the Father and the Son. No one who denies the Son has the Father, whoever acknowledges the Son has the father also. (1 Jn 2:18-23)

John vs. Cerinthus

Dear friends, do not believe every spirit but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God. (1 Jn 2:18-23)

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John vs. Cerinthus



John vs. Cerinthus



“Let us fly, lest even the bathhouse fall down, because Cerinthus, the enemy of truth, is within.”

Next Week

- Marcion --- “money can’t buy me love ... or orthodoxy...”

Next Week

- Marcion --- “money can’t buy me love ... or orthodoxy...”
- Valentinius --- Did he meet the angel Moroni???

Points for Home

- Truth is Truth.

Points for Home

- Truth is Truth.
- Fiction is Not.

Points for Home

- Truth is Truth.
- Fiction is Not.
- Measure Truth by God's Word.

Points for Home

- Truth is Truth.
- Fiction is Not.
- Measure Truth by God's Word.
- Salvation is a real event, by a real God in real history.