

Ignatius: To the Romans (and Others)
A Great Cloud of Witnesses: A Study of the Early Church
Lesson 5

I. Letter to the Romans

A. Greetings

1. Ignatius, otherwise known as Theophorus, acknowledges the Church in Rome as:

- a) Having received _____ from God
- b) Having been made _____ through Christ
- c) Having been _____ in God's commands

B. First Request - Let Me Rise to God: Chapters 1-2

1. Ignatius requests that the Romans love him by remaining _____ and not _____ with his execution

C. Second Request - Pray For Me: Chapter 3

1. Ignatius requests that the Romans pray that he would be a true _____, even in death

D. Third Request - Do Not Hinder Me: Chapter 4

1. Ignatius requests that the Romans not be unseasonably _____ so he may be food for wild beasts...all of him

E. Fourth Request - Let Me Reach Jesus: Chapters 5-6

1. Though his graphic requests are difficult to grasp, his inspiration is to reach _____, for by _____ he will truly _____

F. Fifth Request - Do Not Tempt Me: Chapters 7-8

1. Ignatius recognizes the world's _____ and warns the Romans not to help the _____ with them

G. Farewell: Chapters 9-10

1. With his closing words, Ignatius mentions:
 - a) His _____ in Antioch
 - b) His _____ from other Christians
 - c) His firm _____ in Christ

II. Highlights: Letter to the Magnesians

- A. For Ignatius, Christianity is the _____ way to God and Judaism:
1. Is an outdated _____
 2. Disallows _____
 3. Is absurdly _____ with Christ
 4. Believes _____, not the other way around

III. Highlights: Letter to the Trallians

- A. Ignatius calls the Church to be deaf to those who _____ the humanity of Jesus

IV. Highlights: Letter to the Philadelphians

- A. Ignatius calls the Church to _____ through the rule of _____ by following the _____ who follows _____

V. Highlights: Letter to the Smyrnaeans

- A. Ignatius rejoices at the restoration of _____ in Antioch through the appointment of a new _____ made possible by _____

VI. Highlights: Letter to Polycarp

- A. With his final wise counsel, Ignatius encourages Polycarp and all in pastoral ministry to _____ in _____ by God's _____

VII. A Summary of Ignatius

A. Ignatius:

1. Held a high view of Jesus as the image of the invisible God
2. Believed in the unifying three-fold office of the Church
3. Called the Church to further unity by gathering together
4. Saw martyrdom as a divine appointment leading to Christ

VIII. A Summary of Martyrdom in the Early Church

- A. Persecution was mostly _____, _____, and did not always end in _____
- B. The existing accounts of martyrdom often reflect great _____, though many were _____ and denied Christ
- C. Those who were executed for their faith were _____ as true disciples of Christ
- D. The Early Church understood that nothing, including death by execution, could separate God's _____ from God's _____ which is in _____ (Romans 8:28-39)

IX. For Study...

- A. Read: Irenaeus - On the Apostolic Preaching: Part One