

Irenaeus: A Theological Discourse on Faith
A Great Cloud of Witnesses: A Study of the Early Church
Lesson 6

I. Biography Review

- A. Handout

II. The Rule of Faith: Five General Observations

- A. Irenaeus' theological account of faith and truth was ground-breaking in his time
- B. Irenaeus accepts and easily assumes the canon of Scripture as the foundation for everything theological
- C. Irenaeus recognizes the continuity between the Old Testament and the Apostolic teaching
- D. Irenaeus publicly acknowledges the authority of the Apostolic witness as equal to the authority of the Old Testament prophets
- E. Irenaeus is motivated to articulate the Rule of Faith because of heretical views which threaten orthodoxy (right doctrine) and orthopraxy (right practice)

III. The Rule of Faith: Specific Content - Section One

- A. The Rule of Faith received by the Church universal is received from the _____
- B. The Rule of Faith received by the Church universal believes in _____
in _____
 - 1. God the _____, who _____ all things
 - 2. God the _____, who became flesh for _____
 - 3. God the _____, who _____ all times and advents
through the prophets
- C. Irenaeus includes in the First Advent:
 - 1. Christ's _____
 - 2. Christ's _____
 - 3. Christ's _____
 - 4. Christ's _____

D. Irenaeus includes in the Second Advent:

1. The _____ of God
2. The _____ of the whole human race
3. The _____ of all creatures
4. The _____ of all people
 - a) Judgment of _____: Wicked apostates including fallen angels will receive punishment in everlasting fire
 - b) Judgment of _____: Righteous disciples who persevere in their Christian course will receive everlasting glory

IV. The Rule of Faith: Specific Content - Section Two

A. Though the Church is scattered, as one house, she:

1. _____ one true faith
2. _____ one true faith
3. _____ one true faith
4. _____ one true faith
5. _____ one true faith

B. According to Irenaeus, the Rule of Faith received and proclaimed by the Church

is _____, _____, and _____

1. Therefore the Rule of Faith is not threatened by:

- a) Diverse _____
- b) Diverse _____
- c) Diverse _____

V. Keep to the Rule of Faith

A. In order to avoid the error of Psalm 1, keep to the Rule of Faith:

1. Without _____
2. In _____ God's commandments
3. By _____ and _____ God as Lord
4. By _____ God as Father
5. _____ is informed by _____ which is informed by _____
 - a) Truth » Faith » Action or Orthodoxy » Orthopraxy